
Southern Cross Early Childhood School



Welcome to Kindergarten in 2019 at Southern Cross Early Childhood School!

The Kindergarten teachers this year are Rebecca Cheng (Dyurra), Sophie Jarvis (Winyu) and Karen Novak (Kabbadang). They will be supported by Emma Davidson, our Kindergarten team leader. Over the course of the week Jackie Neill will be teaching the children Visual Arts while the classroom teachers develop programs and reflect on children's learning. You can find out more about the fabulous Kindergarten team by reading our 'All About Me' posters on the wall as you walk in the main entrance.

The teaching day starts at 9am, with all staff outside at 8:55am for the Morning Muster. This is a great time to have a quick chat with your child's teacher before school starts. If you require a longer chat, please make an appointment by email or phone reception. Please wait outside in the mornings and afternoons. If you are arriving or leaving outside of these times, please ensure you visit the front office to sign in or out.

We encourage healthy meals and snacks for our three breaks, which are munch and crunch, lunch and recess. Please ensure you provide a piece of fruit, dairy snack, vegetables or other protein for munch and crunch each day. As the weather remains quite warm please consider adding an ice brick to your child's lunch box. Children are required to bring a sun safe, broad brimmed hat in order to play in all areas of our outdoor learning environment. We encourage you to apply sunscreen to your child at home before school. If they need to reapply, sunscreen is available in the classroom. Please also ensure that your child has a labelled drink bottle filled with water each day.

We do our best to help the children to take care of their own belongings. Please help us to do this by **labelling all items** that come to school.

Please **ensure that all home toys stay at home**. When toys come to school they are at risk of being lost or broken, and often lead to conflict and distraction from learning. Talk to your teacher to retrieve any home toys that may have come to school. Similarly, **school toys stay at school**. If any unfamiliar toys or items are making their way home to you please return them to your child's teacher.

The Kindergarten library days are Monday Kabbadang (Karen), Wednesday Winyu (Sophie) and Thursday Dyurra (Rebecca). Children are encouraged to borrow books of their choosing to share with you at home. Library borrowing will begin next week; children should remember to pack their library bag each week.

Many families have been expressing interest in ways to support their children's learning at home. Southern Cross Early Childhood School will be hosting an Literacy Information Session on Wednesday 27th February from 5:15pm and a repeat session will be held on Thursday 28th February from 9:15am. A numeracy information night will follow later in the term, please keep an eye out for more information in the newsletter.

Term One Overview

English	<p>Reading Children will be immersed in reading in the classrooms through group stories, listening to retells from peers, exploring books independently, listening to recorded stories and participating in weekly library times. There will be a strong focus on learning the common sounds of the English language using relevant and interesting children’s stories and activities. Children will be working on hearing and producing rhyming words while exploring common nursery rhymes, retelling familiar stories and learning about basic sentence structure through modelled and shared reading.</p> <p>Writing Fine motor activities will be incorporated into the day to help build the necessary control for writing. Children will be encouraged to independently write their names and use environmental print to assist with writing in all areas of the curriculum. They will learn about basic sentence structure through modelled and shared writing and be supported to have a go at writing experiences and be confident in their learning and abilities.</p> <p>The children will engage in real reading and real writing every day.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Number The number focus for the term is recognising, modelling and working with numbers to 10.</p> <p>Patterns and Algebra Children will be sorting and classifying familiar objects and copying, continuing and creating patterns with objects and drawings.</p> <p>Shape The children will be sorting, describing and naming familiar 2D shapes and objects in the environment.</p>
Science	<p>Earth and Space Sciences The children will observe daily and seasonal changes in the environment, such as the weather and how they affect everyday life.</p>
Humanities and Social Science	<p>Personal and Family History Focusing on their own family history, different family structures, how families celebrate together and how stories are communicated through generations.</p> <p>To help us with our learning in this area, we are asking each family to bring in or email to staff a family photo. We will be using these to help guide our discussions and inquiries about our families.</p>
Health & Physical Education	<p>Switching On We are programming for the fundamental movement skills with a strong focus on body awareness, safety, fine motor skills, upper body strength and balance. Included in this program will be the Learn to Ride Centre, cooperative games, yoga and dance experiences.</p> <p>Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) <i>Mindfulness</i> – This year all children across the school will be undertaking mindfulness exercises each day. Mindfulness can help children develop concentration and self-awareness. It can also help children to calm themselves.</p>

	<p><i>We are all similar and different</i> – recognising a range of emotions and identifying reasons we might feel this way and learning how to manage these emotions at school.</p> <p><i>Using friendly behaviours</i> - displaying and demonstrating friendly behaviours including recognising and assisting others in need, being polite and respectful.</p>
The Arts	<p>Visual Arts Through explorations of: Where are we? Who are we? and What are we? children will be invited to represent their sense of belonging, self, place and Connection to Country. We will use natural materials available in our environment, paper and paint combinations, along with drawing in our visual arts books to focus on generating ideas, sharing them and adding to each others’ thinking. The kindergarten classes will each have 2 hours with the visual arts teacher, Jackie Neill throughout the week.</p> <p>Music with Katharine Music takes place on Wednesdays. During Term 1 the children will be engaged in singing, movement, dance and instrumental activities. They will be supported to develop their confidence in singing, as well as their ability to pitch match and sing in tune. They will be involved in expressive and imaginative activities while singing and chanting rhymes and they will have opportunities to keep the beat through movement and by playing percussion instruments. The concept of the rhythm will be introduced as ‘the way the words go’.</p>
Technology	<p>ICT Children will access iPads and interactive whiteboards within various areas of the curriculum to reinforce and practise skills taught.</p>