



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,

Today I would like to take the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the vital work our teachers across our school from the Preschool to Year 6, fulfil as an educator particularly during the past couple of months. This year has already been one of the most challenging and extraordinary periods they are likely to face in their careers as educators. I am so proud of their innovation, adaptability and resilience with which they have handled the unprecedented challenges presented during the times we have faced together as a community.

The ongoing respect and appreciation from the Weetangera School community for our teachers is very much appreciated and thoroughly deserved by our staff. During this unprecedented period of uncertainty, we hope to have been close to you every day with our learning plans. We are all experiencing one of the deepest disruptions in the history of mankind and have entered an era of unprecedented transformation. Now more than ever, in our personal and professional lives, we will provide our students with the tools and strategies to face new challenges in their learning programs and to thrive towards a pursuit of a passion for learning at Weetangera School.

I also want to give a shout out to our school cleaners, front office administration staff and Building Services Officers, which are all doing an amazing job under challenging circumstances, so please thank those staff as they go about all of their additional duties. The cleaners are now working to particularly focus on waste removal; washroom and toilet cleaning and sanitising; kitchen cleaning; classroom desks and chairs; and high-frequency touch point cleaning and sanitising across the school.

Cultural Integrity

National Reconciliation Week may have ended on the 3rd of June, but that does not mean we should forget about reconciliation until next year. Building cultural integrity in our school is fundamental to our genuine reconciliation and to achieving educational outcomes. Success at Weetangera School will look like:

- All staff possessing a good knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, languages and knowledge systems
- Part of our standard way of teaching and learning is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are incorporated across all learning areas
- Students have developed a sound knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, languages and knowledge systems
- Respect for and the celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions to contemporary society are visible in our school environment
- A strong sense of community has been established between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents, families, local community members,

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. 17

11 June 2020

Week 7

COMMUNITY DIARY

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

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:

service providers and agencies

- All learning environments are culturally safe environments
- We can tell the story of Cultural Integrity in our school. Cultural Integrity is incorporated in our school improvement, planning and accountability processes
- We have identified our schools' Cultural Integrity priority for this year is a review of our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) with our school community

Changes to Semester 1 reporting

Due to the unprecedented circumstances faced by schools across Australia this year, a national agreement has been reached to modify school reporting for Semester 1. In the ACT it will be a reduced level of Semester 1 reporting for students from Kindergarten to Year 6.

We recognise that providing families with information about their child's progress and learning is crucial and will be especially valuable after the start to the year we have all experienced.

Semester 1 school reports for 2020 will still include information about each student's level of progress against specific achievement standards for the learning areas that were covered in Semester 1. Teachers will still make a judgement about the level of engagement each student has demonstrated with their learning and, where appropriate, work habits. Personal and Social Capability will still be included.

Reports in Semester 1 will not include overall grades for learning areas/subjects or a comparative A-E grade summary. Additionally, reports will not include attendance information for Semester 1.

If you would like further information about your child's progress please consult with your classroom teacher. For any other queries or concerns, you can contact the Education Directorate via the Education Directorate Contact Form or call 6205 5429

Yours faithfully

James M Barnett
Principal

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.

Famous landscape artist John Constable was born.

- He was one of the first painters to paint landscape pictures outside, rather than in a studio
- Although he painted landscapes set in France and other countries, he never left England.

Word of the day

'Landscape' – a painting of natural scenery. From the Dutch 'landschap': 'land' and 'schap' (ship).

Imagine...

Divide a piece of paper into four. In the first box, imagine and draw the landscape around our school 200 years ago. In the second, what might it have looked like 50 years ago? In the third, draw a landscape from today. In the fourth, draw what the landscape might look like in 50 years. Send your response to Mr Barnett james.barnett@ed.act.edu.au and Ms Hoogland danielle.hoogland@ed.act.edu.au



John Constable 1776-1837

Wivenhoe Park, Essex 1816

Stonehenge 1835

PS... How does your Garden grow?



I'd like to introduce Cid Riley. He is the owner and operator of Global Worming. He will be a very familiar face around our school from now on because he will be educating us on the benefits of worms as well as teaching us how to care for our new inhabitants. Please say 'Hi' and introduce yourselves to him.

Cid is pictured here setting up the first stage of the worm bedding. It consists of organic waste collected from offices and schools. The waste is layered up with sugar cane mulch. Each layer is watered in to soak up moisture to create an environment that our worms will be happy to live in.



Next in goes a tub of worm castings. This is the rich organic matter produced by the worms. It is added as a familiar substance to help the worms settle in. And last but not least....The WORMS!!! The worms will be introduced in stages. Cid will gauge how happy the worms are in the bedding that has been put in so far. If all is well, more worms will be added. If not, the bedding will be adjusted and given time to settle. Cid doesn't anticipate any problems, so all being well, more worms will be added on Friday. Yippee!

I'd also like to give a shout out to all those wonderful garden club children that have been helping to get our weeds under control. You know who you are! Keep up the good work.

The Gardening Club.

Pps...

P&C MEETING UPDATE

The P&C met on Tuesday 9 June. We were delighted to meet in person (socially distanced) rather than via a video or teleconference. Here is a summary of what we discussed:

- We will delay setting a goal for items that we will fundraise towards until Term 3 as it is not clear what group based activities we will be able to carry out later this year such as a fete. We will aim to do FUNraising (with a focus on fun) with smaller activities such as our Father's Day stall and an out of school uniform, wear your pyjamas day.
- We may be able to do a lap-a-thon late in the year, depending on whether there are restrictions on people gathering then.
- We raised \$158 from Entertainment Book subscriptions last year and will continue to offer these this year.
- Our financial statements for last year were presented. We have around \$18,000 in the bank after making a donation to the school for new audiovisual equipment for the school hall. We are looking for a person to audit/review the 2020 statements next year if anyone is able to do so.
- The canteen deed between the school and P&C is due for renewal and the canteen subcommittee and P&C will look to update it.
- We discussed what can be done to assist with a Year 6 End of Year celebration.
- Mr Barnett presented his principal's report discussing issues such as the student capacity of the school, the new basketball court and teacher movements.

It was an enjoyable evening. If you have any questions or suggestions, or would like to raise anything with the P&C, please contact Kate Donaldson at Weetangera.pc.president@gmail.com or Angelina Anthoney at Weetangera.pc.secretary@gmail.com

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

As a result of the recovering COVID-19 situation, Weetangera School **WILL NOT** be receiving print booklets for the upcoming school holidays.

Instead we are directing parents to the digital booklet at:

www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet

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.