



Weetangera Primary School

Successful Learning Through Caring and Sharing



Weetangera Primary is an ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL
Avoiding eggs and all nuts

Dear Weetangera Community,

Getting To Know You Interviews.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended last week's *Getting to Know You Interviews*. What a busy but worthwhile week with teachers conducting up to thirty interviews outside of their teaching duties. Valuable information is shared and gathered during these interviews and these times on our calendar reinforce the infinite value of a positive school/home partnership.

Our school year has commenced in a remarkably smooth way with our students settling and adapting to new routines, expectations, student groupings, teaching teams and work patterns.

This is always done at different rates. Some children are resilient by nature – their temperament helps them to be mentally and psychologically tough. They get straight back up after a setback or disappointment. Rejection in the playground doesn't faze them. Unfortunately, not every child has such natural resilience.

The good news is that most of the research shows that resilience can be nurtured and developed, particularly when parents themselves are resilient and they actively foster it in their kids. Resilient kids share four basic skill sets; Independence, Problem-solving, Optimism and Social Connection.

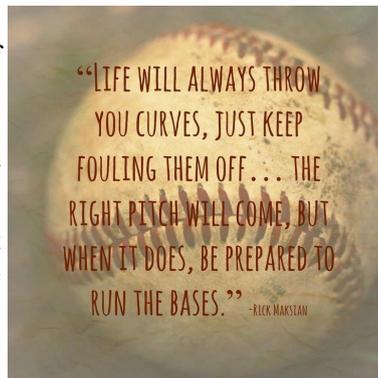
How Can We As Parents Build Resilience

From a resilience perspective parents need to coach kids through some of their more challenging moments and reviewing what they may have learned for next time. Avoid solving all our children's problems for them.

You can promote a lasting sense of resilience in your kids by:

- Having a positive attitude yourself. Your attitude as a parent impacts on their ability to bounce back from some of the difficulties they face. Make sure you model a 'you can do it' attitude for your child when he/she meets some of life's curve balls.
- Look for teachable moments. Many kids learning opportunities are disguised as problems. Make the most of these opportunities so that kids can grow and learn from some of the challenges they face.
- Make kids active participants in the family. Active participation in a family develops the self-help, problem-solving and independence skills of kids that are necessary for resilience.
- Build kids coping skills. There are plenty of strategies you can pass on to kids to help them cope when life doesn't go their way, including acceptance, getting away for a while, and normalisation.

Promoting resilience in kids is not a single event but a continuous process that requires adults to be supportive and empathetic when things don't go their way. It also requires us as parents to have an



Newsletter No. 3

19 February 2015

Term 1 Week 3

COMMUNITY DIARY

Inclusions may be added in the diary at the front office.

February

- 24 P&C AGM 7pm, in the hall.
- 27 Swimming Carnival

March

- 3 Parent Spelling Workshop
- 9 Public Holiday
- 11-13 Year 5/6 & 3/4 Camps



 ☆ **ASSEMBLIES - 9:15am** ☆
 ☆ **Friday 20 February** ☆
 ☆ **Junior Assembly** ☆
 ☆ **Hosted by Unit 5** ☆
 ☆ **Friday 27 February** ☆
 ☆ **No Assembly** ☆
 ☆*****

INSERT

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Weetangera ACT 2614

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Fax: 6205 7487
Canteen: 6255 2634

Please read our web site:
weetangeraps.act.edu.au

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Parent Reps. Aaron Palmer 0430144415; Sarah Watson 0412199200; Rachel Campbell 0402208150; **Community Rep.** Meg Parker 62052911; **Principal** - James Barnett 62057488; **Teacher Reps.** - Lisa Kingham; Isabel Dunn.

understanding of resilience, so one may have faith in oneself, and your child's ability to cope.

Regards,

Lisa Kingham

P&C AGM

The Weetangera Parents and Citizens Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 24 February at 7pm in the school hall.

Everyone is welcome! In fact, this is the perfect opportunity to hear about the workings of the P&C from the previous 12 months and get involved in your child's school. All positions will be up for re-election including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Fundraising Coordinator. If you've been wondering how you can make a difference, or if you just want to catch up with some other parents to discuss something we are all passionate about (supporting our children) we would love to see you there!

SCHOOL BANKING

If you would like your child to bank each week through the school, but haven't managed to open an account, you can open a Youthsaver account on Thursday 5 March at 8:30am outside the school hall, near the trees. All you need to bring is a driver's license for ID.

Just a few reminders, your rewards tokens carry on from last year. Once you have 10 tokens from 10 deposits, you can fill in a rewards voucher that can be picked up from the front office. Write down what you want, and put it in with your banking. It may take a week for you to receive your reward.

If you need a new deposit book, these can also be picked up from the front office. Please make sure you have filled in a deposit slip when you bank. It is important for us to have your name, account number and student number to process the deposit. Banking is every Friday.

Happy Banking!

MUSIC TUITION

FREE LESSON DAY! Sunday 1 March 2015
The day where you can book a completely obligation-free FREE lesson and get a full-on brush-up on all things instrumental!

Free lessons are available on piano, guitar, bass guitar, violin, viola, cello, trumpet, trombone, drums, vocals, flute, clarinet, saxophone. **Free instruments are provided.**

This year, FREE LESSON DAY will run in **Three** amazing locations: Belconnen, Weston Creek and Jerrabomberra. **ONLY** on Sunday 1 March. **How do I book?!** Just submit your details by booking online and we'll tee up a time for you ASAP!
<http://www.trybooking.com/GVHA>

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

A reminder that the school swimming carnival is on next Friday 27 February. Mrs van den Boogaard and the swimming committee have been busy preparing for what should be an excellent day. All students should wear their house colours and bring a hat, water bottle and sunscreen.

The day will commence for the students aged 8 and above with competitive races where the students will be vying to be selected to represent our school at the Belconnen PSSA Carnival. The races are expected to commence at approximately 10am and finish in the vicinity of 11-11:30am. At the conclusion of the races a series of novelty events will be held with a focus on water safety and confidence, these events will be fully supervised at all times. All students in the junior school will be doing novelty events for the duration of the day.



For any students who have not returned their permission notes please do so as soon as possible.

Swimming Carnival Committee

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

10:30am – 1:30pm Saturday 21 February 2015

Meet at 10:30am near the International Flags Display behind Questacon car park to join the language walk over Commonwealth Bridge.

Feel free to bring along posters and banners publicising various languages and/or to wear national dress. Free T-shirts for all participants!

THEN enjoy FREE family fun activities near Regatta Point after the walk:

- Multicultural entertainment
- Jumping castle and Face painting
- Multilingual activities, e.g. name writing in various languages.

Multicultural food for sale or bring a picnic

Organised by the Canberra-based International Mother Language Movement (IMLM).

For more details contact: IMLM.21feb@gmail.com, Ziaul on 0411 031 942 (mob) or follow IMLM Canberra on [facebook](#).

For background information on International Mother Language Day see http://imlm21.org.au/?page_id=1109

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**Don't forget your
SOCs**



SOCs are here! Please support our school by using your SOC coupons. If you need more free SOC coupons, ask the front desk or visit www.CommunitySOCs.org

HISTORY NEWS

Australian History will continue to be the focus of our work for 2015. Students across Years 1 to 6 will be examining a variety of topics which delve deeply into Australian culture and what it means to be an Australian in the 21st Century.

Semester 1 will see Years 5 and 6 studying the 100 year anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. We will be again entering the ANZAC School's competition. During this unit the students will be investigating all aspects of Australia's involvement in World War 1. This includes the ANZACs, the home front, roles of women and children as well as other battles Australian soldiers were involved in. During this time we will be seeking guest speakers to talk about their experiences during any of Australia's wartime periods. If you would be willing to speak to the students or if your family has any photos or memorabilia that you would be interested in sharing please come and let me know.

Year 4 will be investigating the First Fleet. We will be looking at conditions in England during the 18th Century and why the decision was made to transport convicts to Australia. We will also be looking at the impact European settlement had on the Indigenous people of Australia as well as the environment.

Year 3 will be looking at special days, symbols and emblems of Australia. We will be researching the significance and history behind our flags, commemorations ceremonies and emblems. We will also be examining the multicultural days that we as a nation celebrate.

Year 2 has a focus on Canberra and our local community. We will be looking at significant places and people within our capital city. Throughout the semester we will be using the text "The Monster that Ate Canberra" by Michael Salmon.

Year 1 will focus their learning on the past, present and future. They will be looking at sequencing events and discussing old and new.

Chloe Frost

MUSIC NEWS

I originally trained as a classroom music teacher in Queensland and have a degree in piano from the Royal Academy of Music in London and a PhD in English from the Australian National University. I have taught music in a number of public and private schools both in Australia and the UK. This year, in addition to singing activities with their own teacher, each class will have a 40 minute lesson in the music room. During this time they will be singing, playing a wide variety of percussion instruments, dancing, learning about notation and technology, exploring the history of music, experiencing music from other cultures, listening to a range of works and experimenting with composition. There will be opportunities for students to join the Senior and Junior Choirs and for those in Years 4-6 to join the percussion group. I believe children have a natural love of music and look forward to fostering the musical talents of all students.



Jan Lloyd Jones

FRENCH NEWS

Bonjour à tous! I am very pleased to take up the French program at Weetangera Primary this year. Although I am not a native French speaker I am a specialist language teacher. I first learned French in Paris and later studied it formally at university (ANU), where I also studied Italian and Linguistics.

I was born in Peru and my mother tongue is Spanish. Languages are my passion and last year I completed a Master's Degree in Audiovisual Translation, subtitling and dubbing films in three languages. I hope that my training will come in handy to instill passion for French and French culture in our students, as well as knowledge about how languages work as systems of communication. The French program will be based largely on the AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology), which will be customised for each level according to the children's specific needs and lesson time constraints. Kindergarten classes will follow an introductory program to familiarise them with French language and culture and second language acquisition.

I will be relying on parents to support and encourage their children in their journey of discovery. I will be very happy to provide them with additional information for revision, extension and consolidation.

Au revoir!

Christiane Vivanco de Savaris

(Madame De Savaris)



EALD NEWS

Lynn Price retired at the end of 2014, and is now enjoying a well-earned and relaxing break in the next chapter of her life. We appreciate the enormous effort Lynn put into the EALD teaching role, and the support she gave to our families. I have taken over the responsibilities of EALD across the school, and look forward to meeting and working with you all in this role. If you have any questions, concerns, or require any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

New students

We welcome Roxana (5V) to the school this year.

Yirri Dancers

The Yirri Dancers will continue this year, with rehearsals to start later this term. Our students who have moved on to high school and college will continue dancing with the group, and we also welcome new members, Thomas and Phoebe. The Yirri Dancers are a wonderful example of the sense of community spirit and support demonstrated by the Weetangera community.

Yvonne Piper

SRC NEWS

The Student Representative Council is of great value and importance at Weetangera School. One student from each class is elected by their classmates to represent their class as a part of the SRC for each semester.

Students in the SRC have the chance to build upon their leadership skills while giving a voice to the students of Weetangera School. Each representative is responsible for running their class meeting, as well as participating in the weekly SRC meeting. Representatives discuss student issues around the school with their classes and report it back to the SRC.

Last year the SRC participated in a Leadership Day alongside Hawker Primary School and Southern Cross Early Childhood. This day was a great success; students had the opportunity to collaborate with peers across the school network to further develop their leadership skills. I am looking forward to taking another group of students across to partake in this again in Semester 2 this year.

The SRC also runs various fundraisers throughout the year. Last year we had a hugely successful Cupcake day, where we raised much needed funds for the RSPCA. We also run various themed days where we are able to raise money for our sponsor child Sadia from Sierra Leone.

Classes are currently undertaking the voting process to elect their Student Representative. Students will be presented at the whole school assembly in week 7. SRC meetings will be held on Thursday mornings and are run by the School Leaders.

I am looking forward to working alongside the SRC again for 2015.

Tarnii Eade

LIBRARY NEWS

It's wonderful to see so many parents and their children read together in the library each morning.

Parents are by far the most important educators in a child's life and it's never too young for a child to start, even if you're only reading with your child for a few minutes a day. It works, children who read every day develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

RAK (Random Act of Kindness) Week

Thank you to everyone in the community who took valuable time out of their daily lives to make a difference to someone else.

In recognition of the work that parents do in our school we would like to put in place a RAK for the remainder of 2015. Every Wednesday morning in the library between 9:15am –10am *ish* FREE tea and coffee will be provided for a weekly chat and a catch up. We are open to suggestions whether we start a book club or use it as a time to support each other, maybe it would be the perfect opportunity just to socialise.

Look forward to seeing you

Annie

