March Newsletter 2014

**Principal’s report**

Dear Parents & Carers

Wanniassa School’s 2013 NAPLAN test results are worth writing home about! The Canberra Times excerpt can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter. We also received congratulations from Associate Professor Katherine Reynolds (Australian National University) who partnered with Wanniassa School over three years (2010-12) in what was known as the ANU Changing School Climate & Culture project.

“We can use all kinds of information to make informed guestimates of how students will do at school. These guestimates are based on measures of things like how well students have done in their learning in the past, how much income parents earn each week, the money schools get from government, whether parents went on to study or went straight to work after school, whether people in a community where student’s live have jobs or not and whether the community where the student lives care about the school and students doing well. A "guestimate" of how well students will do in their learning has been made for the Wanniassa community as well as all the other school communities in Canberra and beyond.

Often people want to be teachers so they can boost students above these guestimates — they want their students to do better than these guestimates would predict. Often parents choose schools so their children will do better than these guestimates would predict. When teachers, parents and students work together amazing things can happen.

For the last few years at Wanniassa School amazing things have been happening. Students have performed better than these informed guestimates. Students have performed better in their learning than anyone would have imagined!

Students at Wanniassa are sending a message that "guestimates can be wrong" and that when you have a school where people feel they belong and are focused on learning, where parents support the school and back the school up in its goals and decisions, and where you have passionate staff who want to do things differently and never give up on any student----- AMAZING things can happen!!”

Well done, Wanniassa P-10 School!
Facility Update on the Senior Campus:

The Trades Training Centre infrastructure work is almost complete and our Hospitality/Food Studies classes will be resuming in the newly refurbished kitchen and café Wanniassa rooms. Wood Technology and Metalwork classes have been operating smoothly for some weeks now as there was less to change in that area of the school. The fence extension (phase 3) and some much-needed landscaping at the front will be soon completed.

Capital Works officers and building consultants recently visited the Senior Campus to identify major works needed to improve the facility’s infrastructure for the next 20-25 years. We were also advised of an audio-visual upgrade for the hall’s sound system – this will be completed in Term 2.

Wanniassa School is OPEN on Monday 5 May 2014

Visit the Preschool/K-6 9.30am–11.00am
Sternberg Cres Wanniassa

Visit the Senior Campus/High School from 5.30pm-7.30pm
Wheeler Cres Wanniassa

Information about Enrolments for 2015 for Preschool, Kindergarten, Year 7 Principal’s Address, Classroom Visits

On Monday 5 May we will showcase our school on the annual OPEN NIGHT for prospective high school age students, from 5.30pm-7.30pm. We will also hold an OPEN MORNING at the Preschool and the Junior Campus for prospective preschool/primary age children from 9.30am-11.00am.

PLEASE NOTE: The process for ENROLLING in all ACT Government schools for 2015 – from Preschool to Year 12 – has changed to an online format. Applications for enrolment for 2015 open on 28 April 2014 and close on 30 May 2014. Please contact the school for further information, and do come to the OPEN MORNING/NIGHT as well. Students choosing to attend Wanniassa P-10 School who live in Wanniassa, Oxley, Monash and Greenway have priority enrolment.

Students Update

Wanniassa students excel in many ways. We acknowledge their achievements at assemblies, in year group meetings, with postcards, notes of congratulations and media articles. Newsletters also record achievement and excellence.

• JC Swimming Carnival -Thanks to Mr Justan Fuller and his myriad of JC helpers for organising the successful 2014 carnival held at Phillip Pool. For the students, teachers and parents who attended it was fun, lovely weather and the races and novelty events ran very smoothly.
• Senior Campus students also competed in time trials. Matt Jolley, Natasha Souksavat, Haley Mason and Tiana Jean, not only competed but were given the job as time keepers and did this very well.
• Japan Trip 2014 - Students commenced their language and cultural classes at JC (will alternate with Namadgi School). Staff from the Embassy of Japan visited and provided cultural info for our travellers
• World Challenge Trip 2015 to Vietnam - school board approval sought
Fundraising for overseas trips has commenced in earnest – Japan 2014, World Challenge in 2015

Rugby League 7’s in an ACT final – congratulations

ICT Sherpas and ICT internships, SC students – work with teachers, students. In the Wanniassa ICT Internship program students are trained in the various uses of ICT across the school. At the end of the semester students receive a report and grade for their progress in this course, and certificates to recognise their achievements and skills covered in the program.

A number of SC students attend classes each week at the Tuggeranong Art Centre that will hopefully lead to a Certificate II in Business.

Whole-of-school approach gets results for Wanniassa School
11 March article in the Canberra Times

HIGH ACHIEVERS: Rocco Senthavysouk is in Year 8 at Wanniassa School, which has a targeted approach for its students. Photo: Rohan Thomson

On a first reading of NAPLAN results, Wanniassa School falls towards the bottom of ACT schools. But when its socio-educational status is taken into account, it rises straight to the top. When NAPLAN achievement is analysed using the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage, Wanniassa is the only ACT school to outperform similar schools across the nation in numeracy. The school has an indigenous population of 13 per cent, and 17 per cent coming from a language background other than English.

Its score of 996 in the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage is the eighth-lowest in the ACT, where the overwhelming majority of schools are above the national average of 1000. So when Wanniassa's advantage rating is factored into the MySchool results, the results tell a different story. The only school to outperform similar schools in numeracy in Year 7, Wanniassa School is also ranked top in reading, spelling and grammar, and was one of only three schools to perform better than similar schools in writing.

It’s an exciting result, according to Principal Karin Nagorcka. "We're a Pre-school to Year 10 school and our results on the Junior Campus in Years 3 and 5 were also strong, but our greatest growth has been at the senior end," she said. "We have a personalised learning approach right across the school and that enables us to really focus on literacy and numeracy activities. "A majority of year 7s have come through from Year 5 and 6 here, so obviously taking that whole school approach works."

The Junior School’s results were almost as impressive as the Year 7 results, with Year 3’s topping the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage adjusted rankings in both reading and grammar, coming second in numeracy and in the top 10 for writing and spelling.

Year 5 was top in grammar, in the top three for reading and numeracy, eighth for spelling and 13th in writing, and all above the national average.

Ms Nagorcka credits dedicated teachers and a whole-of-school approach that allows teachers to track students from when they start all the way to college.
"We have a targeted approach for all our students [and] a belief that all of our students belong to all of us, so we really want them to succeed.
"What we're doing is similar to other schools, but that helps us to target case management, to work on intervention of students who really need that support."
While the school’s adjusted results were below the average in Year 9 writing and numeracy, Ms Nagorcka said the overall results showed strong momentum building for the future.

Principal
Karin Nagorcka

P & C News

Position Vacant
Manager – Wanniassa School Senior Campus Canteen
Casual Position during School Terms: Hours – 9.15am to 2.45pm Monday to Friday
Extra hours for shopping/banking.
Fast Food Industry Award 2010 (Fast food employee level 3 applies)
For further information, or a copy of the duty statement, please contact,
Annie Hallett (0432-611201) - Senior Canteen Convenor hallett@grapevine.com.au
Please submit an expression of interest with your resume via email.
Applications close 5pm Monday, 14th of April, 2014

The Wanniassa P & C Association will once again be conducting a Mother’s Day Gift Stall this year at both the Junior and Senior Schools. The date is yet to be confirmed but we would appreciate donations of good quality items like we received last year. Donations can be dropped off at the Canteens starting in Week One of Term 2. The stall was a great success last year and with your help we can aim to achieve that once again.

Annie Hallett - 0432 611 201

Junior Campus News

Rainbow Unit
We are concentrating on the social learning that is so important at the beginning of the year. We are encouraging the children to use their words in asking for a turn, asking for help, negotiating conflicts and entering into play. Reminders are given to speak up so that the other person can hear you and to use a friendly voice. The children have also formulated class rules and these are on the wall in each classroom so that we can refer to them as needed. You will have received your first information sheets about the PALS program. PALS stands for Playing and Learning to Socialise. Our topics so far have been “Greeting Others” and “Taking Turns with Speaking and Listening” and “Taking turns at play”. Each topic is introduced through role play using the puppets and the children are encouraged to give the puppets ideas on what might work best in each situation.

We have been using the computers, introducing the Readingeggs program. Children are introduced to letters, sounds, words and sentences as they tackle early reading skills through a variety of interactive games. These games are pitched at an appropriate level for preschool children and each child is able to work through the program at their own pace.

Judy Richards, Virginia Fanning and Karen Cooper

Red Unit News
Term 1 has gone so quickly in Red Unit! We have been very busy learning all kinds of new things but our favourite time of the week is Investigations. Every Friday afternoon the students engage with a variety of different activities which allow them to learn new skills in their own way. The activities can include anything the students would like to learn how to do or find out about. Every week the activities change and
some of the activities we have had so far are making slime, feeling what it is like to fish on a boat and creating new items out of old boxes. Each student is able to choose which activity they would like to engage with and are encouraged to ask questions and use language to describe their investigation. The students are really enjoying being the boss of their own learning and are becoming more confident and creative with each lesson.

Vicki Gough and Sally Gore-Johnson

**Blue Unit News**
Blue Unit students have been taking part in PE activities each Friday afternoon. So far we have learnt about throwing, catching and kicking and are really enjoying being active with our friends. Both classes are engaging in a number of activities aimed at improving comprehension skills. All students received a set of comprehension cards in their home readers to assist in further developing these vital skills. In Mathematics we have been learning about numbers to 100 (Year 1) and 1000 (Year 2) with a particular focus on place value. Both classes have also been learning about addition and subtraction. Year 1 have been using the counting on and build to ten mental computation strategies and Year 2 have been using the skip and jump mental computation strategies.

We had a fabulous time at our assembly last week and it was great to see so many parents and extended family members there!

Ashley Coutts and Jess Maloney

**Green Unit News**
Green Unit is really gearing up for NAPLAN!!! We are spending the mornings in our Literacy rotations focusing on grammar, spelling and various text types. We have written some amazing descriptive scenes using image prompts and are proud to see our published work on the wall! We started with dot point ideas like this… “- I could taste the mist - see the slimy moss on the rocks – see the waving trees – smell the summer breeze – hear the whistling birds… “ – Melissa Davies 2/3H
Then put them together to get this… “As I walked along the lonely road, I felt the burning sun on my skin and heard the howling wind moving across the land. Big trucks were rolling past. I could taste boiling air tingling on my tongue and see big dark mountains off in the distance. I walked along the road to nowhere and smelt the tar on the road melting in the sun.” - Heath Davis 3B
Orange Unit News
What a massive term we have had already. It was so great to see so many parents at our assembly! We were so proud of the efforts put in by every member of Orange Unit.
In Literacy we have been working hard to improve students’ comprehension and reading skills during literacy rotations and we are now focussing on spelling and grammar. We have been working hard in ‘Writer’s Notebook’ and have begun our first draft piece. We can’t wait to share them with you.
Orange Unit students are continuing to push themselves to develop their mental computation skills and use these strategies in their maths rotations.
Our unit is discovering what it means to be healthy. We have begun to look at the benefits of having a healthy lifestyle and how it can positively affect our future. We are now looking at the types of foods we should be including in our daily diet. Orange Unit has set a challenge to bring a healthy lunch every day to school for the next week. Let’s see how they go!

Justan Fuller & Helen Wilson

Yellow Unit News
The Year 5 and 6 children of Yellow Unit continue to demonstrate positive group behaviours in our core learning areas of Literacy and Mathematics.
We have taken on a whole unit approach to imbedding the Japanese language within our classes and the children are taking delight in watching Mr Bond and Mrs Deards trying to pronounce words and answer questions. The children’s enthusiasm towards Japanese and positive attitudes towards learning about other languages and cultures is wonderful. It would be valuable consolidation for our students if you could have them teach you some key Japanese words or phrases at home.
Congratulations to our 5/6 League 7’s team who went through undefeated in the opening round of the Meninga/Daley Cup. Bring on the finals!

Susie Deards and Nick Bond

Japanese News
It is hard to believe that it has been 3 years since the Great Eastern Earthquake and Tsunami of Japan. The students in Orange and Yellow units have reflected on the devastation that hit Japan on March 11, 2011. We have been using the Writer’s notebook format to write comments about what happened before during and after the tsunami. The insight that they students are demonstrating shows their level of compassion for the people who were and still are being affected.
Students in Green Unit have enjoyed learning the Japanese Hiragana characters in the Japanese alphabet. One of their favourite sites is the Hiragana Rap. Check it out on Youtube, it is great fun!

Maybury Sensei
**Swimming Carnival**

The Junior Campus Swimming Carnival was a great success on March 14, with all children thoroughly enjoying their first whole campus carnival in a number of years.

Heidi Byrne – “It was really competitive and I liked swimming against other people.”
Rachel Kitchener – “We finally had a sunny day so we can have a carnival!”
Cameron Russell – “I liked going in all the events and trying my best.”
An excited participant – “I had a great time racing but I really liked the novelty events too.”

**National Ride2School Day**

Wanniassa School celebrated the National Ride2School Day today with many students riding their bikes and scooters to school. The day also promoted walking part or all the way to school with a healthy breakfast awaiting their arrival. The event highlighted the importance of active travel within the school day and promoting a healthy lifestyle for 2014. We would like to thank Coles at Tuggeranong for supporting our school and donating all of the fruit, cereal, juice and milk for the healthy breakfast.

**Rugby League 7’s**

Years 3/4 and 5/6 represented Wanniassa School at the Laurie Daley and Mal Meninga Southside Rugby League 7’s Gala Day on March 12 at the Kambah Ovals. The teams played in good spirit and they competitively placed well in their pools on the day. Our 5/6 team went through undefeated and will represent our school in the finals on Wednesday, March 26. I am sure we wish them all the best for the day.

Greg Pickering - Sports Co-Ordinator
Library News

Library Monitors

Congratulations to the eight year six students who have begun training as library monitors this year. They are: Justice Oshyer, Charlotte Mason, Gerry Menegazzo, Cody Spaven, Emily Marchant, Brianna Cather, Gemma Williamson, and Nicole Hunt.

They have already begun working in the library at lunchtimes, helping students with loans and returns, assisting in the computer lab, helping with library displays and running special lunchtime activities for students.

They will also run a fortnightly lunchtime Book Club. Older students can come along and tell the group about a book they have read and enjoyed. For our younger students the Book Club will involve a story telling followed by an art or craft activity based on the story.

The monitors have already shown themselves to be keen, capable and reliable. We commend these students for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Keep up the good work team!

Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge 2014

The Challenge is on again for another year and your time starts... NOW!

The Challenge is to read 12 books between now and September.

It is open to all students who are in Pre-school to year 8.

Eight of the twelve books must come from the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge booklists. These are in the library.

On completing the Challenge, students will receive a signed certificate from the Chief Minister.

A “Reading Record” sheet must be kept as proof of all books read, with each book read being signed off by a parent or teacher.

Pre-school and Years 1 & 2 can list books read to them and do not have to read the books themselves.

There is also a school prize of a book pack for the school with the highest percentage of students completing the Challenge.

We are aiming for 100% participation by our students this year, so please encourage your child to read for a set time every day and sign their Reading Record sheets.

That way they will easily read the required 12 books between now and September.

So come on Wanniassa students, take up the Challenge and discover the fun and rewards of reading!

See Mrs Hine for all the details, and for your Reading Record sheet.

Happy reading!

Elaine Hine (Teacher-Librarian)
Senior Campus News
Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Team
Ann Hill - Coordinator – 6205 6178
Trevor Preston – Youth Support Worker – 6205 7855
Robert Walls – School Counsellor (Mon & Tues) – 6205 6179
Anita Sutherland – Indigenous Education Officer – 6205 7855

Finances
2014 Voluntary Contributions

Many thanks if you have already made contributions – we really appreciate this! These contributions made each year enable us to provide an enriched learning environment for all of our children.

To make a payment you can pay by cash or cheque. EFTPOS is available from the Front Office at either campus. Alternatively payment can be made directly to the school account via Internet Banking.

The school account details are:
Westpac
Wanniassa School Management Account
BSB Number: 032-777
Account Number: 001869

When depositing money into the account please provide a meaningful description with the student’s name eg: Volcons – Jo Soap

If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to contact me on: 6205 6200.
Ann Hayres – Finance Officer

Maths News
Student engagement plays a large role in improving student outcomes in mathematics (Carini, Kuh & Klein, 2006) regardless of whether the students are high or low achieving in the subject. This, along with feedback from parents and students is why we have changed the structure of the year 9 and 10 mathematics classes this year. We have combined the two year groups and offered students a choice in which class they were placed into, based on their personal areas of interest. The options your child was given were; Maths in Sports with David Green, Maths in Games with Sophie Chapman, Trades Maths with Kellie Keeffe and Extension Maths with Phillip Lewington. Big Picture students also had the option of continuing their Learning Plans with Shelley Lavender, with a major focus on the Quantitative Reasoning aspect of their planning.

All the courses, with the exception of the Extension Maths class, are following the Australian Curriculum and will have common assessment tasks. The students will all be studying the exactly same mathematical concepts as previous year’s students, however they will be presented from a background which is linked in with the students interests and passions to engage their learning in a more authentic and relevant way. Students will be asked to select new classes for semester 2, 2014 and for following years whilst considering their career and future study based goals. The assessment from their courses this semester will carry over into their Semester 2 courses.

The extension class is slightly different, as it will be a “P” course, meaning it deviates from the Australian Curriculum. This is because we are expecting our students in this course to cover the entire year 9 and 10 Australian Curriculums, along with the year 10 Advanced Australian Curriculum over a two, rather than one, year period. This will allow your student go well beyond the level of curriculum content and skills covered by the Australian Curriculum whilst still having the time and space to fully grasp the content and apply it to real world situations.

We will be holding an information night to discuss the mathematical pathways into college, future studies and into various careers and the Australian Curriculum in Term 2. It is strongly suggested that all students in years 9 and 10 attend this session with their parents / carers. More information with specific details will be available in the next newsletter.


Stacey Griffiths

**Big Picture News**

Big Picture schools are defined by their commitment to educate “One student at a time...in a community of learners”. A Big Picture school is based on the premise that each child has unique interests, needs, and abilities that the educational program must take into account. The key to achievement in a Big Picture school lies in fostering students’ individual interests, encouraging their active participation in learning process, and developing their ability to apply knowledge and skills to real life experience and challenges. 

**Rigour** - by continually challenging students to deepen their learning and improve their performance across all learning goals.

**Relationships** - by supporting students to learn to work with peers in advisory class, with others in the school and with their mentors and others in their community.

**Relevance** - by working with students to find their interests and ensuring that internships and projects are connected to those interests.

Wanniassa School is now in its fifth year of operating a Big Picture inspired program for year 9 and 10 students. We have been recognised by our own Education Directorate and ACARA as being innovative - a school for the 21st century. We have received national and international recognition for our Big Picture inspired model and are used to mentor other schools from around Australia.

Students are encouraged to develop positive, respectful and entrepreneurial skills, attitudes and behaviours with their peers and their local and global community. Each student has a comprehensive, individualised learning plan. These plans are crafted by students with guidance, the parent has an integral role in their child’s learning and is engaged several times a year to have input and witness their child’s progress.

Exhibitions are where students present evidence of their work and learning each and every term. Students create visuals, an agenda and a professional presentation. Peers, parents, other educators and community mentors are invited to attend and give invaluable feedback to students.

Learning through Internships allows students to broaden their classroom work into the real world environment, giving added depth to vocational training or work experience. We have had students attend the Australian National University to extend their interest in Pharmacy and Medicine. We have had a student complete formal qualification at CIT to achieve an apprenticeship. My most memorable was a student who had a passion for politics and writing. She saw political history unfold – witnessing in the Parliament the delivery of a speech she had written delivered by Ms Gai Brodtmann MP, and the resignation of the Speaker!

“Big Picture is my puzzle board. And finally I have found contentment in where I fit. Everything just feels right being a part of Big Picture. And the amount that I have gained from it.....I will never take for granted. My weaknesses are now my strongest attributes, my insecurities have been taken away, and the person I am connects with what I am learning and how I do so.” *Rachel Grant*

Shelley Lavender - Big Picture Co-ordinator
Whole School News
Gifted and talented students in ACT public schools

Information session for families and the community Tuesday 8 April 2014

Families and members of the community are invited to attend an information session focusing on how ACT public schools and families can work in partnership to support gifted and talented students in ACT public schools.

This information session will take place at 5:30–6:30pm on Tuesday 8 April at the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling ACT.

Registration for this session is not required and tea, coffee, water and juice will be provided beforehand.

Principals are required to ensure that appropriate strategies and provisions are made for all gifted and talented students enrolled at their school.

Principals and staff will work with families, students and community members to support the process of identifying and meeting the needs of all gifted and talented students at their school. Schools will be active in engaging families and the community throughout this process.

Workshop:  2014 ACTPC1 Location:  Canberra

The Positive Partnerships initiatives have been developed and delivered by Partnerships between Education and the Autism Community (PEAC) and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, through the Helping Children with Autism package. This workshop is the first of two workshops being held in the ACT this year. The second workshop is planned to be on the Southside around September 2014.

What will you learn?

Positive Partnerships has been facilitating workshops in the ACT since 2008. As per previous workshops parents/carers that participate in the workshops and information sessions will gain:

- a greater understanding of the impact of autism on your child, both at school and at home
- knowledge about how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships
- specific strategies on how to:
  - advocate for your child
  - support your child’s participation at school
  - develop an awareness of ongoing learning needs
  - information about your local school system’s processes
  - opportunities to network and share strategies with other parents/carers and key community members
  - opportunities for discussion around a range of topics relevant to students with ASD and their families

Some key community representatives that support families living with autism will be identified and invited to participate in the workshop with a view to supporting a community focus beyond the workshop.

Workshop details
Venue: Raiders Belconnen
Hardwick Crescent, Holt, ACT 2615
When: One day workshop – Wednesday 2 April 2014
Day 1: 9.00 am - 4.30 pm (Registration from 8.15am)
Registration opens Wednesday 19 February 2014, and closes 2 days prior. Registration may stay open until one day before the workshop if spaces are still available, but we strongly recommend that you register as soon as possible.

You will receive a confirmation of your registration.

Online registrations preferred: please go to the website www.positivepartnerships.com.au.
Only complete the following form if you do not have access to the internet and fax or mail to: Fax: 02 9451 9661; Mail: Positive Partnerships, ASPECT, PO Box 361, Forestville NSW 2087

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS
Is your child aged between 10 and 15 years old?

Sign the kids up to a workshop these school holidays at Questacon’s newest facility, the Questacon Technology Learning Centre.

Choose from two different workshop formats where they can invent, design, create and have fun!

Half-day and full-day workshops run from 14-24 April.

For more information visit the website or contact 1800 889 995

www.questacon.edu.au
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube

Australian Government
Questacon
Questacon Technology Learning Centre

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GKR
Start a whole new chapter
Build confidence in a healthy, happy environment
GKR Karate classes for all the family

- Build confidence
- Improve fitness
- Gain self discipline
- Learn self defence

On: Wed 6:30 – 8 pm
- Ginnawarra Primary
- Thur 4:30 – 5:30 pm
- Ararat Primary
- Thur 4:30 – 5:30 pm
- Isabella Plains
- Thur 6:30 – 8 pm
- Sat 10:30 am – noon
- Calwell Primary
- Fri 6:15 – 7:45 pm
- Lyneham High
- Fri 6:30 – 8pm
- Sat 10:30 am – noon
- Namadgi School, Kambah
- Sun 10:30 am – noon
- Weston Creek Scout Hall

other classes all around Canberra and Queanbeyan and surrounds
classes continue through school holidays

contact Wendy 0406 375 091