

Easter

2018



Education Assistants are Angels in Disguise.

Easter is the most important and oldest festival of the Christian Church celebrating the resurrection of Christ. It is held between 21 March and 25 April, on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the northern spring equinox.

The legend of the Easter Bunny appears to have been brought to the USA by settlers from Germany in 1700's. It has become the most commercially recognized symbol of Easter

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WAATA Membership

Benefits include:

- Early Registration for members to attend the Annual Conference.
- WAATA's quarterly Newsletter.
- Voting rights at the AGM held at the Conference.
- Reduced costs for Workshops.
- Fees are due in January of each year.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



I hope all our WAATA Members had a lovely Christmas break and have had a successful and enjoyable start to the new year.

As mentioned in my previous Chairperson's Report we have had to appoint a new Treasurer. We have been fortunate to have our previous conference secretary, Lawana Williams, take on the role.

In taking on the role, Lawana has found the previous IT system difficult as we have been unable to have a handover with the creator of the software.

Due to personal reasons, Beverly Dainton has resigned as a 2017-2018 Committee member. On behalf of the committee, I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank Bev for her years of service to WAATA.

Bev has served WAATA tirelessly over the years and in so many different areas. We wish her all the best for the future.

The committee held a Special Meeting to decide on a new upgrade to our whole operation and database, enabling us to continue as an efficient and current association. Several IT companies were contacted and quotes were taken into consideration.

We are hoping to implement the new system over the next few weeks and it should give our Treasurer easier access to manage our finances, membership and improve engagement with members. Once we are fully operational and familiar with the system we will inform you of the full package. We are all really excited to have a more efficient, time-saving, system that all current and future WAATA committee members will be able to use with ease.

Preparations for our 2018 Conference are well underway. Rendezvous Hotel has assured me that the Scarborough Beach waterfront area will be all finished and ready for you to enjoy prior to Sip 'n' Chat on Friday 3rd August 2018

I thank you all for your hard work assisting students to reach their potential and remember you are all wonderful assets to any school!! You are appreciated by the school and the parents.

Enjoy your Easter break!

Nadia Reynolds
WAATA Chairperson

Contact Details

Chairperson

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NEW POSTAL ADDRESS

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ASD Strategies for Education Assistants.

- Students with ASD are usually visual learners. We need to show them rather than tell them what to do.
- They have difficulty with communication Just because they cant talk it doesn't mean they don't understand you. Be careful what you say in front of them
- There is always a reason for behavior: social, sensory, anxiety, communication issues! Behaviour is the second language
- Routines and consistency is a key component
- Work towards independence for the student
- Teach the student coping strategies
- Encourage the student to respond others in the classroom.
- Explain hidden agenda rules by explaining what other people are thinking
- Understand the difference between the days that he is able to do school work and the days he just can't.
- Encourage the student to be flexible, social and cooperative by explaining the 'whys' and the 'hows' of each situation
- Motivate the student special interest at that time
- Slowly fade out direct support
- Teach the student how to learn
- Avoid rescuing the student every time and fostering helplessness (by doing everything for them



Legal Information

Duty Of Care in Playground

This is an extract from det.wa.edu.au/policies

When non-teaching staff, volunteers and external providers agree to perform tasks that require them personally to care for Students (in the absence of a member of the teaching staff), they will also owe a duty to take such measures as are reasonable in all the circumstances to protect students from risks of harm that reasonably ought to be foreseen.

Education Assistants have a right to refuse a request to personally care for students and to have their decision respected by members of the teaching staff. A member of the non-teaching staff may have limited scope to refuse a request from a member of the teaching staff to personally care for students if, by reason of their Job Description Form, the request relates to a task he or she is required to perform as part of his or her normal duties. If non-teaching staff volunteers and external providers agree to perform tasks that require them to personally care for students (e.g. supervise students without a member of the teaching staff also being present), they will owe the same duty of care to those students as the duty owed by teaching staff. In other words, they will be required to take such measures as are reasonable in all the circumstances to protect students from risks of harm that reasonably ought to be foreseen.

I also contacted United Voice

YARD DUTY Clause 16: Education Assistants (all classifications) are not required to perform 'yard duty' without the presence of a Teacher. There is no reference contained within Clause 16 of the Education Assistants (Government) General Agreement 2016, or any other industrial instrument governing Education Assistants employment pertaining to the mandatory performance of 'yard duty' without the presence of a Teacher. Furthermore, there is no reference contained within the Education Assistants Job Description Form (JDF) relating to mandatory supervision of students during student breaks. 'Yard duty' is the minimal supervision of students during student breaks, such as recess and lunch. Student Breaks are sanctioned breaks. The delivery of planned education programs through students engaging in structured learning requires a Teacher to be present to direct and implement. Teachers are responsible for all student educational programs and outcomes. Recess and lunch times are not School programs or an extension of a student's individual program. The exception will be for some special needs students who have a requirement identified in their IEP to have assistance during student breaks. The EA is rostered on to assist the teacher with this special needs student. Education Assistants, including Level 3, are not to replace a Teacher on the Yard Duty Roster. Teachers have the initial Duty of Care for students. Education Assistants can agree to be rostered on with teachers to assist in the supervision of students during student breaks, including recess periods and lunch, on a fair and equitable basis.



IT App Review

Popplet

POPPLET is a dynamic organization tool for users to create "Popplets" on a board. These Popplets can be filled with text, their own drawings, images, or video and then connected to other, related Popplets to create a mind map, similar to an interactive outline of related ideas. The Popplet board can be updated by multiple users in real time, so it's a collaborative tool for planning or discussion. Popplet boards can be shared, too.

Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Popplet Lite will be free forever but is limited to just one popplet. The full version of Popplet lets you create an unlimited number of local Popplet boards on your iPhone or iPad.

Educators need to know that Popplet is a mind-mapping tool that can be especially helpful for kids who have problems with organization and visual memory. It also has many uses, including classroom use for instruction and student projects. The terms of service prohibit kids younger than 13 from creating accounts, but the developer's policy does allow for parent/guardian or teacher-created accounts to be overseen by an adult and used by kids. Popplet allows collaboration and sharing of the creations, so objectionable content could get through. Below is an example of a student's Popplet on the story The Fisherman and his Wife. Hopefully, a Presenter at this year's Conference will be presenting this app. We will be given the opportunity to work on our own Popplet!



Conference 2018



Our theme for the 2018 WAATA Conference is Building Bridges, Creating Connections
...Together

We have some amazing presenters lined up this year. We are super excited to announce we have secured Professor Andrew Whitehouse, Head of the Autism Research Team at the Telethon Institute for Kids as our keynote speaker.

Our Dinner Speaker will be the 2017 Education Assistant of the Year, Karen Warren from Challis Community Primary School. Karen is a fierce advocate for students with additional learning needs and works tirelessly to help every student succeed.

Dr. Paul Swan is an award-winning author, acclaimed speaker and workshop presenter, and developer of games and materials to support students to learn mathematics. Dr. Swan will be our plenary speaker.

We have some amazing presenters returning again in 2018 which include Dolly Bhargava with two sessions to choose from, Shirley Houston with Synthetic Phonics and Sue Charlick & Leanne Sharp from Little Ones - Early Learning Experiences.

We also have some new presenters to WAATA. They are Rebekah Ozanne from Alphabet Academy presenting "literacy to students with learning difficulties", Rochelle Castine, Perth Psychological Services on "Selective Mutism & Quiet Quirks", SDERA presenting on "Resilient Teens", Bec Johnson from The Telethon Type 1 Diabetes Family Centre to educate us more in Type 1 Diabetes and Sensory Processing and Hayley from Brightminds OT "Focus and Behaviour in the classroom" .

Looking for a session a bit more hands on? Then sign up to the STEM session by Rachel from Brickz4Kidz.

Nothing like a morning stretch on a Sunday morning. This year we have Chloe in for a 90 minute Yoga session on the Basic biomechanics of creating a healthier spine.

To ensure you receive your conference pack before everyone else please make sure we have an up to date email address for you and a current 2018 WAATA member before 14.04.2018 to get the early bird conference in May.

Attendance to the Conference is, WAATA Members \$260 and Non-Members \$300

We look forward to seeing you all the 2018 WAATA conference

Just remember, we can't spell TEAM without an EA!

Marsha and Nicole
2018 Conference Co-ordinators

DID YOU KNOW

- When painting a display on classroom windows add some liquid detergent to the paint for easier removal.
- After cleaning paint brushes wipe them over a cake of soap and store. This stops the bristles from hardening up
- Before using any brush for the first time gently flex it in your fingers to break the sizing that protects it.
- To re-use an old paint roller tray or to keep a new one clean, simply place the tray into a plastic supermarket bag or small garbage bin liner. Pour in the paint and the bag will sink into the shape of the tray. When you've finished, take off the bag and dispose of it, leaving your tray ready to use next time, without cleaning.
- Repair the binding of books with dressmakers' iron-on stiffening. Cut strips to the required width, then iron on in the usual way

www.waata.asn.au

