



# 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 3. It has been a very positive, energetic and enthusiastic start to the term. With everyone settled back into such a positive engagement in their learning. As a community we share the common values of *Inclusion, Respect, Resilience, and Responsibility*.

## **How to be an effective partner in your child's learning: Being your child's first and forever teacher.**

I would like to share with you what the research says from the Gonski Institute for Education, about how you can be an effective partner in your child's learning. Towards the end of last term, I wrote about how we can improve parental engagement in the learning at Weetangera School. The Gonski Institute for Education current research (2020) states the relationship you have with your child's school and the support you offer their learning is critical to their success. So, just how can you best become a partner on your child's learning journey with Weetangera School?

## **What does the research tell us from the Gonski Institute for Education?**

Parents are a child's first and most influential teachers. While many parents do this in the before school years, sometimes we forget that we can help our children learn, even once they are at school. 'Parental engagement' means being positively involved and active in your child's learning process. It is one of the simplest ways to help your child be successful.

Parents are particularly well-placed to interact with their children frequently. The reciprocal, spontaneous conversations, language-rich interactions, shared customs, routines and play experiences that are facilitated by many parents help to build a healthy and responsive brain and a well-supported child. These regular opportunities offer multiple opportunities for learning and provide parents with extensive knowledge about children's interests and needs.

Parental engagement promotes shared responsibility for education and a partnership between families and schools. In recent research (Graham A. 2019 *Giving parents a voice: Strategies to enhance parent capacity to support transition to school*), 93 per cent of parents saw the role of a child's education as a shared responsibility between them and teachers.

A collaborative and supportive relationship between home and school is key to promoting better outcomes for children's learning and happiness. Children's outcomes across a whole range of areas are improved when parents are engaged in the learning journey. These include improved readiness for school, enhanced cognitive ability and improved academic

## **Newsletter No. 21**

**23 July 2020**

**Week 1**

### **COMMUNITY DIARY**

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

#### **August**

**4 P&C Meeting  
7-9pm**

**7 Kenny Koala**

**26 Y1 Excursion**

#### **September**

**1-2 Weetangera  
Writers Festival**

**4 Jersey Day**

**17 Kinder Information  
Session 6-7pm**

**22 Yrs 3-6 Athletics  
Carnival  
11:30am- 3pm**

**25 Y6 Market Day**

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**ASSEMBLIES 9:15 am**

**ALL ASSEMBLIES  
POSTPONED  
UNTIL FURTHER**



**Attachments**

### **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

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Weetangera ACT 2614

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**Please read our web site:**  
[weetangeraps.act.edu.au](http://weetangeraps.act.edu.au)

achievement, prosocial behaviour, positive approaches to learning, greater engagement and participation in learning activities, improved student behaviour, self-regulation and confidence, increased motivation to learn, better attendance and retention in school and participation in higher education.

It is important to know that your engagement can make a massive difference, even if there are other things in your child's life that makes it harder for them to learn.

***Research has shown that the benefits of parent engagement at home is the best predictor of a child's success at school. So how can you do it?***

### **What can parents do to support their child's learning?**

- Understand the difference between being involved, and being engaged. School-based involvement by parents is not linked to improved student learning. You might help in the school, which is extremely helpful for the school and great if you enjoy it, but this is not the same as engaging with your child's learning and being a collaborator
- Communicate with the school, and expect the same in return. Teachers can help parents understand what is happening inside the school, and vice versa
- Provide a stimulating home learning environment with a range of toys, books and learning materials. If resources are tight, consider swapping with friends, buying second-hand goods or using libraries
- Make learning fun, by engaging in activities that your child enjoys. These can be formal, like learning letters or structured activities, but they can also be more incidental, like cooking together, doing puzzles and playing board games
- Have regular conversations with your child about school. In these, try to cover a range of topics about their school work, friendships, relationships with teachers and if they are worried about anything
- Communicate the importance of learning, and talk positively about school and learning. Link their school work to current events and topics of interest
- Read to and with your child every day. It is one of the simplest activities that can make such a difference to your child's literacy development, and is also a great activity to bond over
- Play with your child! Use this time to learn about their interests, and look for teachable moments that can be found through play. For example, playing with trains and talking about the steepness of the tracks
- Let your child play often and use their creativity. Unstructured play is one of the most important ways for a child to develop critical social, emotional, cognitive, and physical skills they need to be successful at school, and in life.

### **COVID-19 health advice**

We are all adjusting as individuals and as a community to the concept of the 'New Normal' not being a linear process of recovery and we will need to continue to monitor and respond flexibly to changing circumstances for some time yet.

The ACT Government has updated a COVID-19 Public Health Direction this week. This advice legally requires anyone who has been in affected locations identified by NSW Health to self-quarantine for 14 days.

The Public Health Direction and more information and updates are available on the ACT Government [ACT COVID19 website](#). The situation in NSW is evolving and it is important to stay up to date through the COVID19 website.

I'd like to thank you for your patience, cooperation and understanding as we continue to navigate during these times and work together.

Yours faithfully,  
James M Barnett  
Principal

# Ps...

## MERIT CERTIFICATES

Certificates were awarded for the months of June and July to:

**Critical Thinking:** Fyfe W, Caden S, William W, Felix B, Aidan G, Morgan H, Morgan H, Miles C, George B, Elsie B, Rafa L, Felix W, Sam D, Muamar A, Anthony N, Lilyjana A, Elise A, Ashton C, Raighn N, James S, Dede A-B, Eryn H.

**Communication:** Ejay O, Aaron G, Sethuli M, Logan McL, Emily DB, Olavi S, Archie H, Olivia L, Hana G, Arianna C, Naomi D, Sam G, Ada T, Fares A.

**Creativity:** Vera S, Stephanie S, Evie J, Stella H, Raymond C-L, Mia R, Evie M, Evelyn S, Blake L, Jupiter K, Mila P, Hannah DB, Charlotte M, Lachlan G, Carys H, Layla J.

**Collaboration:** Dylan B, Victoria W, Mali McA, Elva B, Marley P, Josh K, Olivia C, Alba B, Logan V, Alyssa T, Sanvi V, Angelina M, Caitlin L, Elke Y, Gemma T, Mirabelle McE, Bridget L, Willow B-M, Keely B, Io T, Ebony C, Isla G, Julie M, Anfield J.



## FAMILY SIBLING PHOTOS

are available from the front office  
at a cost of *only* \$6.

## DOGS

Under ACT Government  
policies, dogs are not  
permitted on school grounds.

## CHESS!!

Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Weetangera School is held on Mondays from 3:05pm to 4:05pm, starting on 20 July 2020. Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games. Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

If your child is interested in taking part email [enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au](mailto:enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au) for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.

**P&C MEETING**  
Tuesday 4 August  
at 7pm, in the school staff room. All are welcome.

# Pps... How does your garden grow?

## Lunch box SOS!

Last term we got really good at collecting our food waste and keeping it out of the general waste bins. Although one thing that was very concerning was that a lot of fruit had one or two bites taken out of them or worse still, whole pieces of fruit and full wraps and sandwiches were being thrown away. It made me think it might be time for our families to have a chat with their children about the types and quantities of food that is sent to school in lunch boxes. Are we sending food that the children don't really like or are the portions too big? When an empty lunch box comes home we assume children have eaten all their food. Maybe we can encourage them to keep the uneaten food for their afternoon snack. It is such a shame to see lovingly prepared food in the worm farm.



On a happier note, over the weekend I went for a walk and came across this lovely little repurposed letter box. It offered free seeds. I picked up a packet of Climbing Peas. I left a note saying they would be going into the Weetangera School garden. Two eager gardeners planted them in the garden this week. They have the potential to grow to 2m tall. I think we might need to extend the trellis!



The Garden/Sustainability Team.