



## December Newsletter 2014

### Upcoming Events:

#### Preschool

#### 10<sup>th</sup> December

Preschool Party

#### Junior Campus

#### 5<sup>th</sup> December

End of Year Concert  
11:30am followed by family  
sausage sizzle

#### 11<sup>th</sup> December

Year 6 Graduation Assembly  
11:30am

Kindy – Year 6 Graduation  
Disco : 6:30pm – 8:30pm

#### 15<sup>th</sup> December

Kindy – Year 6 Movies  
Excursion

#### Senior Campus

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December

Big Picture Exhibitions

#### 4<sup>th</sup> December

Year 10 Formal  
6:00pm – 10.00pm  
The Deck

#### 5<sup>th</sup> December

Year 10 Walkout Assembly &  
BBQ 1:30pm – 3pm

#### 9<sup>th</sup> December

Year 7,8,9,10 – Graduation  
9:30am – 11:00am

#### Year 10 Morning Tea

Senior Campus Library after  
graduation

#### 10<sup>th</sup> December

Year 7 & 9 Immunisations

#### 16<sup>th</sup> December

Big Splash – Year 7 - 9

#### Whole School

#### End of Term 4

17<sup>th</sup> December

#### School Starts for 2015

#### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

(Kindergarden 9am-3pm)  
(Year 7 only 9am-3:05pm)

#### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

All students return



## Principal's report

### Dear Parents & Carers

Term 4 continues apace for all of our students, staff and families with events culminating in Year 6 and Year 10 graduations and the recognition of outstanding academic, sporting and community achievements for students across Wanniassa School at the end of

the year.

The Wanniassa School Fair was a wonderful event – thank you for sharing in the fun! Special accolades from all of us to our hard-working P&C members, families, students and staff who generously donated so much time, energy and talent to help make it so successful. Ms Rebecca Logue, parent, Deputy Chair of the school board and P&C member has been particularly inspirational in her role as Fair Convenor and we owe her deep gratitude for her tireless, calm stewardship and support.

The Wanniassa School P&C are also to be congratulated on successfully running not one but two school canteens throughout the year. Heartfelt thanks to our canteen managers, canteen treasurers and volunteers whose efforts have provided fantastic service to our children from preschool to Year 10. P&C and Preschool PA members undertook other fundraising ventures in 2014, including a number of community barbeques – thank you for the real difference you have made to our school community through your efforts. The P&C also presented certificates to William McCarthy and Hayley Mason for their assistance at one of the BBQs – thank you for recognising these students.

### Student Highlights

Sport Students who performed well in ACT competition and have gained national selection:

- Athletes Hayley Mason finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the Girls 14 Years Shot Put 3kg event and 2nd in the girls 400gm Javelin throw. Having qualified for both, Hayley chose to focus solely on the shot put and her name appears on the athletics act website as part of the team that will travel to the Australian All Schools Championship in Adelaide in December. In June Hayley also competed at the 2014 National Junior Classic basketball tournament in Melbourne. Hayley and the ACT U16 Women's basketball team played extremely well and came away with a bronze medal.
- Kaylee Gregory finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the Girls 13 Years 3000m with Jessica Gregory finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the same event so they qualify for the ACT team to compete at the Australian All Schools Championship.
- Having gone through a tough trial process in October of this year, Joel Ambrose made the Harold Matthews U16's Raiders Team.
- Sabrina Sanchez who has been selected for the ACT U14 Girls Soccer team as goalkeeper for 2014/15.

- Students who have received congratulatory certificates for participation in the 2014 Stepping into the Limelight art exhibition are: Tyler Cheeseman, Kaylie Gregory, Kisa Ifrahkar, Jodie King, Tamika Lovelock, Maddie McQualter, Maddie Thomas and Maddie Warburton. Teacher Ms Sonia Lynch also received one – well done all.

### **Enrichment Opportunities for Students/Recognition of Achievement:**

- Author, Gary Crew. What a treat the Year 7's had recently listening to and interacting with the famous prize-winning Australian author, Gary Crew. Everyone was totally engaged, enthralled even, as he led the students through the three levels of story-telling in his book *The Watertower* – words, pictures and the imagination. Thanks to Ms Cara Shipp for organising this successful visit, and to the teachers who supervised. Gary was very impressed by the students' absorption in his story as well as their questions and answers.
- Art portfolio workshop for aspiring artists: Through our partnership with the ANU we were offered a Visual Arts Portfolio Development Workshop. This was a three hour Art in-school session designed to demystify the portfolio application process for entry into tertiary visual art and design courses and motivate and inspire students currently enrolled in art and design courses. The presenter expanded the practical aspects of this workshop to include Year 9 students, and students participated in a range of drawing and technical exercises under her leadership. Several students attended from other network schools.
- Wanniasa School hosted the Japanese Speech Day for primary school students from across the ACT on Saturday 15 November in the SC Library. More than 100 students and their families attended during the day and enjoyed the delights of food and drinks served in Café Wanniasa. Huge thanks to Ms Jo Brown, Japanese teacher for her superb organisation of the day, and to Ms Emily Lord who provided this service, ably assisted by volunteers. The newly refurbished SC library was also much admired. Thanks to the Japanese Embassy who organised a wonderful exhibition of Japanese Drumming for the Junior Campus students
- The Japanese Drumming performance on the Junior Campus in Week 7 was outstanding. We were one of only two ACT schools awarded a performance by the Japanese Emperor's drummers who were visiting Canberra for one day.
- Year 9 Peer Leadership Training – two days' intense preparation for leading student voice and leadership in 2015.
- On 13 November, two Wanniasa Year 6 students (William McCarthy & Gemma Williamson) accompanied Ms Elaine Hine, Teacher Librarian, to the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge Awards presentation for 2014, held at the National Gallery of Australia. Wanniasa School won the Preschool to Year 2 Public School Section of the Challenge and received a gift voucher to the value of \$150 from the Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher. The voucher was generously donated by The Paper Chain Bookstore, Manuka.
- Last week the preschool hosted an information night for the parents of our 2015 preschool intake and a very successful "Stay and Play" session as well. Lots of 3 and 4 year olds keen to start school now!

### **Staff Update**

- Ms Elaine Hine, teacher/librarian on the Junior Campus is retiring at the end of the year and we thank her for her rich contribution and effort to promote reading and information literacy in her role. We wish her all the best in retirement.
- The Canteen Manager on the Senior Campus, Ms Natalie Wilcox, has tendered her resignation and we wish her well in her new employment.
- Wanniasa School was invited to participate in a research circle facilitated by Big Picture Education Australia (BPEA). Ann Hill, Shelley Lavender and Meghan Pellow attended a two-day workshop in Sydney last week. Wanniasa School was one of the pilot schools to develop, collect and annotate portfolios of student work samples that will ultimately be published on the Australian Curriculum website as a valuable resource for all teachers and our teachers shared Work Studies student portfolios and documentation they developed for the pilot project. BPEA is working in partnership with ACARA (Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority) to validate the achievement standards of the newly published Work Studies Years 9 & 10 curriculum.. Wanniasa School has also been invited to join 7 schools from across Australia to work further with a BPEA curriculum Consultant and BPEA leaders.

- Ann Hill has been appointed by BPEA as a national curriculum coordinator / project officer- congratulations from all of us.

**Enjoy the last few weeks of the school year – looking forward to seeing many of you as we celebrate 2014 achievements together.**

Karin Nagorcka  
Principal

### **Gifted and Talented Students**

At Wanniasa P-10 School gifted and talented students are provided with a range of opportunities for enrichment and extension within the classroom and outside of the school.

To support ACT public schools in their implementation of the Gifted and Talented Students policy, the Directorate has commissioned Gateways Education to develop a series of six articles over the next three years to provide information to parents and the community about gifted and talented children. The following article is the first in the series and highlights the characteristics and needs of gifted learners.

This article and further information about the education of gifted and talented learners, including Gifted and Talented Fact Sheets for parents, can be found on the Directorate [website](#).

### **Understanding the Gifted Learners in our Classrooms**

Recognising and understanding gifted learners is challenging for educators and parents alike. The characteristics and needs of students who are gifted are personal and unique, and recognising them involves understanding that these specific characteristics may be demonstrated through a variety of different behaviours often presenting differently in school compared to at home.

The ACT Education and Training Directorate Gifted and Talented Students Policy is based on the Francois Gagné Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent (2008). This model highlights the impact of environmental and intrapersonal catalysts on the development of giftedness towards talent or competency. Although intellectual or academic giftedness is only one of the domains in Gagné's model, it is the domain which often requires the most differentiated response in the classroom.

Gifted students have characteristics and needs which are different from those of their same age peers. As a group, intellectually gifted learners comprehend complex ideas quickly, learn more rapidly and in greater depth, and may exhibit interests that differ from those of their age peers. They need time for in-depth exploration, to manipulate ideas and draw generalisations about seemingly unconnected concepts, and to ask provocative questions. Gifted learners find excitement and pleasure from intellectual challenge and show initiative and originality in work, particularly in areas of high interest and passion. At times gifted learners will show extraordinary degrees of motivation and a single-minded pursuit of goals, which their peers may find hard to understand. However, these students may also be self-critical in evaluating and correcting their own efforts, exhibiting perfectionist behaviours, which lead to task avoidance and the tendency to take criticism from others very much to heart.

Gifted students often demonstrate an ability to handle abstract ideas and flexibility in thinking, which allows them to consider problems from a number of viewpoints and show high levels of empathy for the feelings and circumstances of other people.

Gifted students possess a need for like-minded friends and longer-term relationships than their same aged peers and this often results in a preference for older friends or friendships with much younger, but equally gifted students. When like-minded connections are not available to them, they may experience feelings of isolation and rejection and subsequent accusations of social maladjustment from those around them.

It is important to recognise that gifted learners are not a homogenous group and that students may exhibit differing levels of giftedness across one or more of the domains outlined in the Gagné model. Equally, it is important to acknowledge that giftedness does not always translate to talent and thus underachievement may need to be addressed in the case of some gifted learners. Ultimately, gifted learners require support in order to achieve their full potential. To this extent, they are no different to any other students whose learning needs differ from the norm.

## References

Gagné, F. (1985). Giftedness and talent: Reexamining a reexamination of the definitions. *Gifted Child Quarterly*, 29, 103-112.

Gagné, F. (2008). *Building gifts into talents: Overview of the DMGT*. Université du Québec à Montréal (Canada)

Rogers, K.B. (2007). Lessons learned about educating the gifted and talented: A synthesis of the research on educational practice. *Gifted Child Quarterly*. 51 (4) 382-396.

VanTassel-Baska, J. (2007). Leadership for the future in gifted education: Presidential address. *Gifted Child Quarterly* 2007 51: 5 DOI: 10.1177/0016986206297087

## Junior Campus News

### End of year Assembly

Remember our wonderful End of Year Assembly is on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December. It will be followed immediately by a free sausage sizzle for all.

Drinks will be available for purchase from the canteen. All families are invited to attend our picnic in the playground.

### Rainbow Unit News

It has been all go in Rainbow Unit and the term is flying by (as term 4 always does). The children have been busy creating gifts for their families so don't forget to come along to the Decoration and Giving Mornings. The Dolphins and Seahorses will have theirs on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of December between 9.00 and 10.30 and the Penguins and Turtles will have theirs on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December between 9.00 and 10.30.

Library borrowing is coming to an end for the year. It's time for us to take stock of all of our books so please return all library books to the preschool.

We extended our school transition program this year and all children have been visiting with Mrs Gough and Miss Gore-Johnson in Red Unit. We have also explored the rest of the school during our "Who's Behind the Door?" visits, where we met the other staff of the Junior Campus. The children also enjoyed meeting their buddies. The children worked through a variety of activities with their big school buddies. This culminated with a joint performance of "I'm a Dirty Dinosaur" at the Orange Unit assembly. The children also enjoyed a visit to the canteen. Kindergarten Information packs for children attending Wanniasa School will be available for collection at the Preschool from December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The parent and teaching communities organised a series of farewell parties to thank Judy Richards for her dedication and fabulous teaching over the years, particularly here at Wanniasa Preschool. We have been fortunate enough to have Karen Watson join the teaching team at the Preschool to work with the children until the end of the year. Our end of year party is on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. More information about these can be found outside your child's rooms. This is a special celebration for pre-schoolers only. We would love to have some parent helpers on the day.

We are approaching the end of the year and each year we have a big clean up. If you are able to help out with washing, book covering or other odd jobs here at preschool please let us know. The last day of the Preschool year is Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December.

We are currently working to put together semester 2 reports. You will receive these before the end of term 4. These reports provide valuable information to receiving teachers so please pass a copy on to your child's 2015 teacher. We wish everyone success and happiness in their future schooling.

Have a safe and merry Christmas!

Karen, Virginia, Karen, Carolyn, Hayley and Nicole

### Red Unit News

We can't believe it is nearly the end of the year and what a great year it has been. We have all made such wonderful progress and are still working very hard each day to improve our skills. There was a lot of excitement last Friday when we all went to 'The Bite Sized Circus'. There were lots of wonderful acts. We saw clowns, jugglers, a tightrope walker, acrobats and lots more. The children are also very busy preparing their circus acts so that they can perform

in their very own 'Red Unit Circus' for their Yellow Unit buddies. We have begun rehearsing for the Whole School Christmas Concert at the end of Week 8. We hope you can come along on the day. Happy Holidays

Vicki Gough and Sally Gore-Johnson

### **Blue Unit News**

Wow! This term has gone so quickly and Blue Unit has been busy learning about lots of wonderful things. We have been busy learning about the artist Henri Matisse and his use of paper cut-outs. Each student has created a positive and negative artwork as well as their own paper cut-out piece. These artworks are displayed on the boards in the corridor outside Blue Unit – come past and check them out!



In Mathematics 1C have been busy reviewing lots of the exciting things they have learnt this year including shapes, time and measurement. The students have shown excellent understanding of these concepts by playing a bunch of different games and working in small groups on activities. 2M has been focusing on revising place value, skip counting and the four operations through a range of games and activities.

It has been a busy and wonderful term so far and we look forward to all the exciting events that will be happening in the next few weeks.

Ashley Coutts and Jess Maloney

### **Green Unit News**

This last term has just flown by in Green Unit. We have now finished maths rotations and are spending our last lessons of the year focussing on multiplication and division. Ask us to sing you our 'number crunch' times tables songs we have been learning! During literacy we have been working in pairs on some shared writing and have written some amazing narratives which we are now getting ready to publish. Students are working on completing their Geography assignments and are preparing to present them to the rest of the unit. We are all learning lots about the other countries in our Asia Pacific region, as well as those countries Green Unit students have personal connections to. We have also been busy rehearsing for our upcoming concert. We hope to see lots of Green Unit families there in the audience ready to celebrate the end of the year with us.

Jess Booth and Tracey Hanson

### **Orange Unit News**

It only feels like yesterday we were welcoming a group of 'rogue' year 3's and 4's into Orange Unit, and now we have to let them go.

This term, Year 4's experienced their first camp and for some, the first time away from home. The setting for this ground breaking experience was Birrigai. We had barely gotten off the bus and we were straight into activities. There was 'Team Initiatives', 'High Ropes', damper making, but the most popular was definitely the 'Big Swing'.

Year 5's are busy finishing projects off and ready to be the leaders of the school next year.

We would like to thank all the students for their wonderful manners and behaviour over the two day camp.

It has been a pleasure teaching Orange Unit this year. We wish all the students the best of luck in Year 5 and 6.



Justan Fuller and Helen Wilson

### **Yellow Unit News**

As the term races to a close, the Yellow Unit students have been reflecting upon their time at Wanniasa School. Through a reflective writing task, the children have been sharing humorous and memorable moments from the year such as Camp Cooba, sporting achievements and times spent with friends. It highlights many of the amazing opportunities provided to the students at Wanniasa School and how their experiences will be in their memories for many years to come.

For the students in Year 6, it marks the last few weeks of their primary schooling. We are busy with graduation preparations and notes have been sent home about the event. We ask that these are returned as soon as possible to ensure the events run smoothly.

It has been an incredibly exciting and busy year, full of outstanding growth and achievements. We would like to thank our families for their ongoing support throughout 2014.

Nick Bond and Susan Deards

### **Sports News**

The year 5/6 Rugby League 7's team had an opportunity to represent the ACT in Sydney during week 5. This team won a number of round tournaments and ultimately the 'Laurie Daley Shield', with the title of '2014 Champions' bestowed upon them earlier in the year.

The team was headed to North Ryde-Sydney in week 5 to take part in the "Legends Shield" tournament however the recent inclement weather forced its cancellation. The trip required a lot of organisation from our dedicated parents and its cancellation was extremely disappointing for all concerned. The boys deserve high praise for their achievements and we know they would have made their presence felt, both in football skills, and the demonstration of Wanniasa School pride and spirit.

The PSSA, ACT Athletics Carnival will be held on the 23 September (Tuesday, week 10) at the AIS athletics facility. We have Matthew Levika, Brave Thomas and Shane Wilcox representing our school and region at the upcoming event. I am sure we would all like to wish them the best of ability on the day and look forward to hearing about their participation when they return.

Our skilful Year 5/6 League 'OZ Tag' girls will be representing Wanniasa School at the finals in Braddon on September 11 this term. The girls have previously represented the school successfully under the expert guidance of 'Super Coach' Nick Bond. The girls always play with great passion, pride and teamwork and I am sure they will continue to represent Wanniasa School proudly during the finals tournament.

Greg Pickering

### **Library News**

#### **Chief Minister's Reading Challenge 2014**

Two year six students, Gemma Williamson & William McCarthy accompanied me to the National Gallery of Australia last week to attend the Chief Minister's Reading Awards presentations. Wanniasa won the Preschool to Year 2 Public School Section of the Challenge.

Congratulations to all students who completed the Reading Challenge this year. You will receive a certificate in the next week or so.

### **Book Fair**

We had another fabulous Book Fair this year.



Due to the generous support of our school community, our commission this year works out at just over \$1,000 – an amazing amount.

We will be able to use this money to buy items for our library in 2015.

A HUGE thank you to all those students and families who supported our Book Fair - we couldn't have done it without you.

### **End of year Library stock take**

As the end of the year is fast approaching, we are asking all students to return their library books so that we can begin our annual stock take of library resources in the last two weeks of term. Your child may be given notices to take home with details of any books they need to return to the library.

Please check their bags for these!

Your support in ensuring that your child has returned all outstanding loans is greatly appreciated.

There will be a prize for the first class in the school to return all their library books!

Please contact me if you are unsure if your child has any books on loan.

Elaine Hine (Teacher-Librarian)



### **Chaplaincy News**

Those of you who have been following the news may be aware that there have been some changes made to the administration of chaplaincy for the next four years. Chaplaincy will now be administered by the states and territories rather than the federal government. There are still some details to be worked through, but we are hoping that Wanniasa School will continue to have a chaplaincy service in 2015.

Currently Wanniasa School has a local chaplaincy committee which meets once a term for an hour after school. As some of the 2014 members are leaving the ACT, there are vacancies for 2015. Any parent or community member is welcome to come along to meet the team, and see what the chaplain does. If you would like to find out more or perhaps join, please contact Christine either by leaving a message with the front office on the junior campus, or by emailing her at [christine.hosking@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:christine.hosking@ed.act.edu.au)

Our last Breakfast Club will be on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Students are welcome to arrive from 8.30am. Thank you to those who have assisted during the year, to The Brothers Oven for donating bread, and to Canberra Milk for donating milk.

Christine Hosking - Chaplain

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## **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**

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### **English/History/Geography/Japanese**

Well done to Year 10s who have completed their final assessment and are now preparing for their roundtables in Week 8. I have been particularly impressed with the Year 10 History assignments on Popular Culture, with many students choosing to study the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

We recently had the pleasure of welcoming Gary Crew, award-winning Australian author, to the school to talk with Year 7s about *The Watertower*, which they all studied earlier this year. It was an enriching experience for the students to meet the author and learn what messages he intended readers to take from the book.



As summer holidays approach, we encourage students to spend some time reading in order to keep up their skills. A great website with book reviews by other teenagers and a writer in residence (where you can talk online with authors about the writing process) is: <http://www.insideadog.com.au/>

Cara Shipp  
Executive Teacher, English/History/Geography/Japanese and Indigenous Programs  
6205 6298

## Whole School News

### Summer Intensive French courses

Learning French is so much fun!



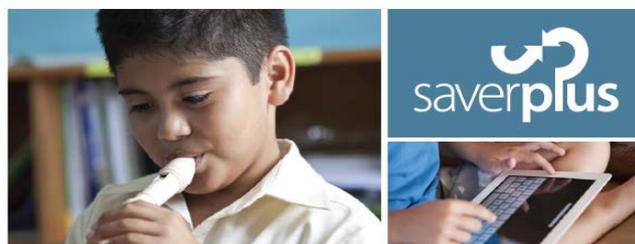
*Two weeks from the 12th to the 23rd of January  
Snack included!*

Pre-kindy, Kindy & Children:  
Tuesday to Thursday from  
9:30am to 11:30am.

Teens: Monday to Friday from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

You can enrol online, by telephone on 6247 5027, or better still drop in for a visit.

Alliance Française de Canberra  
66 McCaughey Street, Turner ACT 2601  
[enquiries@afcanberra.com.au](mailto:enquiries@afcanberra.com.au)  
<http://www.afcanberra.com.au/>



### Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
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- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Patricia Jones, your local Saver Plus Worker:  
(02) 6283 7606 / 0448 730 305  
or [patricia.jones@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:patricia.jones@thesmithfamily.com.au)

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in Canberra and Queanbeyan by The Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.



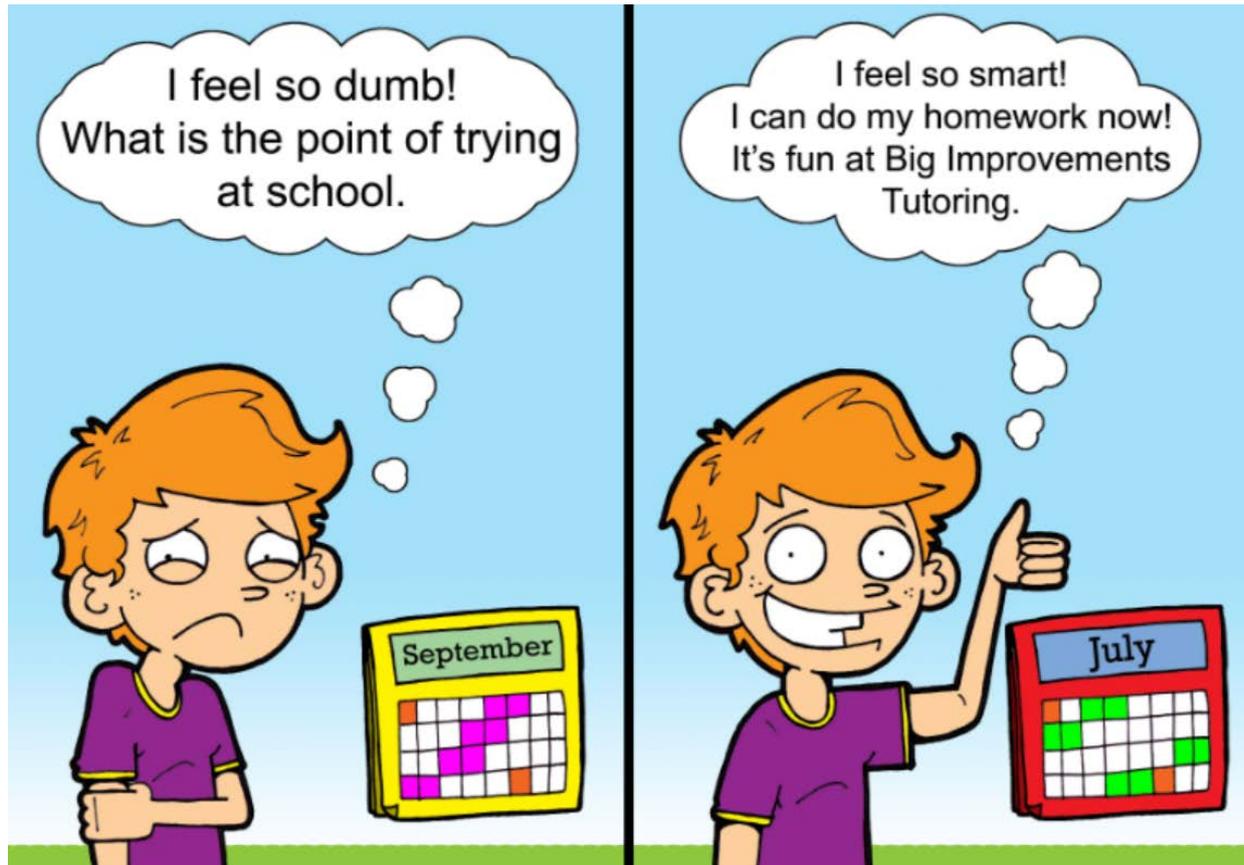
Applications are now open for the ACT secondary students bursary scheme for low income earners. Applicants must have a current Centrelink card and dependent full time student(s). The bursary is \$750 per year for eligible students in years 7-10.

Application forms are available at all ACT high schools or at [http://www.det.act.gov.au/school\\_education/starting\\_school/financial\\_assistance\\_for\\_families](http://www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/starting_school/financial_assistance_for_families) (the link is located at the end of the financial Assistance for Families page).

Phone (02) 6241 5759  
Fax (02) 6241 8839  
Email [tsanders@actparents.org.au](mailto:tsanders@actparents.org.au)  
Website [www.actparents.org.au](http://www.actparents.org.au)

# Is your child struggling?

*Don't give up!* 😊



- Struggling at school?
- Not enjoying school?
- Homework trouble
- Low confidence /self-esteem



- 😊 Make learning fun for your child!
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# What's on

## Bunnings Tuggeranong Christmas Family Night

Thursday 4 December

6.00pm – 8.00pm

- ☺ Canberra DJ Disco with bubble machine
- ☺ Pony Rides
- ☺ FREE slushies
  
- ☺ Community Sausage Sizzle - free for kids
  
- ☺ Santa Visit & photos
- ☺ Have a go at Putt Putt golf
- ☺ Guessing Competition
- ☺ Lucky Door Prize
- ☺ Giveaways
  
- ☺ Kids DIY Workshops
  - Make a Christmas Bauble
  - Make a "Santa stop here" sign

Bookings essential:

02 6234 2000

Bunnings Tuggeranong - Cnr Anketell & Oakden Streets,  
Tuggeranong

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