

Southern Cross Early Childhood School



Newsletter 1 | Monday, 11 February 2019

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 11 February – Friday 15 February

Getting to know you Interviews

Thursday 21 February | 5.00-7.00

Family Picnic

Tuesday 26 February | 5.15-6.00

**All about Preschool Curriculum – Parent
Information Session**

Wednesday 27 February | 5.15-6.00

Literacy Information Session

Wednesday 27 February | 6.00

P&C AGM

Thursday 28 February | 9.15-10.00

REPEAT Literacy Information Session

Monday 4 March | 5.15-6.00

**Transition Pathways – Parent Information
Session**

Wednesday 6 March | 9.15-10.00

Whole School Gathering – Year 1/2

Dear Families

Welcome to 2019!

It was just wonderful to have all our children back last week. We have had an amazing start to the year with most children starting 2019 positively. It was also fantastic to meet our children and families who are new to our community. Welcome! 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 so crucial to us being the best school and the best teachers that we can be.

The week before the children returned was spent in professional learning for the whole staff team. We had two full days together, the first of which was building our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, culture and building our understanding of best practice. This Cultural Integrity professional learning will form the foundation of our learning over rest of the

year. As a staff team we will take part in action research, looking at how we can embed quality and meaningful practice in this area into our teaching.

Our second day was to revisit our Team Teach training. Team Teach helps us to support children with their behaviour with a strong focus on prevention. We looked at our values and beliefs about supporting children with their behaviour, understanding emotions and behaviour and stages and levels of a crisis. Our training is reflected in our Wellbeing and Behaviour Guidelines and our Family School Partnerships Guidelines. Both these guidelines are available on our website.

Any questions?

At the start of the year it can be tricky to remember everything. We have information on our website and on our



Southern Cross Early Childhood School

Wirraway Crescent Scullin | ACT | 2614

☎ Telephone (02) 6142 0020

✉ Email: info@scecs.act.edu.au

🌐 Web: www.scecs.act.edu.au

Facebook page – when you have a moment you might want to check out both sites. The teachers also include information on our SeeSaw app so you can be connected to your child’s learning. 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.

Getting to know you interviews

This week, all 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 or email Nicole at reception.

Family Picnic

We hope that you can all join us for our Family Picnic on Thursday 21 February 2019 from 5:00 to 7:00pm. 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, no nuts please). 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!

Southern Cross Calendar

The 2019 Southern Cross Calendar is available 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 is our Family Picnic next week.

Book Packs

Thank you so much to our families who have purchased book packs for this year. The children thoroughly enjoyed delivering their packs to their classroom and the teachers are truly thankful for your support. We hope that by the children being involved in understanding what resources they have they will be able to use them wisely. It is not too late to get your book pack. Please see Cheryl if you would like to purchase a pack. Financial assistance is also available to families so please do not hesitate to talk to me or to Cheryl as we can help.

Class Names

This year, the United Nations declared it to be the International Year of Indigenous Languages “in order to raise awareness of them, not only to benefit the people who speak these languages, but also for others to appreciate the important contribution they make to our world’s rich cultural diversity.” Did you know that 40 per cent of the estimated 6,700 languages spoken around the world are in danger of disappearing? The fact that most of these are Indigenous Languages puts the cultures and knowledge systems to which they belong at risk. You can read more about it here <https://en.iyil2019.org/>. In order to raise awareness about the issue and to increase our exposure to Ngannawal Language our class names for 2019 will be Ngannawal words. We have worked with members of our community and Ngannawal Elders to get the spelling and pronunciation as correct as possible and I would like to

thank all who had input for their help. Over the term we will be working with our classes so that they know their names, the meaning of the word and the pronunciation. For your information we have a table later in the newsletter which details all the class names.

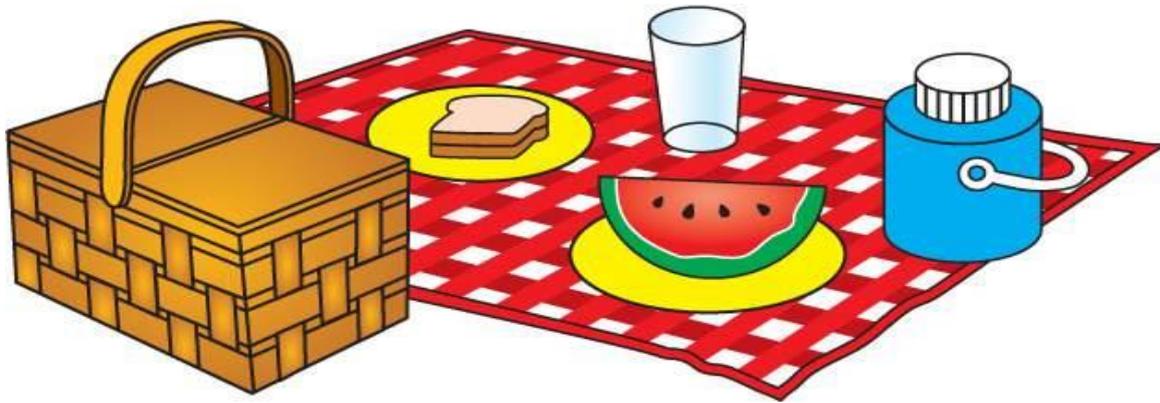
Thank you!!!

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 their hard work and is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,
Lyndall

From Southern Cross

Family Picnic



Come along and enjoy an evening with the Southern Cross Early Childhood School community. This is a time for children and families to meet and make new friends.

When: Thursday 21 February 2019

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Where: Main Outside Play Area

What to bring: A picnic dinner (alcohol and nut free) for the whole family, rug and/or chairs

Anglicare will be hosting a sausage sizzle on the evening.

Sausage Sandwiches: \$2.50

Soft Drinks: \$2.00

Juice Poppers: \$ 2.00

Zooper Doopers: \$1.00

Southern Cross Early Childhood
School is a nut free zone!



2019 Ngunnawal Class Names

Group/Teacher	Ngunnawal	English	Pronunciation
Anglicare			
Nursery	Gula	Koala	<i>Gu-ala</i>
Toddlers	Buru	Kangaroo	<i>Bu-ru</i>
Preschool	Munjawari	Bandicoot	<i>Mun-ja-wari</i>
OOSH	Nuddya	Bat	<i>Nudd-ya</i>
Preschool			
Bianca <small>M/T/W</small>	Guginya	Kookaburra	<i>Gu-gin-ya</i>
Kellie <small>w/Th/F</small>	Bunduluk	Rosella	<i>Bun-da-luk</i>
Nicole <small>M/T/W</small>	Wamburrang	Black Cockatoo	<i>Wam-burr-an</i>
Nicole <small>w/Th/F</small>	Dnnawan	Emu	<i>Dinn-a-won</i>
Kindergarten			
Sophie	Winyu	Sun	<i>Win-yu</i>
Karen	Kabbadang	Moon	<i>Kabb-a-dan</i>
Rebecca	Dyurra	Stars	<i>Doo-ra</i>
Years 1/2			
Lisa	Dyirrigurat	Frog	<i>Dyirri-gu-rat</i>
Hayley	Gudamang	Turtle	<i>Gud-a-man</i>
Shane	Ghaddi	Snake	<i>Ga-de</i>
Emily	Wirria	Goanna	<i>Wirr-ia</i>

Sources:

<https://www.forkword.com/plog/?p=694>

Serena Williams

William Tompkins – Ngunnawal Elder

Ngunnawal Language Handbook produced by the Ngunnawal Language Centre – an initiative Local Aboriginal Land Council

School Counsellor

My name is Cindy Weinman and I feel very lucky to be your new School Psychologist at Southern Cross.

A little bit about myself... I have lived and worked in Canberra for most of my life, and have also had many opportunities to travel and have lived abroad in the UK and Spain. I enjoy spending time with family and hiking around our beautiful city.

I have two children of my own, so understand how rewarding and challenging that can be. I believe that in this parenting journey we are all doing the best we can and want the best for our children.



Whenever I mentioned to people that I was joining the Southern Cross team, the most common reaction was “oh, that’s a great school... they’re doing great things there!”. Now I can see for myself all the fabulous initiatives that are being implemented and I’m super excited to now be a member of your close community. I believe that strong and positive partnerships between home and school produce the best outcomes for children and hope it won’t take too long for me to get to know you all. I’ll be here every Wednesday, so please don’t be shy and come and say hi if you see me around.

Kind Regards
Cindy

Music Teacher and Music Education Mentor

Hi! My name is Katharine Finlayson and I am delighted to be returning to Southern Cross Early Childhood School in 2019. In my role as Executive Teacher, Professional Practice I work across 4 schools each week, teaching demonstration music classes and mentoring teachers and educators in music education. I will be working at Southern Cross each Wednesday.



I am based at the ACT Instrumental Music Program where I also conduct the ACT Primary Concert Choir and the ACT Senior Concert Choir after school. I am very excited about both my roles as I love working with our young students and their teachers in classroom music sessions and I love working with my busy performing choirs. I am also the President of the Kodaly Music Education Institute of Australia, ACT Branch.

Early childhood is the perfect time to start loving and learning about music. In our sessions the children will be singing, moving, dancing and playing percussion instruments. Through all of these musical experiences, the students will be guided to think about what is happening in the music. They will learn to discriminate sounds that are high and low, fast and slow, soft and loud as they sing a range of simple, engaging songs. They will also practise keeping the beat using fine and gross motor skills.

The students in Kindergarten to Year 2 will also analyse simple songs to derive the rhythm, described as ‘the way the words go’. They will then be supported to write and read simple rhythmic notation. The skill of reading and writing music notation opens the world of music to children in an exciting and important way. Music education also supports children to develop skills in speech, literacy, numeracy, problem solving, inquiry and critical thinking. The social and emotional benefits of music education are also powerful as children cooperate, take turns in games, move, play and sing together in a unified way. Music does it all!

As a community we can encourage our children by modelling a positive attitude to music and singing. Singing is a skill that needs to be practised, just like throwing a ball, riding a bike or reading a book. Research shows that 95 percent of the community can learn to sing in tune, through having supportive opportunities to practise this skill. It is always exciting when children find their singing voices and engage with their families, teachers and friends through sharing a song.

I look forward to meeting with members of this wonderful school community and I am very pleased to be working again with the happy and thoughtful students of Southern Cross Early Childhood School.

Best wishes, Katharine.

Linking Families to Learning - How do the teachers at Southern Cross expect my child to do his or her best?

Relationships are key to many aspects of our work with children at Southern Cross. Once children know that we are interested in them and care about them, then they are more likely to take chances with their learning and share what they know. As Dr James Comer says “No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship”. Teachers use many different strategies to understand where children are at with their learning. These strategies could include observations, anecdotal reports, checklists, assessment tasks, discussions, data, learning journals and reports. Every day teachers are building and growing their understanding of your child and where they are with their learning and development.

Once your child’s teacher has some information, they work out what the next steps are, framed by the Early Years Learning Framework for preschool and the Australian Curriculum for Kindergarten to Year 2, to help your child progress. Detailed feedback during learning helps your child to know what the next steps are or how they can improve their learning. Goal setting is a crucial part of this process and we are working to make our learning visible across the school. This will look different across the years but children will develop with their teachers (and sometimes with you) individual, small group or class goals for their learning. They will then be supported to progress their learning to meet that goal.

As parents and carers, you hold such a comprehensive understanding of your child that often teachers will call on your knowledge of your child to help them in some areas. This is why our Getting to Know You interviews and staying connected over the term are so important. Each term your child’s teacher will send out a term overview which will help you know what learning is planned for the term. We also call on families when we are developing Individual Learning Plans (ILP’s) and Personalised Learning Plans (PLP’s) for children requiring additional support. Should you think that there is a mismatch between your expectations and the teacher’s expectations then please talk to your child’s teacher as soon as possible so that we can work through the issue.

You can find out more information about how you can support your child to do their best at school at the Education Directorate website below.

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/parental-engagement/information-for-parents>

For more information about the Early Years Learning Framework or the Australian Curriculum please go to <https://www.education.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework-0> or <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au>

If you have any additional questions please see your child’s teacher, Emma (Preschool and Kindergarten team leader) or Nicky (Year 1 and Year 2 team leader)

Uno the Guide Dog in Training

My name is Scarlett. I am in Year 2. In the holidays I got a dog. He is a Guide Dog puppy, and his name is Uno. A Guide Dog is a dog that guides someone who is blind; to help them get around and to be their eyes. You can find more information about Guide Dogs on this website: <https://www.guidedogs.com.au/guide-dogs>

We are training him to be a Guide Dog. He cannot do tricks. He has special commands and is learning to work really hard. Uno goes to Guide Dog puppy school, with his brothers and sister, every second Wednesday morning to learn how to be a Guide Dog.

Sometimes Uno will come to school with my mum or dad to drop me off or pick me up. He will wear his bright orange vest that says he is a Guide Dog in training. His vest is like his harness, or work clothes, for when he is a grown up Guide Dog. You can't pat him when he is in his vest because when he is grown up and wearing his harness he won't be able to be patted. When he is at school he will be practicing being calm in noisy, exciting places.

Uno has food called kibble but he also eats carrots. Apple is a really special treat. Uno is four months old. He will live with us until he is 1 year old.



Year 2 Leadership Roles

In 2019 the Year 2 children will take on extra responsibilities as leaders of our school. The children gathered on Friday to discuss what it means to be a leader and how they can make a difference across the school. Some examples of extra responsibilities include:

1. **Waste Free Warriors** – The Year 2 children will lead the school in positive sustainability and environmental practices. They will model on what it means to be 'waste wise' and make sure that waste is placed in the correct bins. They will also be given the opportunity to monitor the waste collection at the end of each day.
2. **Sport Equipment Monitors** – The Year 2 children will be responsible for monitoring and collecting sport equipment at the beginning and end of each day.



For more information about the Year 2 leadership roles please speak with your Year 1/2 class teacher.

Lunchtime Learning Clubs

Lunchtime Learning Clubs

BEGINS: Week 2, Term 1
TIME: 11:25am to 11:50am
FOR: Kindergarten, Yr 1 & Yr 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sports Club	Dance Club	Shooting Stars Choir	Loose Parts Play	Garden Club
				
Shane	Sophie	Emily	Karen	Jason
Playground	Hall/ Community Room	Community Room	Kindergarten Classroom	Environment Courtyard

Community Hub

Community Coordinator

Hi, my name is Jason Thornton and I am the Community Coordinator at Southern Cross Early Childhood School. My job involves supporting children, families and staff across the school as well as connecting with our local community. In my role I organise and facilitate school events, deliver parent and family programs, work closely with families to create an inclusive and supportive school environment and link families with community services. Please come in and have a chat if you would like to discuss parenting and family matters or have ideas for new events and programs for our school.



My work days are Tuesday to Friday and you can contact me via:

- email – jason.thornton@ed.act.edu.au
- phone- 6142 0020
- text – 0481 916 510

Help!!! – Green Team Members Needed for 2019!

Our 2018 Green Team members have moved on to other pastures, so we need your help in our Environment Courtyard and orchard. If you have an interest in gardening and can spare a few hours each term to help, please email Jason on jason.thornton@ed.act.edu.au

Family Engagement Coordinators

Volunteers from each class are needed to facilitate family social events for 2019. This role involves organising social events once a term for families outside school hours and working with parents and carers to create an inclusive and supportive school environment.

If you are interested in being a Family Engagement Coordinator, please email Jason – jason.thornton@ed.act.edu.au .

Southern Cross
Early Childhood School

Read with Me Cafe



Come along and read a book with your child and enjoy freshly cooked pikelets!

Starts this Friday morning in the library!

8:00am - 8:50am
Everyone is welcome!

Southern Cross
Early Childhood School

Story TIME



Starts this Thursday
In the school library
9:05am to 9:30am

All parents/carers with young children are welcome!

Anglicare

Welcome to a new year with Anglicare!

Things to know

- Renée will be at Reception Mondays to process your accounts, could you please email all enquires to southerncross@anglicare.com.au and these will be processed or forwarded on to the relevant team member.
- Sarah will be at Reception from Tuesday to Friday as the Centre Administrator.
- Just a reminder that we require two week's notice in writing for **any changes to bookings** both long day care and before and after school care.
- If your child is absent please notify the centre on southerncross@anglicare.com.au or 6142 0020
- Children attending the school in Preschool to Year 2 have the option to purchase a lunch order made by our lovely Chef Hanna in the Bright Star Cafe – these include a hot meal and piece of fruit for **\$5.00** (new 2019 price). Each term we have a new Seasonal Menu on a four week rotation.
Menu and envelopes for payment are found on the reception desk. Please ensure you mark down your class name and any allergies or dietary preferences, and you can pre-order in advance!

- Children's Yoga with Sushil for 2019 has changed from Fridays to Mondays! We are very blessed to have a qualified instructor to teach our children some mindfulness strategies they can use throughout their lives!
- Our information night and family picnic will coincide with SCECS! Thursday February 5:00-7:00pm. Come and have a gander through all the classrooms, and stay for a sausage sizzle after the information session, being held in the Munjawari (preschool) yard from 5:45-7:00pm. Our sausage sizzle fundraiser will go towards more resources for our outdoor learning environments.

Prices include \$2.50 sausage sandwich; \$2.00 for soft drink or juice popper; \$1.00 zooper-doopers.

- Do you wish there were more opportunities to meet other families and your children's peers? We are creating play date opportunities twice a term in which families are invited to share and get to know one another on our lovely grassed oval. Please remember to sign your child into your care prior to attending.

P&C



SOUTHERN CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Come Along and Get Involved
Questions? scecsbandc@gmail.com

All parents and guardians of students at the school and other citizens who elect to be members of the association are invited to attend the SCECS P&C

2019 AGM

Wednesday

February 27, 2019 * 6:00 to 6:45pm

Agenda

The minutes of last year's AGM
The accounts for the year ending December 31, 2018
Election of the new Committee for 2019.

Nomination forms available at reception or email scecsbandc@gmail.com All members are encouraged to put themselves forward for a committee position.

Location

SCECS Staff Room
Yes, Kids Welcome!

All members of the SCECS community welcome!

Scholastic Book Club

Your child will soon bring home a new issue of **Scholastic Book Club**.

Every order placed earns points for the school to purchase **valuable resources**. Ordering on line is easy and convenient, but cash orders are welcome too. More info can be found on the first issue.

This is an activity done by the Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) to support the school.

Kind regards,
Jasja van den Bos
Coordinator Scholastic Book Club
schoolbookscecs@gmail.com

