

# Southern Cross Early Childhood School



Newsletter 16 | Monday 8 November 2021

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Monday 22 November | 7:00**  
**P&C Zoom Meeting**

**Tuesday 7 December**  
**Semester 2 Reports go home - Preschool**

**Thursday 9 December**  
**Semester 2 Reports go home –**  
**Preschool to Year 2**

**Thursday 9 December | 5.30-7.30**  
**Year 2 Fun Night**

**Monday 13 December | 2.00-3.00**  
**Year 2 Graduation**

**Tuesday 14 December | 5:00-7:30**  
**End of Year Celebration**

Dear families and friends

Welcome to week 6 everyone! We have had such a positive return to school and for the past 2 weeks there have been lots of smiles, learning in our beautiful outdoor environment, jumping in puddles and reconnecting with friends.

## Thank you!

I would like to thank all of our families for supporting and understanding our 'new normal' processes. It certainly isn't easy, but we do know that we are doing everything possible to continue to keep our community safe.

A huge thank you to our teachers and support staff for all they are doing to ensure the children are happy and connected. The creative

ways the children are learning is so wonderful to see. We will continue our morning 'connection' routine from 9-9:30am as this is helping transitions and supporting everyone to settle into the day. Mindfulness practices will still occur throughout the day in various different ways also.

## Staffing Update

It is with a heavy heart that I let you all know that Emma Davidson has been successful in the Leader Transfer Round. Emma has won the P-2 Deputy Principal position at Ngunnawal Primary School to start in 2022. Emma is such a dedicated and committed deputy who is truly a large part of the Southern Cross community. I would like to thank Emma for all she has given to Southern Cross, the families and most importantly, the children throughout her time at our school. I know Emma will be a wonderful addition to the leadership team at Ngunnawal Primary School – they are very lucky. We will farewell Emma towards the end of the year.

## Academic Progress

I would like to provide an update of what our teachers have noticed over the past two weeks. The focused learning that has been happening at home has made a huge impact for our children. Our teachers have been working hard to make observations and engage children in informal assessments to gain a strong sense of where children are in their learning. This enables us to provide next steps for each child's learning to ensure we don't miss any opportunity to



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☎ Telephone (02) 6142 0020

✉ Email: [info@scecs.act.edu.au](mailto:info@scecs.act.edu.au)

🌐 Web: [www.scecs.act.edu.au](http://www.scecs.act.edu.au)

Southern Cross Early Childhood School acknowledges that our children learn on Ngunnawal Land.

support progress and growth. We have been blown away with the progress of so many of our children. Our teachers are busy collating this information in each child's report. Reports will be sent home in week 10 of this term.

## Staying Home if Unwell

We have been urged by the Education Directorate to remind families to please keep children at home if they are unwell and if they are showing any symptoms of COVID-19. These symptoms may include fever, coughing, sore throat, shortness of breath, blocked nose, headache, nausea, vomiting, fatigue and loss of sense of smell. We do appreciate your support and cooperation and are happy to talk on the phone if you would like to discuss this further.

## Pick Up & Drop Off Reminder

We appreciate that drop off and pick up may be taking a little longer than what it used to. Thanks for your patience as we continue to follow our ACT Health approved processes. With more schools in south Canberra being listed as exposure sites, we will continue to be 'tight' with our 'cohorting' or 'bubbles' as feedback from ACT Health has been positive with this approach.

**I would like to please remind everyone that adults are not enter the building unless it has been arranged prior to your visit.** If you are dropping off late or if you need to drop something to reception, please phone from your car and a staff member will come outside to meet you.

We know this is not usual, and it feels the opposite of welcoming. We are hopeful that this will only be for a short time and that next year things will ease, and we can welcome all of our families back onsite.

## End of Year Celebrations

We have been given the green light to go ahead with end of year events. This means that we will be able to go ahead with our year 2 graduation, the year 2 fun night and the end of year celebration event for the whole school, including Anglicare. The details for how these events occur may be different from past years as we ensure we continue to keep our community safe. Further information is to come, but for now please add these dates to your diaries:

**Year 2 Fun Night** – Thursday 9 December, 5:30-7:30pm

**Year 2 Graduation** – Monday 13 December, 2:00-3:00pm

**End of Year Celebration** – Tuesday 14 December, 5:00-7:30pm

Warm Regards

Kelly

# From Southern Cross

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## Drop Off and Pick Up Reminder

Drop off times are between **8:50-9:10am** and pick up times are between **2:50-3:05pm**.

In line with advice provided, we are asking that **no adult enter the school grounds** without an essential reason. If you believe your reason for being on school grounds is essential, please call reception on 6142 0020 to discuss with a staff member prior to your visit.

Southern Cross Early Childhood School will now has three drop off and pick up points for each of the following cohorts:

**Preschool:** One parent will drop off and collect their child from the **bike track gate**. Entry will be via the top, main carpark. Adults are not to enter the bike track area. Staff will be on hand to walk the preschool children to their main outdoor learning environment after saying goodbye.

**Kindergarten:** One parent will drop their kindergarten child to the **staff carpark gate on Wirraway Cres**. Staff be on hand to walk kindergarten children to the main outdoor learning area.

**Year 1/2:** One parent will drop their year 1/2 child to the **gates at the back of the school, near the oval**. Staff will be positioned near the bus stop at the back corner of the fence (near the Balance Challenge Circuit – see map). Staff can walk your child along the footpath to the gates near the oval if you would like to drop off on Wirraway Cres. Year 1/2 children will place their bag outside of the classroom and make their way to the treehouse to play with their peers.

**Late arrivals or early pick ups:** Please head to the **flagpole area at the top of the school** and call reception on 6142 0020. A staff member will come outside to meet you and either take your child to their class or collect your child from class and walk them out to meet you. Please note that these children will walk with a staff member around the outside of the school to get to their classroom. No students will be entering through the main doors.

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## Reading in Kindy at Southern Cross

During reader's workshop, Kindergarten are immersed in quality literature and a wide range of texts in each classroom. A typical reading session includes a read aloud with explicit instruction on reading strategies, letter sounds and patterns, high frequency words and comprehension skills. The children then move on to independent reading or partner reading. This is also the time when your child's teacher is working with a child or a small group for further instruction and goal setting. At the end of the session, the children reflect on their reading by sharing with others about the skills and strategies that they used.



## Safe parking behaviours

Unsafe driving and parking behaviours increase the potential road safety risk for children around schools. Road safety is a shared responsibility, it is important the road rules are followed near our school to ensure the entire school community feels safe.

Please remember children are more at risk than adults around schools because they are smaller and less visible to drivers. They are also less predictable and less experienced, which makes them more likely to make errors of judgement.

Failing to follow simple [road rules](#) like parking on the verge, in no stopping zones, in bus stops, near children's crossings, on footpaths or across driveways increases the risk to children around schools. Please do the right thing to create a safe environment around our school.



## Anglicare

The Summer School Holiday Program was emailed to Anglicare families today, please check your inbox. Bookings are essential and need to be received by Tuesday 16 November to secure your place. Places are limited so book early!

Anglicare Southern Cross will be closed for annual standdown from 6:00pm on Thursday 23 December until 7:30am on Wednesday 5 January 2022.

		Monday 20/12	Tuesday 21/12	Wednesday 22/12	Thursday 23/12	Friday 24/12
1		<b>Construction Day</b> Bring a big/small box and come to build our city by collaborating in teams and creating huge buildings.	<b>Christmas Story</b> Join us as we celebrate the Christmas Season by creating decorations and creating characters who are teaching us love, peace and forgiveness.	<b>Gingerbread Day</b> Will you be baking Gingerbread biscuits and creating gingerbread houses. Creating memorable moments about Gingerbread "Friend"	<b>End of Year Party</b> Join us as we celebrate a wonderful year! Today will be full of endless water fights, face painting, oasis expeditions and so much more! Don't forget to bring your swimmers, a towel and plenty of spare clothes.	<b>Centre Closed</b>  Centre closed for Christmas
		<b>Monday 3/01</b> Centre Closed for Christmas	<b>Tuesday 4/01</b> Centre Closed for Christmas	<b>Wednesday 5/01</b> <b>Little Scientists</b> Do you like explosions? Magic potions or transform objects? Today is the day you can explore and experiment through materials, ingredients and tools.	<b>Thursday 6/01</b> <b>Mulligans Flat Excursion</b> Jump on a bus with us and explore one of Australia's largest single Box-gum Grassy-woodland.  *This excursion will incur an additional fee	<b>Friday 7/01</b> <b>Water Games</b> Let's see whose team can win the challenges and come out dry in a day that water is our enemy!!! Don't forget to bring your swimmers, a towel and plenty of spare clothes.

Various activities are offered as an alternative for all programmed days. These include craft, construction, reading, music experiences, group games, and free learning experiences as well as water play the hot days, bring your swimmers and a towel. Please also bring your child's bike/scooter and helmet if they wish to go to the bike track that day.

# Summer School Holiday Program 2021

	Monday 10/01	Tuesday 11/01	Wednesday 12/01	Thursday 13/01	Friday 14/01
3	<p><u>Art Day</u></p> <p>Paint to express your thoughts, feelings and ideas or Join us today as we use cotton, wool, paper, glue, and scissors to create an art masterpiece.</p>	<p><u>Woodworking Hard</u></p> <p>Or hardly woodworking? Hammers, nails and saws are our tools of choice today as we try our hand at some carpentry. I wonder what you will create...</p>	<p><u>Water Games</u></p> <p>Let's see whose team can win the challenges and come out dry in a day that water is our enemy!!! Don't forget to bring your swimmers, a towel and plenty of spare clothes....</p>	<p><u>Icy Pole Creation Day</u></p> <p>This is the day that we treat ourselves with yummy fruity icy poles. Let's create our own flavour, colour and shape and enjoy ice and water play.</p>	<p><u>Crazy Hair and Body Painting day.</u></p> <p>Let's use our body as canvas and create the best body and face tattoos and finalise our trend with a crazy hair styling.</p>
	Monday 17/01	Tuesday 18/01	Wednesday 19/01	Thursday 20/01	Friday 21/01
4	<p><u>Movie Day</u></p> <p>Nuddya Cinema is open, and friends be prepared to take over roles and run this movie session as cinema owners.</p>	<p><u>The Splashing Circus Spectacular Incurion</u></p> <p>Enjoy us for a day that combines magical mayhem wacky water juggling, a walking talking life-size balloon, super soaker and balancing on a rope!! Plus much, much, much more.....</p> <p><small>*This excursion will incur an additional fee</small></p>	<p><u>Treat Day</u></p> <p>The day named by the children, for the children. On the menu today will be pancakes for breakfast, pizza for lunch and cookies for afternoon tea. Guess who's cooking?</p>	<p><u>Fairy Garden Discovery Walk</u></p> <p>Let's create our own fairy Garden and learn how plants are important for animal biodiversity.</p>	<p><u>Teacher for a Day</u></p> <p>Who runs the world? Children of course! Today art is on the agenda and the children are in charge. Watch as our space is transformed into a beautiful hall of creation and wonder...</p>

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# Summer School Holiday Program 2021

	Monday 24/01	Tuesday 25/01	Wednesday 26/01	Thursday 27/01	Friday 28/01
3	<p><u>Jurassic World</u></p> <p>This is a day which children will explore the dinosaur world, fossils, dinosaurs, coming up to explode our minds and transfer us to a different era!!!</p>	<p><u>Australia Camp Day</u></p> <p>Let's explore and enjoy a Day outdoors, with games, create spaces and cabin houses enjoying and exploring the natural environment</p>	<p><u>Public Holiday</u></p> <p>Centre closed for Australia Day</p>	<p><u>Rainbow Warriors</u></p> <p>Come to play in an obstacle course setting, get active with a number of fun drills, exercises and challenges, all completed under a rainbow cloud of colour.</p> <p><small>*This excursion will incur an additional fee</small></p>	<p><u>Pyjama Party Day</u></p> <p>Dance to express, not to impress! Put your pyjamas on and join us today as we dance along to all your favourite songs and tumble around on the gymnastics mats.</p>
Monday 31/01	<p><u>Explore Your Senses</u></p> <p>Get ready for a sensory day as you participate in different experiences with playdough, slime, water, paint, ice and more!!</p>				

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# P&C

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## Welcome back

We hope everyone is settling back into the school routine.

Just a short update from us this week to let you know about the next P&C meeting which will be held virtually, via Zoom, on Monday 22 November at 7pm. If you would like to attend and/or add an agenda item, please send us an email at [scecsbandc@gmail.com](mailto:scecsbandc@gmail.com).

Katherine and Patty  
Co-Presidents, SCECS P&C

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## Scholastic Bookclub

I am excited to let you know that **issue number 7** has been handed out.

Please order online and nominate **Southern Cross Early Childhood School** so the school receives points.

Every order placed earns points for the school to purchase valuable resources.

Orders will be wrapped in white paper, so they can (hopefully) remain a surprise and be sent home in your child's schoolbag.

Orders due by  
Thursday 18 November

Kind regards,  
Jasja van den Bos  
Your Book Club coordinator



# Community Information

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## ACT Community Services

The ACT Women's Return to Work (RTW) Grants Program supports women who have been out of the workforce for an extended period onto pathways to employment. Successful applicants can access a \$1,000 grant which can be used for a range of activities and resources including:

- education and training fees;
- educational expenses like textbooks computers/software and transport to courses/study; or
- work-related expenses like clothing, uniforms and equipment, and childcare.



[Click here to find out more about the Return to Work Grant](#) and apply online!

## Free Workshops for Women Returning to Work

### Are you a mature aged woman seeking employment?

The Women 50+ - Reclaiming your Mojo workshop is for older women, with a focus on supporting women to recognise, and have confidence in, re-marketing their skills and recognising their transferable skills. The workshops will run once a week, over four weeks and will also include a post workshop catch up and one-on-one mentoring sessions as a follow up to the workshops. Starting February 2022.

### Have you thought about starting your own business but don't know where to start?

The Exploring Pathways and Relationships to Self-Employment workshops, will cover the knowledge and steps required to register and maintain a small business, as well as develop relationship and networking skills. These workshops will run once a week for three weeks. Starting early 2022.

To register for the workshops or if you have a question about the Return to Work Program, contact:

**Phone:** 6205 2885 (Women's Return to Work Grants Coordinator)

**Email:** [RTW@act.gov.au](mailto:RTW@act.gov.au)

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## Another Chance Op Shop - Scullin



Another Chance op shop, Ross Smith Cres, Scullin shops will have 50% off the entire store from Friday 12 – Saturday 20 November. Eight days of great deals, with new stock on display daily. Choose from clothing, books, kitchenware, toys, linen and much, much more. Another Chance is truly a hidden gem with lots of bargains to be found.

Plan to visit us, especially during our post Covid sale. Open 10am – 4:30pm weekdays and 10am – 1pm Saturday.