



Weetangera Primary School Newsletter

12 February 2021

Term 1, Week 2

*Community Diary February 16 - P&C AGM - 7pm 25 - Canteen Meeting March 5 - Swimming Carnival 9
- Whole School Photos 11&12 - Year 3 Camp 16 - P&C Meeting 7pm 17 & 18 - Year 4 Camp*

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School Leadership Address





My name is Julie Cooper and I am the new principal of Weetangera Primary School.

It has been my great pleasure to spend time, over the last few weeks, learning about the school I am to lead. I have met inspirational teachers and look forward to seeing them in action as the weeks of 2021 progress.

And who am I you may well be wondering? An excellent wonder to have!

Working backwards; during 2019 & 2020 I was the Director of School Improvement responsible for the leadership of the schools in the South Weston Network in the ACT.

From 2012-2018 I was the founding principal of Franklin School, ACT. An amazing experience and one that shaped my leadership and further expanded my expertise.

Prior to these roles I have been a Deputy Principal and School Leader at Amaroo, Caroline Chisholm, Charles Conder and Farrer PS.

I began my teaching career in Central West NSW before moving here, to the ACT.

For students and their families, it is important to know what I stand for, and quite simply it is this:

To provide for **every** student at Weetangera Primary School engaging learning experiences that nurture and challenge them to be their best self; to give everything to their learning, to achieve success and have pride in their achievements.

This means that the staff of WPS will be motivated to ensure that we will all do whatever it takes, to enable success for your children through an educational experience designed to engage and connect them with the wonders of learning.

I look forward to meeting your children and yourselves as the new year unfolds.

Dear Families

Thank you for the very warm welcomes I have received as I have moved around the school and met some of you during my meanderings.

I feel very privileged to be the new principal at Weetangera; observing your children as they settle into their new classes, as they develop an understanding of the expectations and learning challenges and as they encounter new and various ways of teaching and learning.

The priority focus, in every school, is about learning and improving outcomes for students across their academic, social, wellbeing, physical and ethical development. Understanding the ways of co-operating and learning from and with each other is a skill that supports all of us throughout our lifetimes.

I have been referring to Weetangera Primary School as *Our Place of Learning*. It is a phrase that demonstrates the quality and purpose of every interaction we have with both adults and students alike. My mantra will always be What else do they/we need to learn? If an error is made whether it be with a mathematical problem or regarding relationship development, we, the adults, must first ask ourselves... *What else do they need to learn? What else do we need to learn?* It is a two-way process.

If we focus on this question, we focus also on the aspect of each child's development that is based upon the principle of continuous lifelong learning. As I have introduced myself to various classes I mention two things:

1. Students refer to me by my name, Julie and
2. I let them know that when they are working hard and focusing on learning they need to consider, at the end of the day; what are the mistakes I made today! And what did I learn about myself and what I need to do next.

Sometimes we shy away from letting our children make mistakes but resilience and 'brain' strength is built when we are at the edge of our learning, when thinking has been hard and we have to dig deep for the answer to a question. And if we acknowledge that when you make a mistake, and work towards understanding 'why' this occurred and seek support to find the answer we are stretching and building our learning capacity. I have had several students tell me: Julie, I had made two mistakes today! And so, I ask them, and what did you think about when you did, what might you do next time and who else can help you? So, thank you for welcoming me to your community I am looking forward to continuing to build and shape the focus on learning excellence at Weetangera Primary School. Of course there are opportunities for parents and carers to be involved in many ways at school the first way is to participate on the school board and nominations have opened for that process with nomination forms available at the front office and the second way is to participate in the Parents and Citizens (P&C) and they are having their first meeting @ 6pm on Tuesday, 16 February 2021. Thought for the week: *Every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be. Rita Pierson* Have a marvellous week Regards Julie Cooper

P&C AGM



Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 7pm in the school staffroom. All are welcome.

WEETANGERA SCHOOL PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

The Weetangera Primary Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) would like to send out a big, warm welcome to all our new families and a welcome back to those continuing with Weetangera Primary this year.

We hope to put on some fun activities this year, help foster community spirit and raise funds for items such as the mural for the shipping container next to the preschool and possibly an electronic noticeboard.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting next Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 7pm in the school staff room. All are welcome to attend. All P&C positions are open, with a particular need for a new Secretary and Treasurer as these positions can only be held for up to 2 years.

Second hand uniform shop

We have second hand uniforms for sale for the cost of a gold coin. The shop will be open this Friday 12 February between 9:00am-9:30am and is in the storage room next to the stage in the old hall. If you have any items that you no longer need, we would gratefully accept your donation.

Ideas?

Is there anything you would like to see the P&C do this year? Please let us know by sending us an email at Weetangera.pc.president@gmail.com or Weetangera.pc.secretary@gmail.com

Connect with us

Learn more about what is happening at the school, including reminders for school and P&C events on our Weetangera School P&C Facebook page.

Physical Education



Throughout the term, students will engage in the following:

Junior school (K-2)- students will practise gross motor skills as their body moves in relation to space, time, objects and people. Students will be given opportunities to demonstrate safe and fair play, during activities for balancing, hopping, jumping and rolling.

Senior School (Year 3-6)- students will practise and refine specialised and fundamental movement skills during physical activity. They will identify and apply cooperative skills that are essential to work effectively in teams, and work toward goals in their learning. Students will learn rules, fair play and new movement skills for cricket and volleyball.

I look forward to all students having time to engage in PE and being active for Term 1.

Ian Lanham



This term in French, Kindergarten students will learn to greet each other, introduce themselves and follow simple classroom instructions. They will also learn to answer simple questions about their feelings using role play and practise counting from 0 to 10 in French. They will use gestures, songs and games to develop their French speaking skills.

Year 1 and 2 students will be exploring the concept of Family. They will learn simple vocabulary to talk about themselves and their families (how many siblings, family members, etc). They will extend themselves by creating their very own French family tree. Year 1 and 2 students will be supported and extended in their learning through class games, songs and videos and written activities.

Year 3 and 4 will be participating in the Francophonie competition where they will explore all the interesting facts about a French speaking country to create a class poster. Students will also work on the topic of rooms of the house. Year 3 and 4 will continue to use role play scenarios and games to develop their speaking and listening skills. They will explore the concept of location and words in French used to describe where objects are located. Their learning will be supported and extended through the use of ICT and Education Perfect. Year 5 and 6 students will be participating in the Francophonie competition where they will explore all the interesting facts about a French speaking country to create a class poster. Students will also explore ways to introduce themselves and others. They will learn how to talk about their nationalities using simple sentences. Year 5 and 6 students will learn how to introduce the members of their family. Students will be supported and extended in their learning through ICT and Education Perfect.

Shamim Sabetraftar



Welcome back to a new year of fun and excitement in the Music Room with Miss Mas!

Let's have a look at our learning focus for term 1 in music.

Kindergarten will be learning the foundations of music and through movement, singing and playing instruments.

Year 1/2 will be further developing an understanding of the connection between rhythm and literacy by breaking words into syllables and phrases.

Year 3/4 will be focusing on literacy in music by developing stories and writing lyrics during our songwriting unit. They will also be developing their group playing skills when working towards performing their own compositions.

Year 5/6 will be focusing on their playing and performance skills by reading notes on the staff and playing popular songs on instruments.

Weetangera School also offers several morning music ensembles for students in Kindergarten to Year 6. These ensembles will be **starting in week 4** and will continue each week for the rest of the year. Each session will run from **8:30am - 8:55am** on the allocated days. The following timetable provides information on the type of ensembles available and the students that can participate. Further information will be sent out via the family communication app, Seesaw, in the coming weeks.

Tuesday - Whole School Choir

Kindergarten – Year 6

Students will need a clear sleeve folder for any sheet music that will be provided. They will be expected to bring this folder to every session.

Wednesday - Ukulele

Years 3 – 6

All instruments are provided, however if a student has their own ukulele they are encouraged to bring it to every session. There will be a safe place provided for the instruments during the day.

Thursday - Bucket Drumming

Years 3 - 6

All instruments provided. I look forward to sharing magical musical moments with everyone here at Weetangera in 2021.

Miss Mas



Welcome to **Sustainability** with **Miss Dunn**! A new subject area focusing on thoughtful sustainable practices through community garden and waste management classes. This year we will also be drawing on the Eco Educate Program to "give students the tools they need to confidently educate, explore, innovate and act for our planet." Students will engage with content using the following 'BIG IDEAS': Waste, Water, Energy, Biodiversity, Food and Culture.

Year 1 – Culture - Learning About Our Land

Students explore their relationship with nature and the environment that surrounds them. The semester has a strong focus on acknowledging the Indigenous Australian link to the land as well as storytelling.

Year 2 – Water - Water Conservation

In semester 1 of the program, Year 2 students are becoming immersed in an appreciation of the fresh, drinkable water we have here in Australia! Students are given thought-provoking exercises that build appreciation for this valuable and essential resource, but that also get them up and out of their classrooms.

Year 3 – Waste - Soft Plastic Recycling

Students dive into the world of Soft Plastic Recycling. We challenge Year 3 to extend their understanding of 'reduce, reuse, recycle' by introducing them to the concept of a Circular Economy.

Year 4 – Food - Future Foods

In the year 2050 planet Earth will likely be home to 10 billion people, and when it comes to food a lot has to change to feed 10 billion people! In 2050, today's year 4 class will be in their late 30s, and in this topic Eco Educate helps students identify the different ways our food might change over that timeframe.

Year 5/6 – Energy - Energy Poverty

Year 5/6 are tackling Energy Poverty and learning about global themes in sustainability like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and what it means to be a Global Citizen.

Miss Dunn

Running Club and Wheeltangera



Running Club and Wheeltangera will return to Weetangera School for 2021 in Week 3.

Running Club is a fitness/movement session held on the synthetic oval on Tuesday and Wednesday before school, beginning at 8:40am. Students will engage in a variety of aerobic activities, modified games, relays etc. aimed at improving their health and wellbeing. Students of all ages, Kindergarten to Year 6, are welcome to attend.

Wheeltangera is a bike riding session held on the synthetic oval on Fridays, beginning at 8:30am. Students ride around a set course on the oval and tally up their laps, with an emphasis on participation. Students of all ages, Kindergarten to Year 6, are welcome to attend.

The school has a small number (15) of bikes for those who wish to borrow one for the morning sessions. Students may also benefit from wearing appropriate shoes, bringing a drink bottle, and wearing a helmet (Wheeltangera) to these sessions.

We look forward to seeing students of all ages and abilities during Running Club and Wheeltangera sessions in Term 1 and beyond.

Thank you

Mr Lanham and Mr McRae

Sydney Academy of Chess



Learn to be chess champions! Coaching for Weetangera School students is held on Mondays from 3:05pm to 4:05pm, starting on Monday 8 February. If your child is interested in taking part you can collect an enrolment form by emailing enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy. For all enquires contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 97451170.

Contact Us...



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