

Southern Cross Early Childhood School



Welcome to Preschool in 2018 at Southern Cross Early Childhood School!

The Preschool teachers this year are Nicole, Jess and Kellie. They will be assisted by Stef, Kerrie, Anjali, Liz and Tejal. Emma, Maria Kerr, Maria Jofre, Nicky and Jason will also be working with some of our groups at different times throughout the week. You can find out more about the Preschool team by reading our 'All About Me' posters on the wall as you walk in the main entrance.

The Preschool session formally begins at 9.00am, but we do have a Morning Muster at 8.55am which allows time for an incidental chat before the beginning of the session. Please remember that if you require a longer discussion, we are happy to receive an email or you can make an appointment to discuss your child's progress and/or needs. A class reflection document will be sent out by email during the term, which will enable you to find out about some of the Investigations your child has been involved in.

Your child will need a drink bottle filled with water each day and we encourage healthy meals and snacks for our three breaks: Munch 'n' Crunch (fruit, vegetables, cheese), Lunch and Afternoon Tea. Please ensure you provide adequate amounts of food for your children as they are very busy throughout the day and get hungry tummies! We are a nut-free school, so please refrain from packing nutty muesli bars or sandwiches (this includes Nutella and peanut butter).

Please ensure that your child has a sun safe, broad brimmed hat that will **stay at preschool** and feel free to personalise it if you would like to, (eg; with a button or an iron on picture). We would appreciate you applying sunscreen to your child before each session, or helping them to apply it when you arrive.

***Please label all food containers and clothes clearly with your child's name.**

You will be receiving a copy of your child's class timetable. Our Preschool routine includes:

SEL

The children will be involved in weekly SEL [Social and Emotional Learning] experiences with their peers. These sessions will focus on identifying and dealing with emotions, developing relationship skills and social decision making. The children will participate in sharing and turn taking activities and will explore different ways of approaching difficult situations.

Library

Library Day is Tuesday for Bancroft and Banyawarra and Friday for Morgan and Mailman. Children are encouraged to borrow two books of their choosing to share with you at home. The school will provide the children with a library bag and borrowing will commence in Week 2. Please remember that children will need to bring their bag each week if they would like to borrow.

Technology

The children will have opportunities to participate in a weekly iPad exploration time during the year. They will be able to develop their skills in negotiating a variety of apps focusing on areas such as maths, literacy and art, with support from educators. They will also be involved in group experiences on the Smartboard, such as Yoga, music and storytelling activities.

Mindfulness

The preschool children will be participating in Mindfulness activities each day after we come in from outside play. We will be doing some Mindful listening, seeing, smelling, tasting and movement. Some of the experiences we will be involved in are 'Calming Countdowns', relaxing to music, matching sounds, mystery scents and mindful movement.

Term One Overview

Events for your calendar

- + Family Picnic – Thursday 22 February (Week 3) 5.00-6.30pm
- + All about Preschool Curriculum – Tuesday 27 February (Week 4) 5.15-6.00pm in the preschool room
- + Whole School Gathering (hosted by Year1/2 Kelly) – Wednesday 7 March (Week 5)
- + Canberra Day public holiday – Monday 12 March (Week 6)
- + **Funky Hair Day – Bancroft and Banyawarra: Tuesday 13 March (Week 6)**
- + **Morgan and Mailman: Friday 16 March (Week 6)**
- + Community Breakfast – Friday 16 March (Week 6)
- + Hatching Chicks Program – Monday 19 March (Week 7) to Thursday 29 March (Week 8)
- + **Harmony Day – Bancroft and Banyawarra: Wednesday 21 March (Week 7)**
- + **Morgan and Mailman: Thursday 22 March (Week 7)**
- + Lunchbox Talk for families – Thursday 22 March (Week 7) 5.15-6.00pm
- + **Easter Hat Parade - Bancroft and Banyawarra: Tuesday 27 March (Week 8) * Children will need to make a hat for this week ***
- + **Morgan and Mailman: Thursday 29 March (Week 8)**
- + Good Friday public holiday – Friday 30 March (Week 8)
- + Easter Monday public holiday – Monday 2 April (Week 9)
- + **Teddy Bear's Picnic – Bancroft and Banyawarra: Tuesday 10 April (Week 10)**
- + **Morgan and Mailman: Thursday 12 April (Week 10)**
- + Whole School Gathering (hosted by Year 1) – Wednesday 11 April (Week 10)
- + End of Term One – Friday 13 April (Week 10)

The Preschool curriculum is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework

Teaching and Learning Outcomes from the Early Years Learning Framework

This term we are working towards:

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

- Children feel safe, secure and supported
- Children develop knowledgeable and confident self identities

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

- Children become strong in their social and emotional well being

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

- Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

- Children will begin to engage in enjoyable interactions using verbal and non-verbal language
- Children begin to develop an understanding of how symbols and patterns work

Experiences

We will be participating in a range of activities related to these outcomes, such as;

Outcome 1

- What makes me special?
- Getting to know you games
- Trace Moroney books
- SEL activities

Outcome 2

- Developing group learning agreements
- School environment orientation
- Harmony Day activities

What is a community and what is our place in the school community?

Outcome 3

- Stories, songs and games about feelings
- Mindfulness experiences
- 'Emotional Check In Time'
- How can we take care of ourselves?

Outcome 4

- Interest based Investigations
- Small group work
- STEM activities [Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics]
- Wonderings, "I wonder..."

Outcome 5

- Story telling experiences
- Group games and discussions
- How do we share our ideas with our friends?
- Patterns, numbers, counting, letters

We are looking forward to a fantastic term!

Nicole Harvey (Bancroft and Morgan), Jess Morris (Banyawarra) and Kellie Rogers (Mailman)