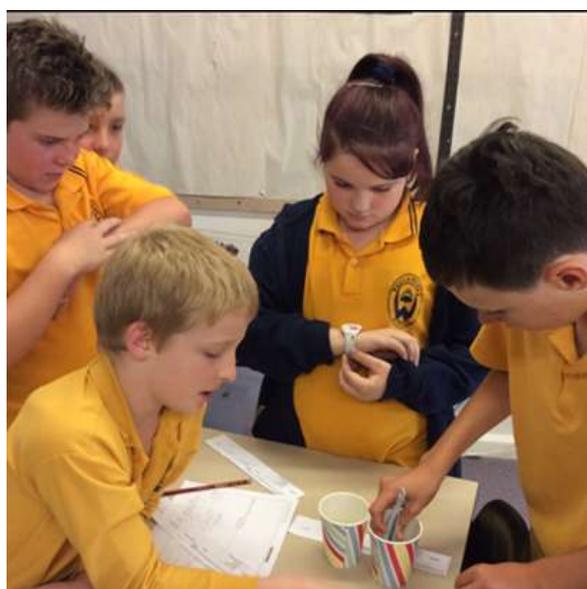




Welcome to Weetangera School

Parent Handbook



Weetangera School Contact Details

Southwell Street
Weetangera ACT 2614,
Australia

Website : <http://www.weetangeraps.act.edu.au/>

Email: info@weetangeraps.act.edu.au

Follow us on Facebook - Weetangera School

- o Principal: Mr James Barnett
- o Deputy Principal: Ms Danielle Hoogland
- o Executive Teachers: Mrs Belinda Brown, Mrs Yvonne Piper
- o Business Manager: Mrs Denise Gilbert
- o School Phone Number: 62057488 School Fax Number: 62057487
- o Preschool Unit Phone: 62056670

Principal Message

WELCOME TO WEETANGERA

Weetangera School is situated in Belconnen in the north of the Australian Capital Territory. The school community consists of approximately 280 families (430 students, Preschool to Year 6) and just over 30 staff are employed to cater for the needs of our students.

Weetangera School was established in 1973 and is set amongst well established grounds. Weetangera was the first of two fully open planned schools to be built in Canberra. The structure now supports a team teaching approach to curriculum delivery with an emphasis on differentiating the curriculum to meet individual student needs.

Weetangera School is recognised for our commitment to academic success, complemented by a comprehensive co-curricular program and a pursuit of service and compassion for the community. These programs provide students with a balanced development of the intellectual, emotional, physical, social and cultural elements of life in order to enable them to reach their potential both as a student and as a member of the community.

The Weetangera School community shares the vision that "Our students will learn and achieve to their potential. They will acquire skills that allow them to lead productive and responsible lives." Weetangera School has a commitment to excellence in a caring, cooperative and inclusive environment. As a community we share the common values of respect, responsibility, resilience, honesty and inclusion.

It is the belief of our community that we are all responsible for the academic, social, emotional and physical well-being and development of the children in our care. We believe that the partnership between home and school is crucial and we do all we can to ensure the strength of this partnership.

Building on firm foundations, the school now looks to the future in a 21st century approach to learning. Educational literature on 21st century thinkers emphasise a range of qualities that our future will need: open mindedness; the ability to work collaboratively with others; to engage in problem solving; to analyse and integrate knowledge; to think creatively and imaginatively; to apply knowledge to respond to emerging needs and trends; and to communicate accurately, clearly and effectively. Our approach to teaching and learning is constantly reflected upon to evolve to meet these challenges, to give our students the best opportunity to engage with their preferred future.

I look forward to working with you and our students and making your association with Weetangera School a fulfilling, productive and rewarding experience.

James M. Barnett

Principal

BSc (Hons), PGCE, MEd (Hons)

Weetangera School Vision Statement

Our students will learn and achieve to their potential. They will acquire skills that allow them to lead productive and responsible lives.

Weetangera Values: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Honesty and Inclusion

Our Curriculum

Weetangera School uses the Australian Curriculum across all Key Learning Areas from Kindergarten through to Year 6. Weetangera School reviews all areas of curriculum on an annual basis in order to encompass changing contexts and expectations to maximise student outcomes

Key Learning Areas include:

English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies, Health and Physical Education, Languages.

English

The English curriculum at Weetangera School aims to ensure that students:

- learn to listen to, read, view, speak, write, create and reflect on a range of spoken, written and multimodal texts with accuracy, fluency and purpose
- appreciate, enjoy and use the English language and develop a sense of how it is used to evoke feelings, convey information, form ideas, facilitate interaction with others, entertain, persuade and argue
- understand how standard Australian English works in both written and spoken form
- develop interest, inquiring skills and an informed appreciation of literature.

Mathematics

At Weetangera School, through the Mathematics curriculum, we are focused on the progression of skill and concept development in the strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Through this we aim to ensure that students:

- are confident, creative users and communicators of Mathematics
- develop an understanding of mathematical concepts, fluency with processes and are able to pose and solve problems
- recognise the connection of Mathematics to other curriculum areas and aspects of their life.



Absences

Class rolls are kept in accordance with ACT Education and Training Directorate Policy. A written explanation is required whenever a student has been absent. If a student is going to be late to school or absent it would be appreciated if a phone call could be made to the Office Manager. If a child is likely to be absent from school for a prolonged period please contact their teacher who may suggest activities for the child to complete during the absence. Unexplained absences will be followed up by the school with a letter or phone call to the family. Children are not permitted to leave the school or playground during school hours (9:00am-3:00pm) without permission from the Principal and a note from their parents. Parents/Carers must sign a book at the front office when taking children in or out of the school during school hours. If children are late to school they must be signed in at the office.

Allergies

Weetangera School is an Allergy Aware School. There are a number of children at the school who can experience severe allergic reactions to food products. These reactions range from mild to extreme and can be life threatening. At Weetangera we ask that you keep these children safe and healthy by leaving nuts and nut products at home.

Appointments

Communication between school and home is highly valued. Parents are asked to make an appointment for any discussion with the Principal, Deputy Principal, Executive, School Psychologist or teachers. An appointment will be arranged at the earliest possible time. Attention will be given to urgent issues.

Arrival at School

Please ensure children arrive at school in time to commence lessons at 9:00am. A late arrival is very disruptive and often your child will miss important announcements. Children are encouraged to arrive as close to 8:45am as possible. All children arriving late must be signed in at the front office by a parent/carer.

Assembly

Whole school assemblies are held three times a term and on other special occasions. These assemblies feature singing, drama, and reports from students, displays of work, awards and general announcements. Whole school gatherings create a cohesive school community and maintain a heightened school spirit.

Junior and senior assemblies are held Fridays 9.15am in the week between whole school assemblies. Parents are welcome to attend all assemblies.



Before and After School Care

Before and After School Care: The YMCA of Canberra offers After School Care at Weetangera for primary school aged children. This service is provided from 7.30am until beginning of school day and the end of the school day to 6pm Monday to Friday during the school term. Bookings can be made

on a permanent or casual basis. Activities include, but are not limited to craft, games, movies, sport, cooking and much more. The children are provided with a healthy snack each day.

School Holiday Program: The YMCA of Canberra offers vacation care every school holidays in several locations throughout Canberra including Weetangera School, for primary school age children. Vacation Care with the YMCA offers supervised care by qualified staff, fun and interesting activities, and a special excursion or activity every day of the program. Bookings are available from Week 8 each Term.

For more information about these programs, please visit the YMCA of Canberra Website. The YMCA Children's Services Headquarters can be contacted on 6242 4040 or by emailing cs.canberra@ymca.org.au;

Buddies

In Semester 2, Year 5 students are buddied up with our preschool students. Our senior students support their buddies during visits to the school and help them settle into 'big school' when they start Kindergarten. This is an important relationship for our Kindergarten and Year 6 students and they participate in buddies activities throughout the year.

Book Packs

At the start of each year the school supplies all students with a pack that contains all the books and stationery your child will need during the school year. The packs are purchased in bulk by the school; the cost of the school supplies is invoiced to parents at the beginning of each year.



Canteen

The P&C operates a canteen from Wednesday to Friday. The canteen provides over-the-counter sales at recess and lunchtime, and lunch orders. The canteen is staffed by paid employees, and relies on volunteer help from both parent volunteers and Year 6 students. The canteen provides an excellent seasonal menu, with an emphasis on nutritious and appealing food at an affordable price. Our canteen was the first in the ACT to achieve "Silver" Accreditation. This means that we encourage healthy choices. "Treats" are available less frequently and in restricted amounts, including our Special Lunch Order Days when the normal menu is replaced by a meal package. Our general aim is to turn everyday ingredients such as meat, fruit and vegetables into something special. The other component of Silver Accreditation is a commitment that the canteen and school work together to promote good health messages. The canteen is an active partner in many activities that occur within the school to promote healthy lifestyle messages.

Orders can be done on line through flexi-schools and the link can be found on the school website. Parents are always welcome to call in at any time.

Change of Contact Numbers

It is imperative that contact numbers and addresses are kept up to date with the front office staff. Children can be distressed unnecessarily when sickness or illness occurs, and we are unable to contact you because the contact numbers are out of date.

Child Protection

All employees in schools are mandated to report any case of suspected child abuse. Failure to notify suspected physical and /or sexual abuse of children is a criminal offence. Educational programs including 'Bounce Back' and Protective Behaviours, support children's understandings of protective behaviours and enhance social and emotional skills. Weetangera School is a KidsMatter School. KidsMatter is a flexible, whole-school framework for improving children's mental health and

wellbeing for primary schools. KidsMatter provides families with a range of information to help them support children's mental health and wellbeing, and to recognise if and when professional help is needed. More information can be found at www.kidsmatter.edu.au .

Class Groups

The design of the school caters for team teaching with classes currently designated to every learning unit. There are seven learning units across the school. There is considerable interaction between classes at all year levels and throughout the school. Flexible learning areas e.g. Hall, Library and Gym are used to support this interaction. An extensive process is applied and careful consideration is given to the placement of students in classes.

Communication

Our school recognises the importance of positive parent/staff relationships. We encourage:

- sharing knowledge to enhance the growth and development of your child
- developing positive relationships with families that are based on mutual trust and open communication
- developing a sense of belonging to the school for the children, parents and staff.

Newsletters - Newsletters are produced on a weekly basis by the school and sent out electronically. Hardcopies are also made available. Newsletters contain information about what is happening in the school, upcoming events and news from each year level and the specialist teachers.

Digital Communication -

- Google Groups- Research into strong home-school partnerships, clearly articulates the benefits on student learning. At the beginning of the year we will ask for your permission to add your email address to allow you to receive learning updates from your child's teacher.
- School Website- <http://www.weetangeraps.act.edu.au>
- Weetangera School App- http://www.weetangeraps.act.edu.au/our_school/school_app
- Weetangera Facebook- Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/weetangeraschool>

Community Partnership

The school has benefited from the generous support of members of the community making donations to the school of money, goods, services and time. Such contributions reinforce the partnerships on which our school is built. Please contact the Principal if you think your business or organisation could make a contribution.

Enrolment

Our enrolment policy is based on the ACT Education and Training Directorate's (ETD) enrolment policy. All enrolment applications must be completed online via the ETD website. The link below provides information about enrolment processes and guidelines, and includes the online enrolment portal: http://www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school

Offers of placement will be made taking into account the following considerations:

1. Students who live in the PEA (Priority Enrolment Area) or who have siblings currently enrolled at Weetangera School
2. Wellbeing considerations (supporting documentation is required).
3. Other ACT residents.

It is important to note that applications for students accessing Disability Education programs, such as the Learning Support Unit (LSU), are processed by the Disability Education section in the central office. Parents of students who are interested in a placement in one of these units should contact the Disability Education Coordinator (DECO).

Environment and Sustainability Team

Weetangera School is a registered 'Sustainable School'. The community is proud of its reputation as an environmentally and socially responsible community. The program offers many different opportunities for the whole school community including students, parents, staff and friends of the school to participate.

Equity Funds

The school has an equity fund that is used to provide financial support to assist students attending camps and excursions if needed. Parents who require assistance from this fund should approach the Principal or Business Manager for confidential assistance.

Evacuation Drill and Lockdown

Emergency drills are necessary for the safety of all those within the building and will be conducted at least twice a year to ensure all are familiar with the routine. Please obey all procedures if visiting the school during an evacuation or lockdown.

Excursions and Camps

Educational excursions including camps are regarded as an integral part of the learning process and a fundamental part of children's education. They provide experiences which stimulate curiosity and create springboards for further learning. Children are expected to participate as excursions are not isolated learning experiences. Written advice on excursions will be given to parents. If you have difficulty meeting the cost of an excursion your child will not be disadvantaged. Parents who require assistance should approach the Principal or Business Manager for confidential assistance.

Evidence of Learning

Weetangera School believes that communicating student achievement in the most effective way possible is essential. Our aim is to develop a partnership between teachers, parents and a student to ensure reporting is timely, accessible and informative. We report in a variety of ways that include written reports, parent/teacher interviews and learning journeys.

Family Court Orders/Parenting Agreements

Please discuss any special circumstances with the Principal and lodge copies of these orders/agreements with the Business Manager. They are treated confidentially in our school.

Fruit and Water Break

All students and staff participate in a fruit and water break at approximately 10:00 am each day. Students are required to bring a water bottle and a piece of fresh fruit or vegetables to school each day to keep the body and brain hydrated and fuelled in support of optimal learning conditions.

Gifted and Talented

Those students who are identified through school process as being profoundly gifted and talented will have an Individual Learning Plan (ILP). This is a document that will identify their specific learning needs and goals, and enable teachers to ensure appropriate stretch, challenge and support. Students whom are identified will also be invited into our 'Passion Project' extension, an opportunity for likeminded students to explore an interest.

Health

Parents are asked to inform staff of any medical conditions that may affect their child at school by completing medical consent forms. We have specific procedures in place for medical treatments that include action plans. These need to be completed on enrolment or as soon as the medical condition has been diagnosed. Please ensure you inform staff if your child has a contagious illness

or condition such as head lice or conjunctivitis. We will contact you if your child becomes unwell during the day and you will be asked to come and collect your child.

Hours

Classes commence at 9:00am and conclude at 3:00pm. Students are asked to assemble in the courtyard outside their unit when the morning bell rings. Recess commences at 11:10am and classes resume at 11:30am. Eating lunch is supervised and commences at 12:50pm. The lunch break commences at 1:00pm and classes resume at 1:40pm. A warning bell rings at 1:35pm so students have time to get a drink and go to the bathroom before they line up outside each unit.

Home Learning

Student participation in home learning is optional and differs across grade levels, however reading is a consistent focus of our home learning from K-6. We aim to instil in all students a love of reading and provide families with activities that foster discussions around learning, as well as the opportunity to learn together. During home learning the role of parents is to discuss, listen, support, share and participate with their child, to support their learning.

Insurance

The school does not carry personal accident insurance for students. Parents are advised to take out their own personal accident insurance for their families.

Languages

At Weetangera School, students are engaged in the French curriculum. The curriculum is designed with an intercultural language learning environment to enable students to participate meaningfully in intercultural experiences and develop new ways of seeing and being in the world.



Leaving the School

Please inform the school in writing when students are moving interstate or transferring to another school in the ACT. Teachers should also be informed with plenty of notice so that they can prepare a written report for the receiving school.

Library

All students participate in one planned session in the library per week in their class group. In library lessons, the children are engaged in a variety of activities either literature-based or research-based depending on the requirements of each individual class' unit of work. All students also use their library lesson to return and borrow books for home or class reading. Our library is also open every day for half of each lunch session. The Library is also open between 8:30am and 8:55am for parents to accompany their child for reading. Parent borrowing is encouraged; please ask out library assistant to provide you with a borrowers account.

Lunch Clubs

A variety of lunch clubs are organised throughout the year and usually run for at least one term. As part of their lunchtime activities students can sign up for clubs. Examples of clubs include drama, sporting activities, art, knitting and computers. These special interest clubs are run either by teachers or Year 6 students with teacher supervision.

Medical Condition Management

Immunisation

ACT Public Health regulations require schools to request proof of up to date immunisation when enrolling. Failure to provide this may result in your child being excluded from school should an outbreak of an infectious disease occur. A copy of exclusion periods for students with infectious diseases is available. Parents are asked to adhere closely to these requirements unless medical advice to the contrary is provided in writing.

Medical and Accidents

Each year, all parents are required to complete a medical consent form in relation to their child. This form gives general medical information and gives permission for first aid treatment to be administered in line with the first aid policy. If a child becomes ill or is injured at school, appropriate First Aid will be given and if necessary, parents will be notified and asked to take their child home. If emergency treatment is required, parents will be notified immediately and the child will be transferred by ambulance to hospital. All students who have an ongoing condition (e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy) must have a treatment plan completed by parents and their GP and lodged at the school. If the health problem is serious, please provide an up-to-date photograph of the child so it can be placed on our staffroom/canteen Medical Alert board Information on a child's health status e.g. epilepsy, diabetes, should be given on enrolment or on diagnosis

It is important that sick children are kept at home for their own comfort, as well as the comfort of other children and staff. If a child is to take a prescription medicine while at school, written directions and medicine must be left with office staff.

A Community Health Nurse based at the Belconnen Health Centre visits the school annually to examine children in Kindergarten. Other children may be examined as required. Following receipt of parental permission, ACT Health operates an immunisation program (usually Rubella, Hepatitis B).

Head lice are extremely contagious but easily eradicated. Children with either eggs or live lice will be excluded from school until written evidence of treatment is produced. Please report any cases of head lice to the school front office. For more information please ask for a copy of the ACT Directorate Policy on Head Lice.

Music Program

The Weetangera Music Program provides students opportunities to participate in music curriculum through specialist music teacher lessons, school choir, recorder group and percussion group.

Students in Year 5, 6 can nominate to participate in the Instrumental Music Program in Years 5, 6,



Newsletter

The school newsletter is distributed to each family weekly. Please ask the children on Thursday evening to ensure you are kept up-to-date with newsletters or notes. The newsletter is a valuable form of communication. Information includes school happenings and calendar dates and educational research on current issues. Newsletters can be sent to families via email. Please contact the front office if you would like to access this service. The current newsletter and the previous newsletters can also be viewed on the website.

Parental Involvement

Volunteers have a special place in schools and assist in many ways, such as sharing special skills, interests and diverse family cultures with the preschool. Families are also encouraged to participate in social activities to enable families to meet, develop new friendships and form a sense of belonging to the school. To assist schools in providing a safe environment and a positive educational climate, volunteers are asked to comply with the Code of Conduct for Volunteers.

Families can help in the following ways:

- sharing knowledge and expertise of craft, cooking, music, storytelling, job skills through sharing your expertise in the school's community volunteer register.
- interacting with the daily program
- community event participation
- joining the Weetangera P&C Association and/or School Board.

Contribution to Decision Making - Families are welcome to contribute to school decision making procedures through the School Board or the P&C.

School Board:-

The School Board embodies the principle of collaboration between parents and staff, and community partnership in decision-making processes. Its members include three parents (one being the Chairperson), two teachers, a community representative and the Principal. Staggered two-year terms ensure continuity in the Board's work. The Weetangera School Board encourages communication between the school and its community in determining the school's budget, curriculum and education policies as well as its many needs in relation to buildings, facilities, equipment, funds and staff. Elected community members of the School Board can be contacted about school matters. The minutes of the Board Meetings are available from the front office. The Board is the policy-making body of the school. Its major functions are to:

- determine the educational policies to be implemented at the school
- determine the purposes for which funds made available for the school are to be expended
- assess the needs and make recommendations to the Director General in respect of the use of the buildings, facilities and equipment
- develop relationships between the school and the community and between the school and community organisations
- make recommendations to the Chief Executive on matters relating to the school.

Responsibility for the implementation of policies established by the Board rests with the Principal and staff.

Parents and Citizens Association – Parents who cringe at the very mention of the term 'P&C' probably have never been to a meeting. Find out what the P&C at Weetangera Primary school really does. Most schools have a parent representative body, commonly called Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association in state schools (non-government schools may call theirs a Parents and Friends Association). The P&C is the voice of the parents. It's at P&C meetings that decisions affecting your child at school are made. P&C meetings are usually held once a month. Any parent or guardian can attend. P&C associations are a great way to:

- support the school for the benefit of all students
- promote parent participation in the work of the school and encourage strong positive support
- provide a parent input to educational issues and policies

Schools have their own budgets —but invariably they need more than the budget allows. That's where the P&C becomes a really valuable partner. P&Cs often run or manage services like canteens, disco's and other fund raising initiatives such as the annual school fete. Fundraising is an exciting way in which to help your school get much-wanted additional resources—from extra library books to new playground equipment. P&C fundraising can take many forms from product drives to special event stalls (for Mothers' Day or Fathers' Day, for example) and social events—for students (like school discos), parents (such as trivia nights). Dates of P & C meetings are advertised in the school newsletter and on the large notice board outside in the main car park but it is usually on a Tuesday evening approximately once every month.

Parking

Weetangera School has limited safe parking areas in the front of the school. A space in front of the school is reserved for pick-up and drop-off purposes only. Parents are encouraged to park safely along our surrounding streets as it is only a short walk across the oval to reach the courtyard outside the units, the doors through which the students enter and leave the building. ACT road rules apply to the roads surrounding our school and a number of No Parking zones exist.

Permission Notes

All permission notes for activities outside the school must be returned to the school signed by a parent/carer at least two days before the activity. Students cannot attend an excursion without a signed permission note.

Personal Belongings

Please mark clearly your child's name on all personal belongings including clothing. Unclaimed belongings are taken to 'lost property' which is located across from Unit 4. It may be checked at any time. Items remaining at the end of each term are sorted - named items are returned to the children concerned and the remainder donated to second-hand uniforms or charity. To avoid disappointment due to loss or damage we require all students to leave personal items and toys at home except by special arrangement.

Playground Supervision

Students are expected to know and remain in specific playground areas. Students should arrive at school ready for 9:00 classes. YMCA provides before and after school care in the hall to cater for families who need to leave students at the school earlier than this. Staff are on site from 8:30am in rooms preparing for lessons. The playground is supervised by the teaching staff each recess and lunch. During wet weather students are supervised within the school buildings.

Photographs

Individual and class photographs are taken each year. Family photographs are taken of children in the one family who attend Weetangera School. Photographs are taken regularly at school. You will be asked to sign a permission form at the beginning of the year to allow your child to be part of this process. Permission is also requested for publishing photos in newsletters and the Weetangera School Facebook page.

Reading

Weetangera School would like to invite parents and carers to participate in morning reading, Monday to Thursday 9.00-9.15 in students' classrooms across the school.

Safety

Developing school and class rules is a collaborative effort and they are designed for safety and security of the whole community. These are regularly discussed during class meetings, SRC meetings and assemblies and should be clear to all students. They are:

- bullying and harassment, physical violence or verbal abuse is unacceptable
- building passes are required to enter school buildings during recess and lunch
- appropriate hats (brimmed school hats) must be worn on the playground
- bicycle racks, the hall and front of the main school building are "no play areas"

Security

Outside school hours the school buildings are under the protection of a security system. However, any suspicious behaviour on school property should be reported to Police immediately. All visitors to the school are required to sign in and out at the front office.

Student Management

At Weetangera School we value that everyone is an individual and that we all have the special qualities that make us who we are. It is important that students are treated with respect, and their uniqueness valued and important to the school. The school promotes socially acceptable behaviour based on the fundamental principles of respect, care and responsibility. Parents are assured the school will contact them if their child's progress or behaviour indicates that this is necessary. The school requests that parents inform the teacher or Principal when their child's school progress or behaviour might be affected in some way by circumstances not known to the school (serious illness in family, altered family circumstances).

Special Days

The school holds a variety of other special days through the year. Days such as 'Doing Things Together Day' promote friendships across the year levels and provide our senior students with leadership and peer support opportunities. These may include charity and school fundraising days or be linked to significant community events such as Clean up Canberra Day, World Environment Day as well as Learning Journeys, Book Week and Literacy and Numeracy Week where students and parents share learning experiences.

Sunsmart

Weetangera School follows the Sun Protection Policy Guidelines for ACT Schools, 'No Hat-No Play'. A key requirement of the Sun Protection Policy is for students to wear hats which protect the face, neck and ears whenever the students are outside. Students without suitable hats are asked to play in the shade. The school has provided additional outdoor seating to support the policy.

Technology

Technology at Weetangera School ensures that all students benefit from learning about and working with traditional, contemporary and emerging technologies that shape the world in which we live. We encourage students to apply their knowledge, practical skills and processes to create innovative solutions, independently and collaboratively.

Term Dates

The school operates on a four term system with holidays set by the Educating and Training Directorate. Term dates can be found on the school website, www.weetangeraps.act.edu.au

Toys

Children's toys, unless specifically asked for by a teacher, should be kept at home. It is difficult sometimes for children to care for these properly at school.

Transfers

Children moving to another school should advise the class teacher and school Business Manager at least one week prior to the move. If you are aware that you will not be returning to Weetangera School following the Christmas holidays please notify the school in writing as soon as possible.

Uniform

The wearing of school uniform is strongly recommended and students should be encouraged to wear it to promote school identity and school pride. The school colours are blue and yellow. The uniform can be purchased from MacDonalds Kids Wear at Jamison Shopping Centre, Macquarie, ACT.

Clothing Pool - The school uniform coordinator has a number of second-hand uniform items for sale. The uniform coordinator can be contacted through the front office. A second hand clothing pool is operated by the Uniform Coordinators through the P&C. Second hand uniforms can be purchased at

times designated by the coordinator through the front office. These times will be communicated through the school newsletter.

Volunteers

Volunteers must sign in and wear a volunteer badge each time they attend school. All regular volunteers must have a current Working with Vulnerable People card.

From time to time parents are asked to assist with the transportation of students to special events. Your assistance is appreciated, however the owner and/or driver is responsible for ensuring they carry the required driver's licence, that the vehicle is appropriately registered and insured, is roadworthy, and that loading does not exceed the seat belt provision of the vehicle. Copies of all licences and insurances of each volunteer driver and vehicle must be made and held at the school for the duration of the excursion. For more information please ask for a copy of the Directorate Policy on Volunteers in Schools.

Voluntary Contributions

Schools do ask families to contribute a voluntary contribution to enable it to continue to provide a quality learning environment for our children. This contribution is not compulsory, however purchases of quality resources rely upon the commitment and generosity of our parent community. Contributions for 2016 have been set at \$280.00.

Water

Drinking water is essential for keeping the brain and body hydrated for learning. Students are asked to bring a plastic water bottle to school daily. Students are reminded to have regular drinks of water during the day. Students may drink water inside the classroom.



Website

The school's website, www.weetangeraps.act.edu.au is updated regularly. The newsletter, class contact details, community news, permission notes and information on special events are all posted on the website.

Wheeled Devices

If students ride bicycles to school they must wear a helmet. Bicycles must be placed in the bicycle compound which is out-of-bounds during the day. For the safety of all students no wheeled devices (including skateboards, in-line skates and scooters) are to be ridden in the school playground at any time. Skateboards and in-line skates are not considered to be safe transport to and from school for primary-aged children. The school will not accept the responsibility for the care of any wheeled device or associated equipment.

Year 6 Farewell

At the end of each the year we farewell our graduating Year 6 students. The students and their teachers plan and organise special events of celebration. In the last week of Term 4 a more formal Graduation Ceremony is held in the school hall and the whole school attends.