THE ENRICHMENT AND EXTENSION PROGRAM 2015
AN OVERVIEW

The Enrichment and Extension Program is an initiative of Wahroonga Public School that caters for gifted and talented children, enabling us to provide further opportunities for our students to realise their potential. It is a user-pays program that is administered and managed by Wahroonga Public School.

The program, guided by the needs of gifted learners, encompasses cognitive, affective, social and aesthetic areas of curriculum experiences. The program content is determined primarily by the Enrichment teachers in consultation with classroom teachers. We focus on strategies that will help students develop as creative, independent, motivated and cooperative learners remaining open to continuous learning. Students are provided with opportunities that promote a high level of achievement through differentiated activities. These are both intrinsically motivational and cognitively demanding and develop knowledge, application, thinking skills and attitudes appropriate to the students’ needs. The open-ended learning tasks promote risk-taking, flexible thinking and a range of possible learning outcomes. Students work collaboratively as well as independently. Building relationships, teams and partnerships assists in the cultivation of creativity, leadership skills and excellence in performance. Students are engaged in negotiating aspects of their own learning and this encourages autonomous learning. Each session emphasises the importance of reflection. Developing the ‘Habits of Mind’ relates to continuous growth and improvement which requires the capacity to be self-reflective. As students reflect thoughtfully on their learning they gain important self-assessment information.

Structure of the program:

Two semesters are offered each year.

There are two sessions offered to each stage:

1. Language and Expression incorporates writing, drama and public speaking.

2. Solution Finding incorporates both student and teacher created mathematical challenges, creative problem solving, design and technology.

Children are withdrawn from classes and grouped in Years K-2 on Monday, Years 5/6 on Tuesday and Years 3/4 on Wednesday for each of these learning areas. The program operates for three days weekly, one day being allocated to each group.

Semester 1 will be of 17 weeks duration and will commence during the week beginning Monday 2 February 2014 and continue until Week 8 Term 2, 2015.

Placement of children in the program:

Children are placed in Semester 1 following nomination by:

- Parents
- Teachers

Parents are requested to provide the school with information about the specific skills or talents their child may have, outlining any special abilities of which the school may not be aware. As the program targets the underachiever as well as those children who perform well academically, it is important to be aware of the child’s talents outside the classroom.
Teachers nominate children by completing checklists that relate specifically to the learning areas. In addition they are asked to consider the underachiever by way of a separate checklist.

Request for placement in the program may also be made by the Learning Support Team that has identified a child who may benefit from inclusion.

If a student is nominated by both teacher and parent, the student is given priority for placement in the appropriate session/s. However, demand for the programs may mean the student will be placed on a waiting list for consideration in the following semester. Where only one nomination is received, further consultation is sought that may result in individual testing by the school counsellor to determine eligibility for placement.

**Evaluation, assessment and feedback**

We evaluate the children in the following way:

- Continuous review of each student’s work folder or journal
- Teacher discussion on behaviours exhibited during Enrichment sessions
- Regular self-evaluation
- A progress report at the conclusion of each semester
- Discussion of student progress with classroom teacher
- Incidental feedback on work produced and goals achieved
- An Open Day each semester is organised so parents can see the work the children have completed.

For 2015 the fees are as follows:

- One Program $12 per week
- Two Programs $24 per week

Please carefully consider the programs for which you will be committing yourself financially for 2015 in the light of the above fee structure and the user pays nature of the Enrichment Program. Payment for each semester is required by Week 8 of the semester.

If you are interested in nominating your child for placement in the Enrichment Program for Semester 1 for 2015, please complete the nomination form attached and return it to school by **Friday 21 November 2014**. Forms are to be returned via your child’s class teacher in an envelope marked “Enrichment and Extension Program Nomination”.

Hilary Hutchinson
Gifted and Talented Education Co-ordinator