Dear Families

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2016. It is hard to believe that we are in the last week of school! We have had a truly amazing year of learning together and from the bottom of our hearts we say thank you to our wonderful families – we have loved working in partnership with you and your children this year. It has been a busy year with some wonderful achievements and experiences including many amazing whole school gatherings, the completion of stage 1 of the Treehouse and Bush Camp, a fantastic Bike and Kite Day, amazing lunch time clubs, getting to know Brendon Reading as he went to the Olympics for Race Walking and competed in the 50K walk and interesting excursions – just to name a few. We still have our Year 2 Graduation Ceremony on Thursday and I hope to see all of you at the End of Year Concert tomorrow. I know that 2017 will be even more filled with learning and fun.

Staffing update

Our staff are confirmed for 2017. In preschool our teachers are Nicole Harvey, Jess Morris, Kellie Rogers and Heidi Weilguny with Sonia Picker and Stefanie Bonnett as our preschool assistants. In Kindergarten our teachers are Fiona Manton, Kathleen Chambers and Bec Bull. In Year 1 our teachers are Fiona McEwan and job sharing the second class will be Bianca Boyle and Karen Novak. In Year 2 we will have Gavin Molyneux and Hayley Gray. Providing learning support assistance in K-2 will be Tejal Patel. Our learning support and release teachers will be Kathryn Jeffress, Ingrid Schryver and Jenny Millsteed. Maria Kerr will join us at the beginning of term for a few weeks before she starts her maternity leave and we wish her and her husband Jack all the best for the birth of their baby! Sheri Bottomley will remain with us as the school psychologist. Read on in the newsletter for information about our new staff.

All the best for the holidays

I hope that in the holidays you will get time to relax and recharge. It can be a busy time of year but hopefully you can set aside some time to dream and wonder and delight in just spending time together. Remember that not every day has to be planned! I encourage you keep reading together as much as you can over the break.

To our families who are leaving us at the end of the year we wish you all the best as you move to your new schools. We will miss you. To our returning families enjoy your time together and for those travelling, please travel safely.

We can’t wait to see you in 2017!!!

Kind regards,

Lyndall Read

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13 December</td>
<td>5.00-7.00</td>
<td>End of Year Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14 December</td>
<td>9.15-10.00</td>
<td>Whole School Gathering - Kindergarten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14 December</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Volunteers Morning Tea</td>
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<td>Thursday 15 December</td>
<td>2.00-3.00</td>
<td>Year 2 Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 16 December</td>
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<td>Last day of school for 2017</td>
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<td>Monday 30 January 2017</td>
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<td>Beginning of the week Preschool groups start school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31 January 2017</td>
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<td>Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two students start school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 2 February 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>End of the week Preschool groups start school.</td>
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Southern Cross Early Childhood School acknowledges that our children learn on Ngunnawal
End of Year Celebration – Tuesday 13 December 2017

The Southern Cross End of Year Celebration will be held tomorrow night from 5.00–7.00pm, underneath the shady trees on the corner of Ross Smith Crescent and Wirraway Crescent.

Children from Anglicare and the school will be performing for their families and the school community.

Families can bring along picnic dinner or buy sausage sandwiches from the P&C sausage sizzle.

Items available for sale:
- Sausage Sandwiches $2.00
- Juice Poppers $1.00
- Zooper Doopers (icy poles) 50c

We look forward to seeing you there!

New team members for 2017

Jess
Hello, my name is Jess Morris and I am thrilled to be joining the Southern Cross Early Childhood School community next year. I have lived and worked in the Belconnen area for several years and have witnessed the positive development of the school from a distance and I can’t wait to get to know you all! I am really looking forward to working together to create a safe, supportive and fun place in which all of us can learn and grow. I am passionate about encouraging my students to explore the environment, investigate new challenges and enjoy sharing their learning experiences with each other, the educators and their families. Over the summer break I plan to do lots of reading, swimming, relaxing and might even challenge myself to learn to ride my bike (again)!

Kathleen
My name is Kathleen Chambers. I have been teaching for five years and couldn’t think of a better job! I feel extremely privileged to spend each day working with little people who I learn so much from! In my classroom you will see engagement, exploration, construction, play, questioning, problem solving, curiosity, fun, excitement and enjoyment. I have lived in Canberra my whole life, have a cat called Fudge and love the colour pink! I am very excited to be joining the Southern Cross teaching team in 2017.

Hayley
I will be starting with Southern Cross Early Childhood School in 2017 and I am so excited to meet you all and join your learning journey!

As well as being a passionate teacher, I also enjoy crafts and puzzles. I am currently discovering new things to sew. I also love to read. My favourite series of books is Harry Potter. I recently travelled to Scotland where I saw the train they used in the movies. My favourite thing of all is to go on walks with my Golden Retriever Sully. He is big and fluffy just like Sully from Monster’s Inc!

I look forward to meeting you all in 2017, Hayley Gray.
Fiona
My name is Fiona Manton and I am a passionate Early Childhood teacher. I love to teach young children, and to facilitate learning through their creative and imaginative play. I also like to spend time in nature, travel and read. I am married to Stephen, who is also a teacher, and we have two girls, Matilda and Lila. Together we like to ride bikes, watch movies and enjoy Brunch together. I have been teaching in Gungahlin for some time and am now looking forward to becoming a part of the Southern Cross community.

2017 Southern Cross Calendar
The 2017 Southern Cross Early Childhood School Calendar will be available for collection from Reception from today, Monday 12 December 2016.

Sandwich Bot Coding Activity for Year 2
Monday 5 December 2016 at 11.00am was Hour of Code week across the world, a week where children of all ages and abilities are encouraged to try coding for an hour to get an insight into the world of digital technology and coding in a fun way.

As part of Hour of Code week Ricky Vuckovic, Sam V’s dad, came in and ran a Sandwich Bot workshop with the Year 2 classes. Each class got a chance to ‘code’ Ricky (aka the Sandwich Bot 2000) to make a jam sandwich. This was a lot harder (and more hilarious) than you might imagine! After bread had been dropped on the floor, whole jars of jam put in a sandwich, and other messy mistakes, the Year 2s had a good understanding that coding a robot, or a computer, requires much more precise and linear instructions than you would give to a human.

Thank you Ricky!

Environment Courtyard and Orchard – Scarecrow Clothes Wanted
Our vegetables are growing in our Environment Courtyard and I hope to have a lot of food ready to eat when we return to school next year. The children have also been busy preparing the orchard for the summer. We have been weeding around the fruit trees and mulching in preparation for the dry hot weather. The children have also been working hard on making scarecrows to scare away any birds who may take interest in our trees over the break.

We are in need of clothes to dress our scarecrows so if you have any old dresses, shirts, shorts or skirts you would like to donate, please drop them into me or Nicole at reception.
Waste Free Day Trophy

The presentation of the Waste Free Day Trophy will take place at our Whole School Gathering this Wednesday 14 December 2016. Come along and see which class will win the Green Recycling Truck and be known as Waste Free Day Warriors for Term 4 2016.

2017 School Year

The 2017 school year commences on **Monday 30 January 2017** for students attending the beginning of the week preschool groups, Cotter and Ginninderra.

Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students return to school on **Tuesday 31 January 2017**.

The end of the week preschool groups, Molonglo and Murrumbidgee commence school on **Thursday 2 February 2017**.

Looking forward to the 2017 school year 😊

Community Hub

Great Grocery and Gift Train Appeal – Thank you

On behalf of The Salvation Army, I would like to thank the Southern Cross Early Childhood School for your kind donations of toys and food this Christmas. They will be provided to those in our community who are in need. May God richly bless you all, and grant you a truly Blessed Christmas & Happy New Year.

Envoi Angela Czoban

Thank you!
The Read with Me Café is now closed for 2016 and will reopen in Term 1, next year. I would like to thank all the families who came along each Friday to share a special reading moment. Sharing books with our children is a very special time. 😊

Stay and Play – Wednesday’s during school term from 9:15am to 11:00am
Stay and Play will start up again on Wednesday 1 February, 2017. If you care for a child Under 5 years of age, please come along and join in the fun. We set up in the hall or outside at the front of the school when the weather is warm and dry.

Move ‘n’ Groove
Hi, my name is Cherie Kotek and I am a music teacher and musician. Since moving to Canberra, I have been running music workshops for people of all ages and abilities. I am very excited to be back at Southern Cross Early Childhood School to run the Move ‘n’ Groove program for children (Birth – 5 years) and their parents/carers. Bring your child along to explore drumming, dancing and singing in a fun and creative environment.

Please join my Facebook page – Move n Groove with Cherie.

When: Fridays from 10 February 2017
Time: 9:30am – 10:30am
Where: Community Room at Southern Cross
Registration: Please contact Cherie on 0411 686 438

Registration is essential as there are limited places available!

Family Support
Christmas is often a special time for families and friends but it can raise mixed emotions and feelings for some. We want to make sure that everyone stays safe and supported during this time. Please make a time this week to see me if you have something you wish to discuss.

Emergency and Crisis Contact Numbers (24 hour services)

Health Direct - 1800 022 222
Police/Ambulance – 000
Lifeline Australia – 13 11 14
Domestic Violence Crisis Service - 6280 0900
Mental Health Crisis Assessment and Treatment Team (CATT) - 1800 629 354

Jason Thornton
Community Coordinator
Email: jason.thornton@ed.act.edu.au
Phone: 6142 0020
Final Year 1 Gathering

Dear Year 1 families

To celebrate the end of Year 1, families are invited to attend a playdate after school this Thursday in the back playground. Please bring some food to share.

We hope you can make it.

Barb (Jasper’s Mum) & Leigh (Poson’s Mum)

Student Survey 2016

Over the term we sat with the children from preschool to Year 2 and conducted the KidsMatter Student Survey. This survey asked children how they felt about school, if they felt safe when at school and how they felt about themselves. The survey also provided information about the children’s social skills and friendships they had at school. All data collected was entered anonymously into the secure KidsMatter website. Overall the results were very positive.

The results below form our baseline data so we can celebrate what is working and identify areas for development.

Highest Scores – between 94% and 97% of the children surveyed said they...

- Always try their best at school
- Listen when other people talk
- Believe that teachers care about them
- Like themselves

Lowest Scores - between 88% and 91% of the children surveyed said they...

- Feel happy at school
- Can cheer up someone who is sad
- Look forward to coming to school
- Feel safe at school
- Are helped by others at school

The results provide us with information that will help shape the social and emotional learning at Southern Cross in 2017. It highlights the areas where we can do better and improve our practice to meet the needs of all children at our school. For example, we want all our children to feel safe at school so this will be one of our focus areas for next year.

If you would like any further information about the survey please see come and see me.

Class Carers Wanted for 2017

If you are interested in being a Class Carer for your child’s class or year level next year please let me know. 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 throughout the year

Murrumbidgee and Molonglo gathering

On Sunday 4 December 2016 Murrumbidgee and Molonglo had their final playdate for the year at Holt playground. 20 children across 10 families were able to attend.

After a play and some fabulous bike riding we had our Christmas treasure hunt, where the children had to find items from a clue sheet to fill their Christmas bags with treasure. Thanks everyone for all the fun playdates this year, parents and children have had a fabulous time and many lasting friendships formed!
A final few words from the Southern Cross Parents and Citizens Association

As the year starts to wrap up and we all make plans for the holidays I’d like to leave all of our amazing parents with a few things to think about during the break.

Firstly a big THANK YOU to all of our wonderful VOLUNTEERS that have helped cook sausages, come to meetings, colour hair, make hot chocolate, bake cakes, sell raffle tickets, get book club orders in, donate 2nd hand school clothes, clean up after events, the list goes on. Everything you do is appreciated and we can’t do it without you. Every contribution no matter how small helps to create something big. You are my HEROS. I love you all.

The Southern Cross P&C is an enthusiastic and hard working group that exists thanks to the time and effort brought to it by parent and community volunteers. Without the involvement of our volunteers we simply don’t exist.

The Southern Cross P&C runs the School Clothes Shop, School Banking, the Annual Disco, Movie Night, Walk-A-Thon, Tea towel fundraiser and many more fundraisers and events throughout the year. But we are not just about trying to squeeze money out of our families and community. The Southern Cross P&C provides parents and community members a means to participate in the decision making process regarding the school. Our primary aim is to actively support the school community whilst acting in, and being responsive to, the best interests of our children.

The role of the P&C includes:

- Acting as a forum for discussion and formulation of the parent view on issues concerned with the education policies and wellbeing of the individual school, its students, and the whole school system
- Conveying parent views to the school’s decision making bodies
- Receiving and raising funds for the improvement of amenity of school grounds, programs and facilities
- Supporting a collaborative school community in which the parents, students, staff, principal and wider community work together towards achieving the best educational and personal outcomes for all students, together with meeting the needs and aspirations of the whole school community.
Our priorities for 2017 are to:

- Facilitate and foster a safe and fun environment for our school community
- Advocate and effectively represent on behalf of the parental community at Southern Cross
- Support the school in planning and funding new projects
- Recruit and retain new members to the P&C

At the end of this year the Southern Cross P&C will say goodbye to a couple of our long standing and hardworking executive members. Their roles will need to be filled in the new year at our AGM on Wednesday 22 February 2017 at the school, time TBA. We are looking for people who could fill the role of Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Members are also welcome to nominate for president.

For more information about the Southern Cross P&C, a duty statement for the executive roles and other non-executive roles or just want to get in touch with the Southern Cross P&C contact the President (Bonnie Roppola) by email scecspsandc@gmail.com or phone 0417 256 234 (even during the holidays is ok).

I’ll see you all at the End of year celebration on Tuesday. But if I don’t, have a great break and I’ll see you next year.

Cheers,
Bonnie

2016 End of Year Raffle
Today is the last day to return raffle tickets for the fabulous End of Year raffle. Prizes listed below.

1st PRIZE: THE COMFORT PACK - A stunning queen-size quilt, handmade by one of our parents and P&C executive member Robina Sanderson complemented with wine and chocolates. Valued at $450.

2nd PRIZE: CANBERRA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA-SHELL PROM FAMILY PICNIC EXPERIENCE - Enjoy a lovely day out with the family at Government House, listening to amazing music. Includes tickets to the prom and picnic hamper. Valued at $150.

3rd PRIZE: QUESTACON FAMILY PASS - Entry to Questacon for 2 adults and 2 Children. Valued at $70.

Plus more surprise prizes.

Tickets will be drawn 13 DECEMBER 2016 ... at the END OF YEAR CELEBRATION, just in time for the HOLIDAYS! Ticket holders do not need to be present to be in the draw.

All fundraising this year goes towards the improvement of our school grounds and other much needed resources for our children.

All enquiries - Bonnie Roppola (P&C President) 0417 256 234

School Clothing

Donations of second-hand uniforms welcome!
As we reach the end of the year we welcome donations from families who have spare second-hand uniforms. Please leave them in the box near reception. Donations are greatly appreciated to assist families in 2017.

Please include your name and contact details with your donated clothes to go in the draw for a $50 Westfield Gift Voucher!

A huge thank you to all the families who have donated second-hand uniforms during the year.
Also, anyone is welcome to take advantage of our second-hand supply of uniforms where stock is available. For further information please contact Kumalie Walker on 0439 355 350 or kwalker@exemail.com.au.

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

December/January School Holiday Program
There are still places available in our School Holiday Program. Children who are in Year 2 currently are able to attend these holidays. We are also accepting children K-2 who are not at the school. If you have friends looking for an Early Childhood School Holiday program please let them know.

Thank you to Families and Educators
A big thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas performance and BBQ on Monday 5 December 2016. It was fantastic to see you all there and your children loved singing and dancing for you.

Thank you to Leeanne and Lavina for organising this event and Sami for helping the children with the songs. Look out for our welcome BBQ in the New Year.

Paint and Play
Anglicare has developed a partnership with ACT Playgroups to help run Paint n Play across Canberra. We received the Community for Children Award in Children’s Week for our work with ACT Playgroups. Thank you to Leeanne and Beck who have put in a lot of time to attend Paint n Play at Holt and Boundless Playground.

Congratulations
Monica from our Coombs room was nominated for a Dignity award in our Annual Anglicare Staff Awards. Monica was nominated for how she respects and encourages her team members to develop and grow and for providing the children with the most loving care and respect. Monica received a **Highly Commended Dignity Award** on the night. Well done Monica, you are a winner in our eyes!

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**Birth announcement**

Erin our Educational Leader, has given birth to a beautiful baby girl, Harlow Addison on Tuesday 29 November 2016. Mum and bub are doing well. Congratulations Erin and family.

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**Thank you and Farewell**

The Southern Cross community wishes Lavina and her family all the best for her move to Innisfail, Queensland. Lavina’s last day will be Wednesday 14 December 2016.

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**Community Information**

**ACT Nutrition Support Service**

Hello summer! We welcome back the heat and everything associated with it - except dehydration. Not drinking enough water leaves us feeling blah at best and seriously ill at worst.

We lose water through our body processes every day and even more water is lost in the hot weather. If we do not replace this water through drinking and, to a smaller extent eating, we become dehydrated.

This summer, fight the good fight against dehydration. Choose to be a hydration hero. **Dehydration makes us feel ...**

- Tired and lethargic
- Confused and headachy
- Hungry – we often confuse thirst for hunger and eat rather than drink

**Are there other signs of dehydration?**

- Increased thirst
- Dry mouth
- Coated tongue
- Dark urine with a strong smell
- Reduced ability to sweat
- Dizziness / weakness
- Fainting

Dehydration also increases our risk of bladder and kidney infections.

**Some people are at greater risk of dehydration**

- People living in hot climates
• Young children and babies
• The elderly
• People dependent on others for food and drink eg people with a disability
• Very physically active people

If you fit into one of these categories, be sure to drink water regularly.

The best way to prevent dehydration is to drink water. Water is the most refreshing and hydration friendly fluid. Water is also the most kind to your wallet and is kilojoule free.

Limit your sugary drinks as these are less helpful for everyday hydration and contain significant amounts of sugar that are harmful for your overall health.

Top tips on getting into the habit
• Start by having a glass of water with every meal.
• Keep a jug or a bottle of water on your kitchen bench and your work desk.
• Carry a refillable water bottle when you are out and about.
• Find the way that helps you e.g. use a straw or use ice cubes to make the water cold.
• Make the water more interesting by squeezing lemon, lime or oranges into it.
• Brighten the water with berries or slices of fruit.

Chief Minister’s Canberra Gold Awards

Have you or someone you know lived in Canberra for fifty years or more? What about an organisation or community group that has been contributing to our city for fifty years or more? Then consider nominating them for the Chief Minister’s Canberra Gold Awards.

Nominations can be made online at www.act.gov.au/cbrgold

Canberra Citizen of the Year Award

Nominate a Canberran who inspires you for the Canberra Citizen of the Year Award. The Award recognises citizens who have made a major contribution to the Canberra community. This award is open to a person or group in any field, including the arts, education, community work and business.

Nominations can be made online at www.act.gov.au/cbrcitizen