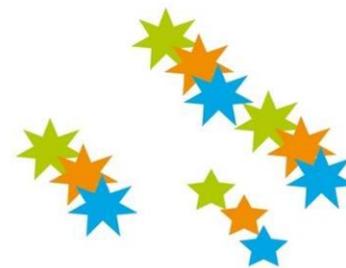


Southern Cross Early Childhood School



Newsletter 1 | Monday 7 February 2022

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 7 February – Friday 11 February
Getting to Know You online meetings

Monday 14 February | 6.30-7.30
P&C AGM

Monday 14 February | 7.30-8.30
P&C General Meeting

Southern Cross Early Childhood School

Principal: Kelly Booker

Deputy Principal: Liz Marman

Executive Teacher: Emily Hartley

Community Coordinator: Sharon Craft

Business Manager: Emma Muffet

Office Administrator: Nicole Emerton

Anglicare at Southern Cross

Director: Erin Uphill

Assistant Director: Renée Buchanan

Educational Leader: Mel Marshall

Educational Leader: Amy Burrell

Centre Administrator: Rosie Chant

Dear families and friends

Welcome to term 1 2022! What a wonderful week the children and staff had as they settled into new routines and formed new relationships. I would like to thank all of our community for your flexibility as we have navigated new drop off and pick up routines and processes. Children have already started learning and it was such a joy to see the excitement and engagement over the past week.

I would like to congratulate all of our preschool children, families and staff. It has been such an amazing week of learning new routines, exploring the preschool environment and of course saying goodbye to family members. The children have all been so brave and have all had an exciting and energetic start to their preschool year. We welcome feedback on our transition, orientation and first day processes. If you would like to provide any feedback or suggestions, please talk to your child's teacher, Liz or myself.

Getting to Know You Family-Educator Meetings

You should have all received an email from Nicole asking you to schedule an **online meeting** with your child's teacher. Working in

partnership with you is something we highly value. You know your child best and it is important for us to gather that information early in the year to support us in our role as your child's teacher. If you haven't yet booked in, please follow the link in your emails or email Nicole at reception who can help nicole.emerton@ed.act.edu.au.

COVID-19 Update

Thanks to everyone for your patience and cooperation when following our current COVID safe processes that have been approved by the ACT Education Directorate and ACT Health. We know this is a challenging time for us all and we



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

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

ask that you please continue to keep your children at home if they develop any symptoms consistent with COVID-19. We will continue to follow advice from ACT Health to keep our community safe and I will continue to email you in a timely manner with relevant information.

Please contact us immediately if your child (who attends Southern Cross) returns a positive result – even on the weekend. I would like to ask that when you email or call to let us know about a COVID-19 positive case, to please provide the following information that will enable us to quickly assess the situation and provide the relevant details to the ACT Education Directorate's COVID Response team:

- Date of positive notification
- Type of test taken (PCR or RAT)
- When symptoms first developed
- Last day the child was at school

Rapid-Antigen Tests (RATs)

RATs are being provided to all teachers and school-based staff. This helps to identify cases as early as possible. The use of RATs is recommended for students and staff, and early childhood education and care staff, twice weekly at home before school or childcare or when symptomatic. Testing is voluntary.

Please note that the ACT Education Directorate has updated their processes on how RATs can be delivered to children/families. **Southern Cross Early Childhood School will now be distributing RATs directly to children's bags unless families advise us that they do not wish for this to happen.** Each child will receive two tests for the week's supply which need to be stored below 30 degrees. Tests will be provided to children prior to the end of the school day and students will be encouraged to keep these in a safe place, such as their school bag.

Southern Cross will be distributing RATs on Monday 7 February for the week 2 supply.

Please note: Messaging from the ACT Education Directorate is if your child does not attend school for the week, they will not be given a supply of RATs for that week.

Thanks for your continued support.

Mould Update

Anglicare are back open as of today! We have relocated Gula, Buru and Munjawari whilst cleaning, further testing and new carpet is laid. We are expecting this process to last up to 3 weeks before we can move back into the safe spaces. I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and understanding as we have relocated 4 Southern Cross classes and 3 Anglicare groups across the school.

Update from the ACT Education Directorate:

Following recent high humidity and heavy rains, the carpet in two of Anglicare's childcare developed patches of mould. We believe this occurred after the carpet was shampooed, and humidity significantly prolonged drying times. As live mould is a hazardous substance, ACT Work Health and Safety regulations are being followed.

The carpet has been removed from three rooms, and a specialist cleaner was booked to clean over the weekend. Once cleaning is complete, test samples will go to the lab, a process which will take up to a week to complete prior to laying new carpet. We expect the rooms will be ready towards the end of February.

I would like to thank both the Southern Cross staff and the Anglicare staff, particularly the staff who have been impacted by the relocations. We will continue to work as a community to ensure learning programs continue for all children at Southern Cross Early Childhood School.

Stay safe and well,
Kelly

From Southern Cross

Ngunnawal Class Names

Group/Teacher	Ngunnawal	English	Pronunciation
ANGLICARE			
Nursery	Gula	Koala	Gu-ala
Toddlers	Buru	Kangaroo	Bu-ru
Preschool	Munjawari	Bandicoot	Mun-ja-wari
Nature Preschool	Walga	Eagle	Wal-ga
BSC/ASC	Nuddya	Bat	Nudd-ya
PRESCHOOL			
Bec M/T/W	Guginya	Kookaburra	Gu-gin-ya
Sophie M/T/W	Wamburrang	Black Cockatoo	Wam-burr-an
Bianca W/T/F	Bunduluk	Rosella	Bun-da-luk
Kellie W/T/F	Dnnawan	Emu	Dinn-a-won
KINDERGARTEN			
Chloe	Dyurra	Stars	Doo-ra
Candy & Emily	Kabbadang	Moon	Kabb-a-dan
Sarah & Sharron	Winyu	Sun	Win-yu
YEAR 1/2			
Dee	Dyirrigurat	Frog	Dirri-gu-rat
Emily	Gudamang	Turtle	Gud-a-man
Johnathan	Ghaddi	Snake	Gar-de
Belinda	Wirria	Goanna	Wirr-ia

Southern Cross Communication Avenues

Newsletters are produced every fortnight with information about what is happening in the School. You can access up to date information on the Southern Cross Early Childhood School **website** or **Facebook page**. We use email as our primary form of communication. Please let Reception know if you require an alternative method of communication.

Seesaw is a digital portfolio which your child's teacher will add to throughout each term. We hope that the use of Seesaw will enhance the connection between home and school and allow families to have a greater understanding of the learning that is taking place in the classroom. Educators will be able to post work samples, photos, videos and

voice recordings of your child and the group and you will be able to view and make comment on these. Information posted by or about your child is accessible by you only unless they have worked in collaboration with other children. This is a forum for positive feedback and will be closely monitored by the teachers and members of the leadership team.

Getting to Know You meetings for all families are held at the commencement of the school year. Online meetings will commence this week.

Communication avenues throughout the year include:

- Family and Educator meetings, end of semester 1
- Written reports, end of semester 1
- Learning Journeys in Term 3
- Written reports, end of semester 2
- Family meetings at educator request

How to Notify the School of Your Child's Absence

If your child is away from school you will receive an SMS to let you know your child has been recorded as absent. We will endeavour to send this message by 10.30am every day. This will reassure you of your child's arrival at school and make it easier for you to keep your child's attendance record up to date when they are absent.

Simply reply via SMS, with your child's name and the reason for your child's absence, your reply will be saved directly onto your child's attendance record. If you do not reply, your child's absence will be recorded as 'unexplained'.

- For **unexpected absences**, responding to the SMS will notify the school and be placed directly onto your child's attendance record.
- For **late arrival**, you may still receive an SMS in the morning, please sign in at reception and your child's attendance record will be updated to a partial attendance for that day.
- For **planned absences**, we would still appreciate advanced notice of your child's absence.

Anglicare

Lunch orders

Place your lunch orders online with Flexischools



Flexischools is a well-established organisation allowing you to easily place all your canteen orders online at any time.

Download the Flexischools app from the App store or Google Play for details on how to set up your account.

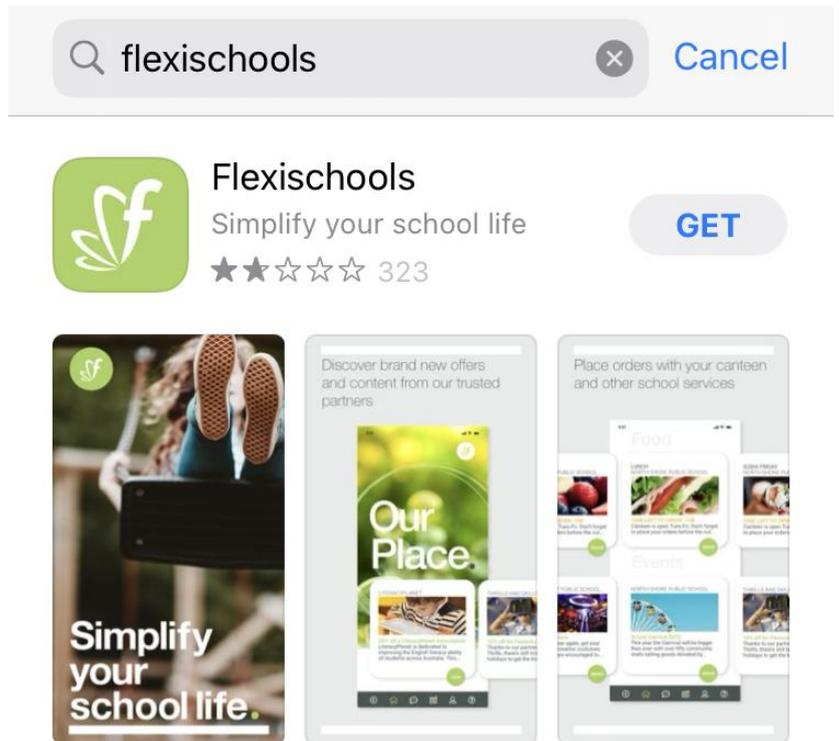
Once registered, you can start placing orders immediately. If you have any questions, please visit our FAQs

<https://community.flexischools.com.au/s/>.

We hope this step forward will support families with a more convenient and efficient process of placing lunch orders.

Flexischool orders are preferred to be placed in advance, late orders can be made on the morning before 9:30am. Please note any allergies/intolerances when placing order.

We will still be accepting cash orders at this time to be placed in an envelope at reception.



The image shows a search bar with the text 'flexischools' and a 'Cancel' button. Below it is the app card for 'Flexischools' with a green logo, the tagline 'Simplify your school life', a 3.5-star rating, and 323 reviews. There is a 'GET' button. Below the app card are three preview images: one showing a person holding a laptop with the text 'Simplify your school life.', another showing a mobile app interface with 'Our Place' and 'Discover brand new offers and content from our trusted partners', and a third showing a mobile app interface with 'Place orders with your canteen and other school services' and 'Food' and 'Events' sections.

Southern Cross P&C

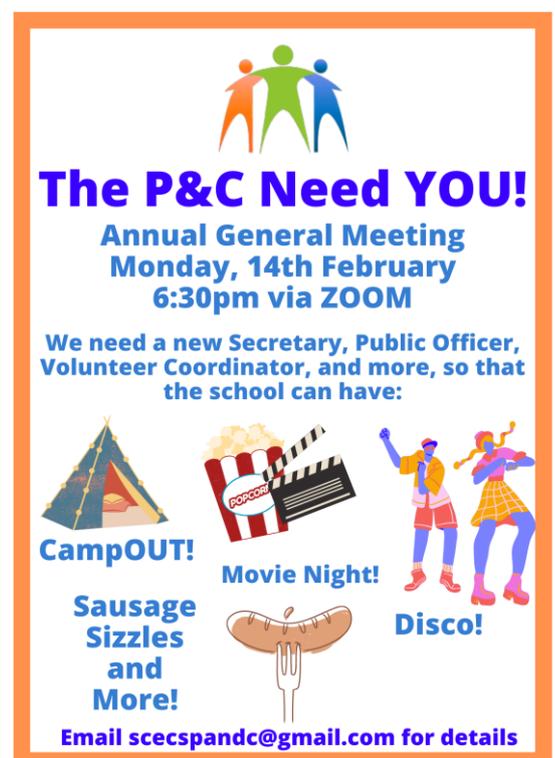
Hi Southern Cross families,

Welcome back to existing families, and welcome to those families joining Southern Cross for their first term! We hope you all managed to have a wonderful and restful break after an eventful 2021. We are excited for another fun year ahead and hope to be able to return to normal and hold some of the usual fun events this year.

Upcoming AGM and P&C Meeting- come and join the P&C!

Are you interested in joining the P&C? New committee members will be appointed at our AGM, to be held on **Monday 14th February (week 3) 6:30 - 7:30pm**, followed by our usual **P&C meeting 7:30-8:30**. These meetings will be held **via Zoom** - kids often make a guest appearance so no need to worry about zoom etiquette. Please email our Secretary, Kellyanne: scecspondc.secretary@gmail.com if you would like to attend. **Positions available** include Secretary, Public Officer, Fundraising Coordinator, School Clothing Coordinator and more. If you would like more information about the positions available, please email scecspondc@gmail.com.

Southern Cross is a wonderful school, with an active P&C! Joining the



The poster features a logo of three stylized figures in orange, green, and blue. The main text reads 'The P&C Need YOU!' in large blue letters, followed by 'Annual General Meeting Monday, 14th February 6:30pm via ZOOM'. Below this, it says 'We need a new Secretary, Public Officer, Volunteer Coordinator, and more, so that the school can have:'. There are three illustrations: a tent for 'CampOUT!', a popcorn bucket and clapperboard for 'Movie Night!', and two people dancing for 'Disco!'. At the bottom, it says 'Sausage Sizzles and More!' with an illustration of a sausage on a fork. The contact information is 'Email scecspondc@gmail.com for details'.

P&C is a great way to be involved in organising fun events like CampOUT and Movie Night, meeting other families and school staff, and having your say in how you would like the school to operate. This year there is also the exciting opportunity to be involved in implementing the \$20,000 grant for improving parent engagement (further details below - join our Action Team)! Note that we have existing P&C members who have done these roles before and will be available for a handover and guidance along the way - you won't be on your own! If you don't want a formal role - please come along anyway as we would love to see more parents and carers at meetings. You don't have to be a P&C committee member to attend meetings, everyone is welcome! There are two meetings each term in week 3 and week 8 (the meeting in week 8 is usually held at a local restaurant for a night out, kid-free)! Meetings are very informal and a great chance to catch up.

Supporting Parent Engagement Grant - join our Action Team!!

Last year we were successful in securing a \$20,000 Supporting Parent Engagement Grant from the ACT Government. Our project aims to enhance school spaces and grow parent engagement through implementation of key priorities



Join our Action Team!

LAST YEAR WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN BEING AWARDED A \$20,000 SUPPORTING PARENT ENGAGEMENT GRANT!

WE ARE NOW LOOKING TO ESTABLISH AN ACTION TEAM TO IMPLEMENT OUR PROJECT. THE PROJECT AIMS TO ENHANCE PARENT ENGAGEMENT THROUGH IMPROVING DIFFERENT FEATURES OF PHYSICAL, IMAGINATIVE AND OPEN ENDED PLAY IDENTIFIED FOR THE PRESCHOOL COURTYARD AND EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AREAS OF THE SCHOOL.

PLEASE EMAIL US IF YOU ARE INTERESTED
SCECSPANDC@GMAIL.COM

from the Southern Cross Master Plan, available to view at - https://www.scecs.act.edu.au/our_curriculum/outside_learning_environment.

This will involve developing parent engagement communications tools and encouraging parent participation in working bees to upgrade our school outdoor and courtyard spaces. Our first step is to pull together an Action Team. This will be a great way to be involved in meeting school staff and other families and make our beautiful outdoor learning environment even better. In the next

phase of the Masterplan there is an opportunity to focus on the different features for physical, imaginative and open ended play identified for the preschool courtyard and Eastern and Southern areas of the school where our preschool and Anglicare are located. Focusing on improvements and upgrades to these areas provide an opportunity to build early engagement of parents and carers new to the school. As such, we are particularly interested in having preschool families involved in our Action Team. However, existing Southern Cross families will also provide valuable insight into what their children have loved about our outdoor space and what they consider are the most effective ways to engage with families. If you would like to be involved in the Action Team or have any questions, please email us at scecsbandc@gmail.com.

CampOUT 2022

The usual event held for Term 1 is CampOUT, our annual sleepover on the school grounds. It was probably our favourite event last year! We are holding out hope that we may still be able to host CampOUT in week 9, however we will wait and receive advice from ACT Health and the Education Directorate about whether these types of events are able to proceed later in the term. Watch this space and cross your fingers.

2021 Fundraising Tea Towels

Sales for last year's tea towels are still open. Please **order by Monday 28 February** on the Sustainable Schools Website at <https://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/southern-cross-early-childhood-school/custom->

[store/scecsteatls](https://www.sustainable-schools.com.au/store/scecsteatls) (cash sales can also be arranged if required- please email us at scecspandc@gmail.com). The design features self-portraits drawn by SCECS children and a collaborative image drawn by children from Anglicare. New families are also welcome to purchase the tea towels, with all profits supporting the P&C and events held throughout the year. Any questions? Please contact us.

- Single: \$12.50
- 2 Pack: \$25.00
- 3 Pack: \$30.00
- 4 Pack: \$40.00
- 5 Pack:\$50.00

Southern Cross P&C Tea Towel Fundraiser!

A great memento for 2021 students!

Our 2021 tea towel features self-portraits from students in Preschool to Year 2 and a special design from our little friends at Anglicare!

The tea towels are 100% cotton and will be ink screen printed onto a white background.

All profits from the tea towels help support the P&C fundraising and our community activities! Please support us by purchasing this unique memento of your child's year at Southern Cross.

The tea towels are \$12.50 each, OR, if you buy three or more, they are \$10 each. We have ordered a limited amount. First come, first served! Please note that the tea towels will be delivered in 2022 due to the lockdown. For Year 2s, we will organise delivery for you!



Just like this one but all new for 2021!

Order online at:

<https://www.sustainable-schools.com.au/southern-cross-early-childhood-school/uniform-store>

OR CASH TO RECEPTION:

1 for \$12.50 2 for \$25 3 for \$30 4 for \$40 5 for \$50 Other number of tea towels

Name:

Child's Name: Child's Class:

Send us your ideas and feedback

Lastly, we are always keen to hear about how we can improve the P&C, better engage with families, and hold fun events! We are particularly keen to hear about ideas for covid-friendly events. Our hope is that we can resume all of the awesome events we usually hold each year, but in the event that some aren't able to go ahead, it would be great to find suitable alternatives! Feel free to email us at any time: scecspandc@gmail.com.

All the best for Term 1!

Katherine and Patty
Southern Cross P&C Co-Presidents

Community Information

Safe Parking at School

Parking Operations use a [Licence Plate Recognition vehicle](#) (or electronic chalking), which regularly patrols school environments to increase safety for children. Motorists that commit an offence will receive their infringement notice in the mail (rather than on their windscreen) 5-7 days after the offence.

While the school can become congested during the peak times, illegal parking should be avoided at all times as it creates an unsafe environment for children and local residents. Parents are welcome to park on side streets around the school, but please remember to park legally. Infringements for parking on nature strips, footpaths, verges, street corners and near children's crossings start from \$114.

More information is available on the

[Transport Canberra](#) website to promote safe behaviours around schools. Please help to make our school community safe.



ACT Nutrition Support Service

Be a savvy shopper

Grocery shopping can be challenging. Choosing the right foods, staying on budget and then making the most of your pantry and fridge are issues for most people. Here are our easy steps for planning and using your groceries.

Before you go shopping

- Check what you have in your pantry, fridge and freezer.
- Write a shopping list for ingredients you will need for the week.
- Plan to use fruits and vegetables that are in season.



In the supermarket

- Stick to what is on your shopping list.
- Avoid going shopping when you're hungry as you will be more likely to buy foods you don't need.

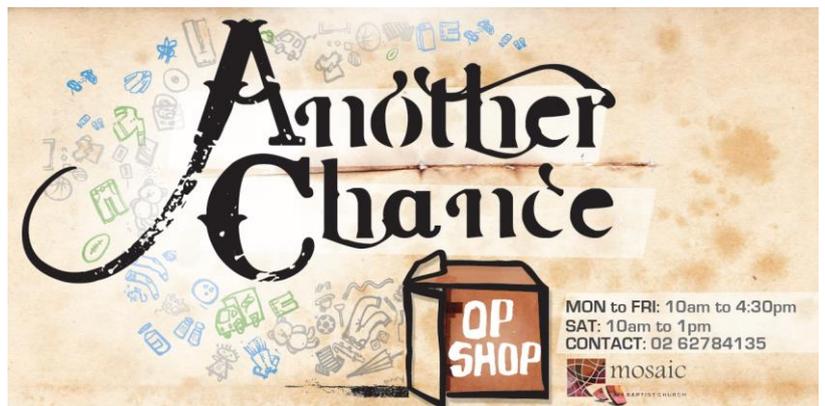
- Look for bulk buys and specials, but be sure you have the space and appropriate facilities to store them safely. Good examples include larger packets of grain foods or canned foods that have a long shelf life.
- Include frozen or canned fruits and vegetables, they are often just as nutritious as fresh options.
- Legumes are a cheap source of protein, add them to your meat recipes to lower the cost and boost the fibre in your meal.
- Look for recipes that use cheaper cuts of meat such as slow cook meals with lots of vegetables.
- Buy in-season fruit and veg – look for those that are plentiful as a hint.
- ‘No name’ brands are often cheaper.
- Compare the price per kilogram, not per serve.

In the kitchen

- Cook double batches and freeze leftovers for another meal during the week.
- Use up any vegetables at the end of the week by making up a batch of soup, stew or stir fry.

Another Chance Op Shop

Another Chance op shop, Ross Smith Cres, Scullin shops will have 50% off the entire store from Friday 4 – Saturday 12 February. 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.



Open 10am – 4:30pm weekdays and 10am – 1pm Saturday. Like our Facebook page for more information.