



# Weetangera School

'Our vision, as a community, is to inspire  
a passion for learning'



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

Weetangera School is an  
ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 2. Firstly, I hope you and your family have had some time to unwind and relax over the past couple of weeks of school holidays, after what could only be described as an unprecedented, confusing, and uneasy end to Term 1. We started the term running on full cylinders and eagerly got back into setting our learning goals for the first week of Term 2 through our online remote learning <https://sites.google.com/ed.act.edu.au/weetangera-learning-at-home/home>. While children will be learning remotely, we aren't asking you as parents to be teachers. You will still be part of our school community with the classmates, teachers and staff you know. Teachers will run all classes remotely, with families able to access this flexibly while continuing to focus on their children's wellbeing and their household needs. While routines are important for children's mental health and wellbeing, there is no need for families to stick to a rigid, timetabled, 9am to 3pm school day.

All the remote learning has been designed by our teachers and able to be accessed by families and students flexibly, at times that suit you. Teachers have set a range of tasks for the week that students can complete whenever best suits them and also be arranging protocols for checking in with you and your children.

During the holidays we have been busy investigating an upgrade of our basketball/netball court and external doors as part of our school building and maintenance plan. Providing a more open, inviting and enriching outdoor learning environment for our students and community for when we eventually return back to classes in school.

We know these are challenging times for our community and it is important that we all support each other and look out for each other. I want to once again thank the entire Weetangera community for the overwhelmingly positive way you have approached this incredibly difficult time. The countless messages of support for the teachers, and administration staff, has been very comforting and reassuring.

## Educational Consultant working with Weetangera School

In Terms 2 to 4 of 2020 we will be continuing our partnership with an educational consultant, Louise Dempsey. Louise is an experienced teacher, consultant and trainer who has worked in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. She facilitates literacy training around New Zealand and Australia and provides in-school professional learning. She has completed a range of writing projects for New Zealand and English publishers, including the Department of Education in the United Kingdom. Louise and Sheena Cameron are the co-authors of *The Writing Book* and *The Oral Language Book*. Louise is a New Zealand MOE accredited trainer. During the professional development staff will be required to apply their knowledge of writing and effective teaching practices and use this knowledge while supported by Louise to design and implement differentiated learning and teaching opportunities. The aim of which is to further develop both staff and student understanding in the area of writing; Priority 1 of our School Improvement Plan. Staff will be engaged using an inquiry approach to

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

**Parent Reps.** Yehuwdiy Dillon - 0458 866 937, Amy Begley - 0403 498 397, Vijaya Porwal

**Principal** - James Barnett 61422600; **Teacher Reps.** - Natarsha van den Boogaard

## Newsletter No. 11

30 April 2020

Week 1

## COMMUNITY DIARY

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

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**ASSEMBLIES 9:15 am**

**ALL ASSEMBLIES  
POSTPONED  
UNTIL FURTHER  
NOTICE**



**Attachments**

Weetangera School  
Southwell Street  
Weetangera ACT 2614

Telephone: 6142 2600  
Canteen: 6142 2621

**Please read our web site:**

evaluate their teaching and learning programs in the area of writing and use evidence to move student learning forward. Throughout they will be working one on one with Louise Dempsey, who will support them to advance the use of evidence-based teaching strategies in the area of writing. In 2020, Weetangera School will continue to use the *'Spiral of Inquiry'* framework to support learning in classrooms. This model will be used when staff are working with Louise Dempsey in their team meetings. To identify what is going on for learners and working out future learning steps.

## Preschool 2021

Do you have a little one who turns 4 years on or before 30 April 2021? If so, they are eligible to attend an ACT Government Preschool in 2021. Enrolment applications opened on Tuesday 28 April 2020 and must be submitted online at [www.education.act.gov.au](http://www.education.act.gov.au). Some things have changed. Even if you are a family already enrolled in the ACT public school system, you should read the website before completing your online enrolment form.



ACT Education

If your child turns four on or before 30 April 2020, they were able to start preschool in Term 1, 2020. If your child turns four after 30 April 2020, they can start preschool in 2021.

All four year old ACT children are guaranteed a place in a public preschool. However, you are not guaranteed a place at the preschool site of your preference due to capacity constraints at some sites. All preschools offer a high-quality early childhood education.

Enrolments for 2021 open from 6am on Tuesday 28 April. Apply before 5 June 2020 to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. Apply online at [education.act.gov.au](http://education.act.gov.au)

**Enrolling in Preschool in 2021**



ACT Education

1. Go to [education.act.gov.au](http://education.act.gov.au) for information on your local school and to enrol online.
2. Apply before 5 June 2020 to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. This means there is ample time to submit your application to be included in the initial round of offers.

**2021 school enrolments now open**



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**2021 school enrolments now open**

## 'A Weetangera Treasure' - Barbara Fox

Early this morning on 30 April 2020 Barbara Fox passed away peacefully. Our thoughts, prayers and wishes are with Barbara's family during this time. Many of our families and community will have fond memories of Barbara. In 1973 a small group of enthusiastic mothers from the Ladies Auxiliary was given the task of forming a Canteen Sub Committee for Weetangera School. At the end of that year the Ladies Auxiliary decided to appoint a paid managers position in order to provide greater continuity in the canteen at Weetangera School. A parent who lived opposite the school, Mrs Barbara Fox, was the successful applicant. Although they were not to know it at the time, the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary who made the appointment recruited for the school a unique lady who was to play a key role in the ongoing development of Weetangera School. Over thirty years later she was still a dynamic force in the school, not only in the canteen, but in running the Before and After School Care program, commencing in 1982, and in the P&C fundraising efforts.

Her legacy flourishes in the Weetangera community, especially at the heart of our school, our Canteen Committee. Barbara was honoured several times for her outstanding contribution to Weetangera School. In 1987 she was awarded a Public Education award for her excellent contribution to education in the ACT, and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999 as part of the International Year of the Older Person, in the Public Service category. During her time at Weetangera School hardly a moment went by without Barbara's presence in the school as Canteen Coordinator, Director of Before and After School Care program, in various capacities in the P&C and as a fundraiser extraordinaire.

Regards

James M Barnett  
Principal

# PS...

## Creative expression

As a famous person once said, 'Most modern calendars mar the sweet simplicity of our lives by reminding us that each day that passes is the anniversary of some perfectly uninteresting event.' In each newsletter this term we will include a perfectly interesting event to expand everyone's mind and take an imaginative leap to stimulate creative expression to encourage our students to respond. This week with a written response!

## On Tuesday 28 April 1931

Norbet Tossel of Amsterdam started sneezing continuously

- He stopped on 2 May, over 3000 sneezes later
- Donna Griffiths sneezed for over 900 days, starting on 13 January 1981
- Sneezes can propel, er, 'droplets' at over 160km/h

## Word of the day

'Tissue' – soft paper used for wiping and cleaning. From the Old French 'tissu' (rich material).

## Imagine...

Alison Downs, sneezed and sneezed, a dreadful, sneezy sound.

Alison Downs sneezed so much she finally sneezed her head right round.

Then what happened? Finish the poem, draw a picture, or write the rest of the story and send to Mr Barnett [james.barnett@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:james.barnett@ed.act.edu.au) and Ms Hoogland [danielle.hoogland@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:danielle.hoogland@ed.act.edu.au)

