

# SOUTHERN CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

NEWSLETTER 2 | MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2023

Dear families and friends

Welcome to week 4 everyone! Thank you to everyone for coming along to the Welcome Picnic on 8 February. It was lovely to see our families connecting and the children playing together. Thanks also to our families for attending our family-educator meetings to support the 'getting to know you' process. Our teachers and support staff have truly done an amazing job in connecting with children in classrooms and setting up the learning expectations for the year. Classes are settled and there is lots of rich learning happening. Massive thanks to our staff for all they have done to ensure this great start to the year.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT – COLA

Our wonderful Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) is now complete! What a great area for our children to engage in PE with their class, play at break times and to escape the sun (or rain). I would like to sincerely thank the ACT Education Directorate for their engagement with this project. Without their support, we wouldn't have been able to build this structure in the same timeframe.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT – TREEHOUSE

Unfortunately in a playground inspection last week, it was noted that our beautiful Treehouse is unsafe due to an inhabitation of tree borers. Emma and Jose have been working with a company to come and remove some of the top parts of the Treehouse and to gauge how far down the damage goes. We are hopeful that we caught it quickly and plan to rectify the damage as soon as possible. We are also engaging the same company to complete restorations on our Balance Challenge.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 20 February – Friday 24

February

BASE testing for kindergarten students

Monday 13 March

CANBERRA DAY

Public Holiday

Friday 31 March – Saturday 1 April

CampOUT!

Thursday 6 April

Last day Term 1

Monday 24 April

Term 2 Commences

Tuesday 25 April

ANZAC DAY

Public Holiday

Southern Cross Early Childhood School

Wirraway Crescent Scullin | ACT | 2614

☎ 02 6142 0020

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

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



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

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## OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT – MASTERPLAN

It is time to consider our Outdoor Learning Masterplan to celebrate all that we have been able to achieve and to gain community perspective on some ideas for the next instalment of our Outdoor Learning Environment. If you would be interested in chatting with Kelly and Nicole and taking a look at the initial Outdoor Learning Environment Masterplan, please come along to the Family Hub (near the Library) on Friday 3 March at 9:15am.

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## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Public schools in the ACT use a five-year **School Improvement Plan** to ensure improved student learning outcomes for all children. Our two key priorities are:

- Improve literacy growth for all learners.
- Improve numeracy growth for all learners.

Principals and leadership teams also write an **Action Plan** each year that details the actions that schools engage in to ensure improved student learning outcomes. At the end of each year, Principals write an **Impact Report** that demonstrates improvement towards achieving the goals in the five-year Improvement Plan. Our Impact Report will be up on our school website soon, once it is approved by the Education Directorate. I would encourage you all to take a look at our wonderful results! In the meantime, I would like to share some of our improved learning data with you:

**BASE Kindergarten Data – Reading-** In Kindergarten, the number of children who made expected or above expected growth was 84% in 2022. This is a significant increase from 2018.

**BASE Kindergarten Data – Numeracy-** In Kindergarten, the number of children who made expected or above expected growth was 91% in 2022. Again, this is a significant increase from 2018.

We are so proud of all our learners, and I am so proud of all our staff and the achievements they have made.

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## SCHOOL REVIEW

A part of the School Improvement agenda is to engage in a School Review process following a five-year School Improvement Plan. Southern Cross Early Childhood School will go through a review process in week 8 term 1 this year.

A School Review panel, made up of one ACER representative and two ACT Education Directorate Principals, will be here at our school for the formal review process. The panel will read documentation prepared by our school leadership team, talk to children, staff and families, and will then provide us with commendations and recommendations that will inform our next five-year School Improvement Plan.

We are excited for the rich, strategic feedback that we will gain from this experience and look forward to working with the panel to establish our next five-year Improvement Plan.

Have a lovely week,

Kelly

# FROM SOUTHERN CROSS

## ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS

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'.

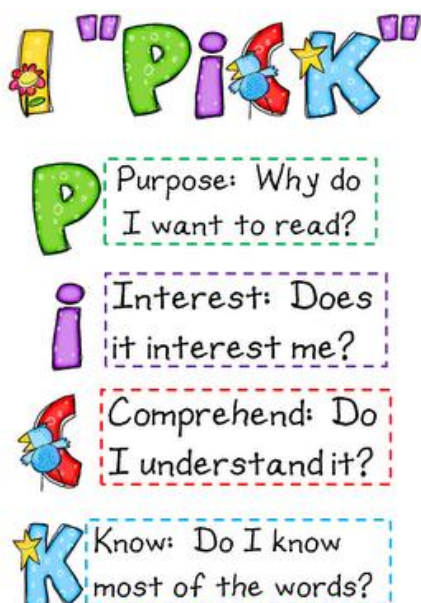
- For **unexpected absences**, responding to the SMS will notify the school and be placed directly onto your child's attendance record.
- For **late arrival**, you may still receive an SMS in the morning, please sign in at reception and your child's attendance record will be updated to a partial attendance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

## READING IN YEAR 1/2

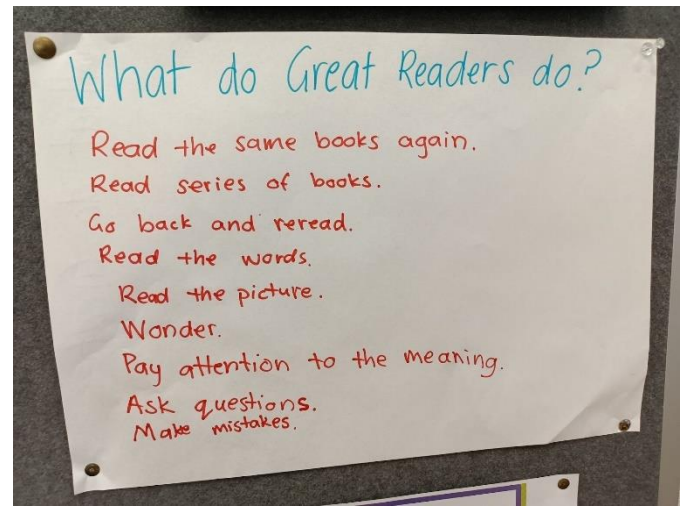
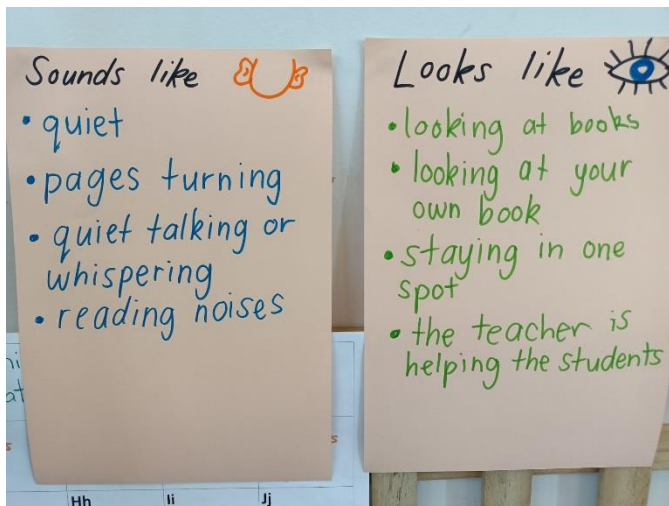
Across year one and two, children have engaged in setting up class expectations for Reader's Workshop. They have been working on how to choose a good fit book.

This includes:

- How to choose a good fit book. The IPICK and 5 finger rule examples support us with this.
- Identifying what it looks like, and sounds like to be a good reader.







Children have discussed what good readers do and strategies that can be used to help when reading.

There has been a daily focus on increasing our reading stamina. Daily practise has already seen our classes increase from 30 seconds to over 5 minutes of uninterrupted, dedicated reading. Our goal is reach 20 minutes of independent reading.

Help us reach this goal by practising these things at home too!



# 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
Belinda W/T/F	Bunduluk	Rosella	Bun-da-luk
Bianca W/T/F	Dnnawan	Emu	Dinn-a-won
KINDERGARTEN			
Chloe	Dyurra	Stars	Doo-ra
Candy & Anne-Maree	Kabbadang	Moon	Kabb-a-dan
Sarah & Sharron	Winyu	Sun	Win-yu
YEAR 1/2			
Stephanie	Dyirrigurat	Frog	Dirri-gu-rat
Katrina	Gudamang	Turtle	Gud-a-man
Alys	Ghaddi	Snake	Gar-de
Hayley & Johnathan	Wirria	Goanna	Wirr-ia

# FROM ANGLICARE

## BRIGHT STAR CAFE

The Bright Star Café is now taking lunch orders for children attending Southern Cross Early Childhood School. Lunch orders can be placed using the Flexischools App or paying in cash at reception. Lunch orders consist of a hot meal and a piece of fruit at a cost of \$6.00. The four-week rotating menu has been created using national nutrition guidelines with a multicultural and seasonal perspective. The menu is updated on the school website each term and can be found here [https://www.scecs.act.edu.au/our\\_school/bright\\_star\\_cafe](https://www.scecs.act.edu.au/our_school/bright_star_cafe)

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/>.

Flexischools orders can be placed in advance, or orders can be made on the morning before 9:30am. Please note any allergies/intolerances when placing order.



## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Information for the Autumn School Holiday Program will be available in week 6 of the school term. The program will be included in this newsletter and sent home along with the booking form via email.

# FROM THE SOUTHERN CROSS P&C

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW COMMITTEE

President: Cris Wright

Vice president: Dale Gruber

Secretary: Kathryn Di Nicola

Treasurer: Chantelle Dusting

Second hand uniform coordinator: Birgit Lonergan

P&C Rep and public officer: Frances Stewart



We welcome everyone to the committee and wish them all the best for the year ahead.



## SECOND HAND CLOTHING

Thanks to the generosity of our community our second-hand clothing pool is bursting!

### SECOND HAND CLOTHING STALLS – 8:45AM - 9:15AM

- Thursday 23 February in the Family Hub (School Library)
- Wednesday 1 March near Preschool classrooms

While we have clothing in all sizes, we have an abundance of size 4 clothing so if you want some spare clothes for your preschool or kindergarten children, we encourage you to swing past! We take both cash and electronic payments.

If you have donations for the second-hand clothing pool, we'll be accepting those as well.



## CAMPOUT! SAVE THE DATE!

We are so excited to be able to hold CampOUT at the school this Term! This was last held in 2021 and 2019.

CampOUT is a fun family event where SCECS families get to stay overnight in tents in the school grounds! We have campfires, marshmallows, story time and scavenger hunts- topped off with a BBQ Breakfast provided by the P&C.

**5.00pm Friday 31 March – 10.00am Saturday 1 April 2023**



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## ACT CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

### CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICE REFERRAL INFORMATION

The ACT Government's Child Development Service assists families who live in the ACT and have concerns about their 0-6-year-old child's development. This may include concerns about a child developing skills slower than others of the same age in areas such as, speech and language, movement, hand skills, self-care, and social development. Parents and guardians can refer their child to the Child Development Service. With parent/ guardian permission, others may make a referral, including early childhood educators, teachers, GPs, nurses, paediatricians and case workers.



Concern - Children 0-6 years	Referral pathway	Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speech (sounds)</li><li>• Language (understanding and speaking)</li><li>• Fluency</li><li>• Social communication</li></ul>	Speech Pathology Drop In Clinic	For a copy of the Drop In Clinic Timetable Visit: <a href="https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice">https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice</a> Call Intake: 6207 8884
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feeding / eating concerns</li></ul>	Online referral Form Email Phone call	<a href="https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice">https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice</a> child.development@act.gov.au Intake: 6207 8884
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General/lower limb posture concerns</li><li>• Gross motor development</li><li>• Clumsiness</li><li>• Difficulties with catching, throwing, kicking balls</li></ul>	Physiotherapy Drop In Clinic	For a copy of the Drop In Clinic Timetable Visit: <a href="https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice">https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice</a> Call Intake: 6207 8884
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hand skills (excluding Handwriting)</li><li>• Self-care concerns</li><li>• Sensory concerns impacting on participating in activities of daily living</li><li>• Play skills</li></ul>	Occupational Therapy Drop In Clinic	For a copy of the Drop In Clinic Timetable Visit: <a href="https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice">https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice</a> Call Intake: 6207 8884

**26 Weingarth St** Holder ACT 2611 Phone: (02) 6205 1277 Email: Child.Development@act.gov.au Email:

Child.Development@act.gov.au



**WESTS**  
*Juniors*

# COME AND TRY RUGBY DAY

**Friday 24 Feb**

**5pm - 7pm**

**Weetangera  
Playing Fields**

- Bring the family
- Meet coaches
- Learn skills
- Free sausage
- Free drink
- Have fun!



**Western District  
Junior Rugby Union**