

# Southern Cross Early Childhood School



Newsletter 1 | Monday, 6 February 2017

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Wednesday 15 February | 9.15-11.00**

**Stay and Play**

**Friday 10 February | 8.00-8.50**

**Read with Me Cafe**

**Friday 10 February | 8.30-8.55**

**School Banking**

**Thursday 16 February | 5.00-6.30**

**Family Picnic**

**Tuesday 21 February | 5.15-6.00**

**All about Preschool Curriculum**

**Wednesday 22 February | 5.15-6.00**

**Literacy Information Session**

**Wednesday 22 February | 7.00**

**P&C AGM**

**Thursday 23 February | 9.15-10.00**

**REPEAT Literacy Information Session**

**Monday 27 February | 5.15-6.00**

**Transition Pathways- Parent Session**

**Wednesday 1 March | 9.15-10.00**

**Whole School Gathering – Year 2**

## Welcome to 2017!

We have had an amazing start to the year with staff and children settling in quite smoothly! It has been wonderful to see the children after the break and meet our children and families who are new to the community. We are really thrilled to be working with your child and with you this year. Our goal for the year is to be immersed in learning and to do that effectively we also need to work closely with our families. Your expert knowledge of your child is a key component for this to happen.

2017 is also the year we will be undergoing validation as part of the ongoing process of School Improvement and looking at our progress towards meeting the outcomes in our Strategic Plan. Following this process, which occurs around the middle of the year, we then also develop our new five year Strategic Plan to lead us towards 2022. There will be many ways for all members of our community to be involved over the year and we look forward to your input.

I also wanted to thank the team for their involvement in the Professional Learning that we engaged in before the start of the school year. We had a whole team day working with Network Student Engagement Team (NSET) from the Education Support Office of the Education Directorate on *Team-Teach*. *Team-Teach* helps us to develop a whole school approach for responding to and managing challenging behaviours. The teachers then undertook Professional Learning about how to develop an effective writing program with two literacy gurus from New Zealand, Louise Dempsey and Sheena Cameron. We will be using ideas from their book, *The Writing Book*, across the school this year. Their website [www.thewritingbook.com](http://www.thewritingbook.com) has a wealth of information if you would like further information.

## Any questions?

At the start of the year it can be tricky to remember everything. We have information on our website and on our Facebook page – when you have a moment you might want to check out both sites. You could also ask a question of Cheryl, our Business Manager and Nicole at reception as they both are really helpful. Or you can ask any of the executive, teachers or educators. If we do not know the answer we will try to find out and get back to you ASAP. If you have any worries or concerns then please talk to your child's teacher.



Southern Cross Early Childhood School

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## Getting to know you interviews

This week, all of our teachers will be meeting with families for our getting to know you interviews. Relationships are the key to teaching and learning and we are better able to meet the needs of your child when we work in partnership together so these interviews are such a huge help for us. My thanks in advance for making the time to come and talk about your child. If you have not yet made a time please see Nicole at reception.

## Family Picnic

We hope that you can all join us for our Family Picnic on Thursday 16 February 2017 from 5:00 to 6:30pm. This will be a lovely, relaxed opportunity for us to get together and for you to meet children and families who are in your new class and others across the school. Please bring a blanket, your picnic dinner and non-alcoholic drinks (water will be available). We will be meeting out under the trees down the back of the school so there will be ample space for children to play. We really hope you can join us!

## Staff Update

We are pleased to announce that Kathryn Jeffress was successful in winning the Acting Executive Teacher position until the end of term 2. Kathryn will be the team leader in preschool and also pick up the Literacy Coordinator role across the school. Kathryn will be working Tuesday to Friday and is happy for you to ask her any questions that you might have! Congratulations Kathryn!

## Southern Cross Calendar

The 2017 Southern Cross Calendar is available at reception and on our website. This calendar will have all our important dates for the year so you can plan ahead. We will try our best to stick to these dates and any changes will be on our Facebook page and school website. Coming up are the first of our interesting information sessions.

- **All about Preschool Curriculum** – Tuesday 21 February 2017 5:15 – 6 pm (No repeat session)

Join some of our preschool team as they explain how we develop relationships, inspire learning and teach using the Early Years Learning Framework in preschool.

- **Literacy Information Session** – Wednesday 22 February 2017 5:15 – 6 pm (Repeat session Thursday 23 February 2017 9:15 – 10am)

Ever wondered about how we teach children to read? Join us to hear from our amazing Literacy Coordinator Kathryn Jeffress as she will share what we do to teach reading at Southern Cross and what you can do at home so your child loves to read.

- **Transition Pathways Information Session** – Monday 27 February 2016 5:15 – 6 pm (No repeat session)

Have you started to think about where your child will go in Year 3 or even for their high school or college? Our Transition Pathways Information Session will give you a chance to learn about how Southern Cross supports your child to make this transition successfully. At this session we will also have some of our cluster Principals joining us so that you can also ask them questions.

RSVP information for all our information sessions will be on the official invitation in later newsletters, on the website and on our Facebook page.

## Thank you!!!

Starting the beginning of the year takes a lot of time and effort behind the scenes and I would like to thank the whole team for all their hard work in getting our rooms and school ready for the children to come. The smooth start to the year is a direct result from all your hard work and is greatly appreciated.


Kind regards,

*Lyndall*

# From Southern Cross

## Lunchtime Learning Clubs

Lunchtime Learning Clubs begin this week. Children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 are invited to come along and try a club during the second half of lunch. The clubs for this term are as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>Club</i>	Flying Club	Bollywood Dancing	Shooting Stars	Sports Club	Garden Club
					
<i>Coordinator</i>	Gavin	Bianca	Fiona	Jason and Nicky	Jason and Jose
<i>Venue</i>	Outside Playground	Hall	Community Room	Outside Playground	Environment Courtyard



## Family Picnic

**When:** Thursday 16 February 2017

**Time:** 5:00pm – 6:30pm

**Where:** Outdoor Learning Environment

**What to bring:** A picnic dinner for the whole family, rug and/or chairs



Southern Cross Early Childhood School is a nut free zone!

# From the Education Directorate

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## Insurance and Ambulance Transport

The ACT Education and Training Directorate does not provide any insurance cover for injury, disease or illness to students resulting from school activities or school-organised excursions. Claims for compensation are met where there is a legal liability to do so. Liability is not automatic and depends on the circumstances in which any injury, disease or illness was sustained.

As there is no automatic insurance cover for personal injury if your child is injured at school or during a school organised activity/excursion you should therefore consider whether taking out personal insurance cover for your child is warranted.

This insurance might cover contingencies including medical/hospital expenses, ambulance transport outside the ACT, and cancellation of transport/accommodation or loss of/damage to luggage.

The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during an approved school organised activity **within the ACT**.

## Community Hub

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### Welcome to all our returning and new families to Southern Cross Early Childhood School

For those who have just joined our school community, my role as the Community Coordinator is to implement a number of programs, services and events across the school. These include organising community events for children and families, linking families with support services, running parenting courses and overseeing social and emotional learning across the school.



Information for families can be found on our two community boards situated at the main school entrance and the school entrance near the Bright Star Café. You can also collect parenting information and community service leaflets near the front entrance. I will advertise upcoming events in the newsletter and through our Facebook page. For other useful information please visit the ACT Education Directorate website where there is some useful information about starting school

[http://www.education.act.gov.au/school\\_education/starting\\_school](http://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/starting_school)

Our first community event for 2017 is our Family Picnic. All families are invited to bring a picnic dinner and a rug to school on Thursday 16 February from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and sit under the shade of the trees in our playground. This is a great opportunity to come together as a whole school community and celebrate our wonderful start to the year.

Please come and see me if you would like to discuss any parenting, school or family matters. My work days are Tuesday to Friday and you can find me by asking Nicole at front reception or by email –

[jason.thornton@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:jason.thornton@ed.act.edu.au)

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### Read With Me - Cafe – Starts this Friday morning!

Come along to the school library every Friday between 8:00am and 8:50am and read with your child(ren) before childcare or school starts for the day. Free fresh pikelets are available for all who enjoy a book together. What could be better than enjoying a book with someone special in your life before the busy part of the day begins.



## Stay and Play

Stay and Play has started for Term 1. If you have a child aged five or under who enjoys painting, playing, making, singing and reading, then come along and join in the fun. This term we will be setting up at the front of the school on the corner of Wirraway and Ross Smith Crescent. Stay and Play is a free playgroup that runs on Wednesday mornings during school term from 9:00am to 11:00am.

Jason Thornton

Community Coordinator

Phone: 6142 0020

Email: [jason.thornton@ed.act.edu](mailto:jason.thornton@ed.act.edu)

# KidsMatter

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## Class Social Coordinators Wanted!

If you would like to be a Class Social Coordinator for your child's class or year level please contact me by Tuesday 14 February 2017. The role involves:

- Welcoming all parents and carers in your child's class and/or year level
- Organising social events for families to connect outside school hours

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## KidsMatter Action Team 2017

Would you like to...

- learn more about the KidsMatter program and how it works out our school?
- discuss the ways that we can connect families at school with each other?



Then please contact me and be a part of our exciting KidsMatter Action Team! Our meetings last an hour and are run once a term.

Jason Thornton

Community Coordinator

Phone: 6142 0020

Email: [jason.thornton@ed.act.edu](mailto:jason.thornton@ed.act.edu)

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## Molonglo Class Family Play Date

**Saturday 11 February 2017 from 2pm**

### **'Snake Playground' @ John Knight Park**

Park at Townsend Place then walk up past the ponds, playgrounds and flying fox until you find the snake park!



# Everyone is welcome!

If you want to, wear your school hat to help us find each other!

BYO everything – don't forget your water bottle!

For wet weather options, please text Janine (Liam G's mum) on 0403320714 or Alison (Liam O's mum) on 0415314007.

## From the P&C

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### Hello from the SCECS P&C President

I hope everyone had a wonderful break and first week back at school.

Now that the excitement of week 1 is over I would like to remind everyone the SCECS P&C AGM is coming up soon, and possibly you are seriously thinking about attending P&C meetings and nominating for the P&C Committee 2017 Election.

Elections will be held at the AGM on Wednesday evening February 22nd at School. Anyone can come along to the meeting and vote, being a member of the school community means you are a member of the SCECS P&C Association.

Immediately following the AGM we will hold our first meeting of the year. We have many events planned again this year so it's a good time to look over the calendar, see who would like to take on organising roles, get to know each other better and start planning the walk-a-thon near the end of term 1.

Members of the P&C who have been elected to specific roles are referred to as the office bearers. Together they form the executive committee. The SCECS P&C executive is made up of the following positions and there is training and support offered for each of these roles. Don't worry, you don't have to be a star right out of the gate. If you are interested in nominating for election at the AGM or would like more information about each role, email [scecsbandc@gmail.com](mailto:scecsbandc@gmail.com).

### The president

- chairs all general and executive committee meetings of the association
- provides leadership
- acts as a spokesperson for the association
- reports to P&C meetings about the activities of the P&C (the president's report)
- exercises some supervision over the functions of other office bearers
- ensures adequate and efficient communication exists between the members of the association, the members of the school board and the school/principal
- encourages parents to participate.

### The vice-president

- presides as chair at meetings where the president is absent
- should be familiar with the operation of the P&C and the duties of president
- needs a working understanding of meeting rules and procedure
- undertakes tasks to reduce the burden of the president.

### The secretary

- draws up, in consultation with president, the meeting agendas
- keeps full and correct minutes of P&C proceedings and meetings
- acts upon decisions as directed by the meeting
- attends to the correspondence of the association, checking incoming mail regularly
- looks after the association's documents



## The treasurer

- is responsible for all funds received and spent, including all subcommittee accounts
- prepares regular reports to P&C meetings
- prepares the association's account for an annual audit

We will also be seeking a Public Officer. They are the point of contact between the P&C and the Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) , must be a resident of the ACT and over 18 years of age.

I'm overseas until 15 February 2017 but will be checking email and can't wait to catch up with everyone at the Family Picnic on the Thursday 16 February 2017.

Cheers Bonnie

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## Get involved in the School Banking program.

Southern Cross Early Childhood School is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students.

School Banking is a fun, interactive and engaging way for young Australians to learn about money and develop good savings habits. Children who deposit money into their Youthsaver account through School Banking earn Dollarmites tokens, which they can save up and redeem for exciting rewards.

The rewards available during 2017 are:

- Cyber Handball
- Colour Change Markers
- 3D Chalk Set
- Tablet Case
- Smiley Emoji Keyring
- Volt Handball
- Pencil + Tech Case
- Epic Earphones



School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives \$5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of \$10 per individual deposit).

### Getting involved in School Banking is easy!

All you need to get involved in the School Banking program is a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account. You can open an account for your child in one of two ways:

- 1. Online** -Visit [commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://commbank.com.au/schoolbanking) and click on the link to open a Youthsaver account.
- 2. In branch** -Visit a Commonwealth Bank branch with identification for yourself and your child, like a driver's licence and birth certificate.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet.

School Banking day is **Friday**. Each week you need to **bring your Deposit book and money to the library between 8.30am and 8.55am**.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2017 School Banking program information pack from reception or visit [commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://commbank.com.au/schoolbanking)

## School Clothing



### Collared T-shirts now available

The P&C are trialling the inclusion of collared t-shirts as part of our school clothes. If you would like to purchase one of these please pay and order at reception. They are available in blue and orange at a cost of \$15.00 each.

## Anglicare

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### Birth Announcement

It with great excitement that I share with you Sarah's birth announcement.

Mason James Hutton came into the world on Friday 20 January 2017 at 2.52pm.

Congratulations Sarah and Matt ☺

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### Welcome

We would like to welcome Tina back after her maternity leave. Tina will be our teacher in the Integrated Preschool room from Monday to Wednesday, with Leeanne on Thursday and Friday.

We would also like to welcome Simone Buckley to Burley Griffin as the Team Leader. Simone will start on Monday 13 February 2017.

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# Community Information

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## Showtime in the City

Showtime in the City brings the best of the ActewAGL Royal Canberra Show to the city centre, with snow cones, popcorn, showbags and a petting zoo all on offer between 10 and 11 February, in Petrie Plaza.

This free event showcases the family-fun atmosphere away from the showground in one of Canberra's most accessible spaces, as part of the Government's commitment to bring our city to life through the City Action Plan.

Tickets to the ActewAGL Royal Canberra Show will be available for sale at a ticket booth both days. Showtime in the City will take place in Petrie Plaza 10 (4pm-9.30pm) and 11 February (10am-4pm).

Showtime in the City is an initiative supported by the ACT Government and the City Action Plan, the Royal National Capital Agricultural Society and ActewAGL. To find out more information or to have your say on the future of Canberra's city centre visit [YourSay.act.gov.au/activatecivic](http://YourSay.act.gov.au/activatecivic).



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## ACT Nutrition Support Service

### Operation Lunchbox (or ban the boomerang sandwich)

If you listen carefully, you may hear the collective sigh of relief as parents everywhere arrive at the end of the school holidays. But then the collective gulp of what to pack in the school lunch box can also be heard soon thereafter. We are with you, parents of Canberra, but we can sort this!

It is so disappointing to have a lunchbox come home almost untouched. We hate the boomerang sandwich too. The solution – packing a lunchbox that ticks everyone's lists.



**Lunch box tip** – a lunchbox is not only for school. Use these tips to rock your work lunch. Line up the lunchboxes and make one for yourself too. You'll be the envy of your colleagues as they scramble for food at lunch time.

## Lunchboxes - the 3 golden rules for simple lunchbox assembly

### Golden rule 1:

**Use the food groups for inspiration** - remember the 5 food groups? Cereals, veg, fruit, milk/milk alternatives and meat/meat alternatives. Try to add something from each food group to ensure valuable nutrients make their way into the lunchbox. Start with lunch and work backwards to recess - sandwich, leftovers and wraps make great lunches. Mix it up to prevent lunchbox boredom. Experiment with different bread types and fillings. Choose colour and texture – fruit and veg are great for this. Pieces of fruit, veg sticks, berries and baby veg (cucumbers, cherry toms, carrots) are easy additions.



### Golden rule 2:

**Have a stash** – the go-to's (AKA the lunchboxes best friend). These are the morning saviours. Have a collection on hand to beef up the lunchbox. Our stash - yoghurt tubs, cheese sticks, wholegrain cereal in small containers, tinned fruit, frozen berries. Tinned food is great – small tins of baked beans, sweet corn and fruit are so simple to pop into a lunchbox. Make sure the tins are ring pull (!) and that small fingers are able to open. We love tiny tins of baked beans or 3 bean mix with a slice of bread as a back-up lunch on those mornings when nothing goes to plan..



### Golden rule 3:

**Get the kids in** – kids choosing lunch box additions means they are more likely to eat and enjoy. Resist the temptation to give in to sugary salty packaged additions too often. Small packets of pretzels and wholegrain muesli bars are better alternatives. Use these occasionally

### The extra bits to remember:

- **Choose water** - every school bag/lunch box should contain a water bottle for hydration.
- **Keep it cold** - We use lunchboxes that have a little drink bottle inside. Fill these up and freeze overnight. The ice keeps the food cold (and safe from bugs) and then gradually defrosts to become an icy drink later in the day. Frozen plain milk poppers are also good for this and give a great calcium and protein boost. Alternatively, a freezer pack works well.