



# WEETANGERA HANDBOOK INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

# **Principal's Message**

Weetangera School is situated in Belconnen in the north of the Australian Capital Territory. The school community consists of approximately 280 families (415 students, Preschool to year 6) and just over 30 staff are employed to cater for the needs of our students. 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, inclusion and doing your best. We explicitly teach these values to our students and recognise people who display such qualities and are positive role models and citizens in our community.

Our teachers set high standards and strive to establish respectful working relationships with all members of our school community. As professionals, our teachers willingly reflect upon their own practice and share their knowledge, resources and skills with colleagues.

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

Our students continue to achieve high standards through the strong literacy and numeracy programs which operate at the school. The school also provides outstanding arts, special needs, science, cultural and sporting programs.

I am privileged to be the Principal of the school and invite you to visit us online or in person. Enjoy interacting with our website and learning about the characteristics that make us such a successful school community.

James M. Barnett (Principal)

BSc (Hons), PGCE, MEd (Hons)

### **Weetangera School Contact Details**

Principal: Mr James BarnettDeputy Principal: Ms Danielle Hoogland

School Phone Number: 62057488 School Fax Number: 62057487
 Preschool Unit Phone: 62056670 Preschool Fax Number: 62056670

# **Department of Education Contact Details**

**Education and Training Directorate Contact Details** 

13 2281 (62070494 TTY)

#### o <u>www.act.gov.au</u>

# **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**

Honesty, excellence, fairness, respect and doing your best

# Secure, Respectful and Reciprocal Relationships

At Weetangera Primary, the educators

Ensure family members are welcomed into the classroom in a variety of roles
 We encourage parents and carers to assist with daily reading, act as tutors in specific programs such as stepping stones and counting connections (specific training provided) and to share their knowledge and skills with the children in specific areas of study.

The following is an A-Z to different aspects of Weetangera Primary School.

### **Absences**

Class rolls are kept in accordance with Departmental 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 front office. If a child is likely to be absent from school for a prolonged period please contact the 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. School App: Weetangera Primary School App is available for download on smartphones/iphones and absences may be sent to the school via this media.

# **Appointments**

Communication between school and home is highly valued. Parents are asked to make an appointment for any discussion with the Principal, Deputy Principal, School Phycologist 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. If children arrive prior to this time before school care is provided by the YMCA.

# 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 in the week between whole school assemblies. Parents are welcome to attend all assemblies.

#### **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.

#### 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 vegetable into something special.

The other component of 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 online through flexischools and the link can be found on our website. Information regarding menu changes and special events can also be found on the Weetangera School canteen Facebook page. 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 the contact number is out of date.

# **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, French room, 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.

# **Clothing Pool**

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. These times will be communicated through the school newsletter.

# **Community Partnership**

The school has benefited from the generous support of members of the community making donations to the school of both money, goods, services and time and 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.

# **Environment Program**

Weetangera Primary School is a registered 'Sustainable' school. The community is proud of its reputation as an environmentally and socially responsible community. The Environment Program links studies of society, health and environment with a program of community action to improve the physical and social environments of the school and its neighbourhood. The program offers many different opportunities for the whole school community including students, parents, staff and friends of the school to participate. The wonderful grounds at Weetangera are the result of years of enthusiastic community and school involvement.

# **Diseases** - Outbreak Procedures and Exclusion Periods

Personal hygiene measures such as hand washing, covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, covering weeping sores, not sharing food or drinks and not attending school when ill or suffering from diarrhoea are important means of limiting the transmission of a number of common infectious conditions.

The ACT Public Health Regulations 2000 require children with the following conditions, and children who have been in contact with the following conditions, to be excluded from school, preschool, child care or family day care for the periods specified.

Condition	Exclusion of person with condition	Exclusion of persons in contact with condition
Amoebiasis (entamoeba histolytica)	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases	Not excluded
*Campylobacteriosis	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases	Not excluded
Chicken pox (varicella and herpes zoster)	Exclude until the last blister has scabbed over. The child should not continue to be excluded by reason only of some remaining scabs.	Not excluded Any child with an immune deficiency (eg with leukaemia, or as a result of receiving chemotherapy) should be excluded for their own protection and seek urgent medical advice and varicella- zoster immunoglobulin (ZIG), if

		necessary.
Conjunctivitis (acute infectious)	Exclude until discharge from eyes ceases.	Not excluded
*Cryptosporidiosis	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases	Not excluded
Diarrhoea	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases	Not excluded
*#Diphtheria	Exclude until—	Exclude family and household
	(a) at least 2 negative throat swabs have been	contacts until approval to return
	taken (the first not less than 24 hours after	has been given by the Chief
	cessation of antibiotic treatment and the	Health Officer.
	second not less than 48 hours later), and	
	(b) a certificate is provided by a medical	
	practitioner recommending that the exclusion	
	should cease.	
Giardiasis	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases	Not excluded
*#Haemophilius influenza type b	Exclude until a certificate is provided by a	Not excluded
(Hib)	medical practitioner recommending that the	
	exclusion should cease.	
Hand, Foot and Mouth disease	Exclude if—	Not excluded
	(a) child is unwell, or	
	(b) child is drooling, and not all blisters have	
	dried or an exposed weeping blister is not	
	covered with a dressing.	
*Hepatitis A	Exclude for at least 7 days after the onset of	Not excluded
	jaundice and a certificate is provided by a	
	medical practitioner recommending that the exclusion should cease.	
Herpes (cold sores)	Exclude young children unable to comply with	Not excluded
	good hygiene practices while the lesion is	The excluded
	weeping. Lesion to be covered by a dressing	
	in all cases, if possible.	
Impetigo (school sores)	Exclude until appropriate treatment has	Not excluded
	commenced and sores on exposed surfaces	
	are covered with a watertight dressing.	
Influenza and influenza-like	Exclude until well	Not excluded
illnesses		
*Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer.	Not excluded
*#Measles	Exclude for at least 4 days after the rash	(a) Immunised contacts not
	appears.	excluded.
		(b) Exclude non-immunised
		contacts until 14 days after the
		first day of appearance of the
		rash in the index case.
		(b) Non-immunised contacts
		immunised with measles vaccine
		within 72 hours after their first
		contact with the index case are
		not excluded after being
		immunised.
		(d) Non-immunised contacts who
		are given normal human

		immunoglobulin (NHIG) within 7 days after their first contact with the index case are not excluded after being given NHIG.
Meningitis (bacterial)	Exclude until well	Not excluded
*Meningococcal infection	Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has commenced.	(a) Not excluded if receiving rifampicin or other antibiotic treatment recommended by the Chief Health Officer. (b) Otherwise, excluded until 10 days after last contact with the index case.
*#Mumps	Exclude for 9 days after onset of symptoms, or until parotid swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).	Not excluded
*#Poliomyelitis	Exclude for at least 14 days after onset of symptoms and until a certificate is provided by a medical practitioner recommending that the exclusion should cease.	Not excluded
Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (lice), trachoma	Exclude until effective treatment has commenced.	Not excluded
Rotavirus	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases	Not excluded
*#Rubella (German measles)	Exclude for 4 days after the appearance of the rash.	Not excluded Female staff of child-bearing age should ensure that their immune status against rubella is adequate.
*Salmonellosis	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases	Not excluded
*Shigellosis	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases	Not excluded
Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the person has recovered or has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours.	Not excluded
*Tuberculosis	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer.	Not excluded
*Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	Exclude until a certificate is provided by a medical practitioner recommending that the exclusion should cease.	<ul> <li>(a) Not excluded unless the Chief Health Officer notifies the person in charge of the school.</li> <li>(a) If the Chief Health Officer gives notice, exclusion is subject to the conditions in the notice.</li> </ul>

*#Whooping cough (pertussis)	Exclude for 21 days from start of cough, or for at least 5 days after starting a course of antibiotics recommended by the Chief Health Officer.	Exclude non-immunised household, home based child care and close child care contacts under 7 years old for 14 days after the last exposure to infection, or until 5 days after starting a course of antibiotics recommended by the Chief Health Officer (whichever is sooner).
Worms (intestinal)	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases	Not excluded

# **Equity Funds**

The school has an equity fund that is used 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 Drills 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.

# **External Validation Report**

Weetangera Primary was reviewed by the Department in 2014 as part of the External Validation Cycle. The school will be externally validated again in 2018

# **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 vegetable to school each day to keep the body and brain hydrated and fuelled in support of optimal learning conditions.

#### **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.

#### **Immunisation**

The ACT Department of Health advises that all children attending school in the ACT should be immunised against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles, mumps, rubella and HIB (Haemophilus influenza type b). We would ask that you check your child's present immunisation status to see whether it is complete for his/her age. 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.

#### 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.

### **Learning Journeys**

Learning Journeys are held in Term 3 of each year and provide an opportunity for parents/carers to spend some time with their child in the primary school environment.

### **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. The Information Literacy package is implemented throughout all research based units 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.

# **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 and Accidents**

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 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. In such cases ambulance services and treatment are free. If medicine is to be taken at school it must be given to the First Aid officer with WRITTEN instructions and permission to administer. 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. These plans are required to be updated at the start of the school year. Plan pro-formas are available from the Front Office.

If a child is to take a prescription medicine while at school, written directions and medicine must be left with office staff. Information on a child's health status eg epilepsy, diabetes, should be given on enrolment or on diagnosis. All children diagnosed with Asthma require an Asthma Plan from a paediatrician to be kept at the school. Parents of students who have a diagnosed anaphylactic reaction are required to supply EpiPens and replace them within identified expiry periods. 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.

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, the Department of 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 Office. For more information please ask for a copy of the Departmental Policy on Headlice.

Exclusion periods for infectious diseases such as mumps, German measles, measles and chicken pox are provided on a separate sheet in the enrolment package. An immunisation form is required to be completed for all students enrolling in the ACT system. The appropriate form is included in the enrolment package. For more information please ask for a copy of the Departmental Policy on Infectious Diseases and Exclusion.

# **Music Program**

The Weetangera Music Program provides individual professional tuition in a range of instruments including keyboard and violin, as well as group singing and musicianship classes. From time to time, depending on demand, lessons are also offered in saxophone, clarinet and flute. Lessons are conducted at the school during class time. Concerts are held twice a year to enable students to experience performing in the presence of an audience. More information is available through the front office.

#### 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 e-mail. 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.

# Parents and Citizens Association (P&C)

The P&C promotes community participation in the activities of the school. All parents and guardians of students at the school are members and other interested individuals may become members. The P & C has a number of objectives including:

- promotion of the interests of the school;
- encouraging close collaboration between staff, parents and other citizens; and
- provision of a forum where members can contribute to the development of the goals and policies of the school.

The P&C also conducts social functions and fundraising activities and organises the election of parent members to the School Board. All community members are welcome to attend monthly P&C Meetings. The P&C organises the canteen, operates a second-hand clothing pool. New uniforms are available from McDonalds at Jamison. The P&C also regularly assists with school functions and organises social and fundraising activities including the very popular annual fete.

### **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 Unit, 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 2 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 kept near the stage area in the original hall and 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 9:00am classes. YMCA provides before and after school care in the hall to cater for families that need to leave students at the school earlier than this. Staff are on duty from 8:30am in rooms preparing for lessons. A staff member is on duty on the playground from 8:50am -9:00am. The playground is supervised by the teaching staff each recess and lunch. Staff supervise the playground and bus stop area from 3:00pm-3:10pm. 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 Primary School.

# **Parent Interviews**

Getting To Know You interviews are held at the beginning of each school (around Week2) and 3-Way Interviews at the end of Term 2. Additional meetings may be requested by either parents/carers or the teacher. Please make appointment times directly with your child's teacher via e-mail.

# **Parent Support**

Parentlink <u>www.parentlink.act.gov.au</u> is a website which parents can use to access:

- parents guides, including electronic order forms
- a directory of local parenting services
- upcoming community events and parenting courses
- further readings in relation to the parent guides
- links to other useful websites.

### **Reporting to Parents**

Weetangera Primary 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 students to ensure reporting is timely, accessible and informative. We report in a variety of ways that including written reports, parent/teacher interviews and learning journeys.

# 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"

# **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 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 Office.

# 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**

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' to 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 and Literacy and Numeracy Week where students and parents share learning experiences.

#### **Sunsmart**

Weetangera Primary 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 not permitted to play outside at recess and lunchtime. Parents are requested to buy a school hat from the McDonalds. The school has provided additional outdoor seating to support the policy.

# **Term Dates**

The school operates on a four term system with holidays set by the ACT Department of Education and Training. Term dates can be found on the School Website, www.weetangeraps.act.edu.au.

#### **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 Primary following the Christmas holidays please notify the school in writing as soon as possible.

### **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.

#### 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. The school Uniform Coordinators have a number of second hand uniform items for sale and advertise sale times through our school newsletter. The uniform coordinator can be contacted through the front office.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers must sign in and wear a volunteer badge each time they volunteer. All Regular volunteers must have a current Working with Venerable 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 licenses 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 Departmental Policy on Volunteers in Schools.

#### 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, <a href="www.weetangeraps.act.edu.au">www.weetangeraps.act.edu.au</a> 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.

# **Voluntary Contributions**

Public education is free. A school may offer or facilitate some specific optional items, activities and services for which parents may be asked to pay if they want their child to access them. Such activities may include excursions, school performances and class photos. Schools do ask families to contribute a voluntary contribution to enable it to continue to provide a quality learning environment for our children. For years K-6 these are \$90 (1 child); \$110 (2 children) and \$130 (3 or more children). At Weetangera Preschool, they are \$75 per Term or \$280 per year.

Purchases of quality resources rely upon the commitment and generosity of our parent community.

#### **Year 6 Farewell Dinner**

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