

SOUTHERN CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

NEWSLETTER 7 | TUESDAY 30 MAY 2023

Dear families and friends

Welcome to week 6 everyone and welcome to the lovely cold winter days that Canberra offers. As we move into winter, please ensure your child brings a coat or wears layers to keep them warm. We welcome beanies underneath broad brimmed hats if your child needs extra warmth.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

This week the children will be working with their teachers to define reconciliation and to reflect on our history, cultures, and achievements. The theme of the 2023 National Reconciliation Week is **Be a Voice for Generations**. This theme urges all Australians to use their power, their words, and their actions to create a better, more just Australia for all of us.

Teachers will be reading picture books, engaging children in discussions and actioning actions in our school community for our shared future together. On Thursday 1 June, our school community will be gathering at 12pm for a smoking ceremony led by Duncan Smith with stories and singing by the Southern Cross children. We have all been invited to wear yellow on this day of reflection and action. All of our community members are welcome to join us for this gathering.

OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Year 1/2 Awning – Our new lovely awning outside of the year 1/2 classrooms has now been completed! I would like to thank ACT Building & Maintenance Pty Ltd and also Varo from the ACT Education Directorate for a smooth and very quick build to ensure minimal disruption for the children and their learning. This space helps protect belongings from the weather and will

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 1 June | 12.00
Reconciliation Gathering
& Smoking Ceremony

Friday 5 June
P&C Meeting - online

Wednesday 7 June | 12.00-1.30
Christian Education in Schools

Friday 16 June | 6.15-8.00
P&C Movie Night - Robots

Wednesday 28 June | 9.15-10.00
Whole School Gathering

Thursday 29 June & Friday 30 June
Kindergarten Health Checks

Friday 30 June
Last day of Term 2

Southern Cross Early Childhood School
Wirraway Crescent Scullin | ACT | 2614

☎ 02 6142 0020

🌐 www.scecs.act.edu.au

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



ACT
Government
Education

be used as an extension of the classroom.

Reconciliation Courtyard – In the near future there will be works occurring in the Reconciliation Courtyard. The school has committed to some simple landscaping and the ACT Education Directorate is supporting us to explore a Covered Outdoor Learning Area (shade structure) in the area also. This work will support all classes, including preschool, to be able to use this as a breakout space to support learning. We will keep you all updated with the progress.

Slide Mountain – The ACT Education Directorate have been working with Kelly and Emma to ensure we complete repairs to Slide Mountain that will be safe and also will prevent this play space requiring extensive repairs in the future. Work should be starting on this very soon with a small period of time where we will need to close off a section of the preschool play space. We will keep you updated as we progress this work.

Treehouse – Kelly and Emma continue to work with the ACT Education Directorate to establish a plan to repair damage to the treehouse due to extensive rain and tree borers. We will keep you updated as this work progresses.

Have a lovely week,

Kelly

FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

COVID SMART REMINDER

As you may be aware, there has been an increase in COVID-19 cases across ACT public schools in recent weeks.

To help stop the further spread of COVID-19 in our school, we are encouraging and implementing the following measures:

- Students who are COVID-19 positive or displaying symptoms (including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, fever) should test and must not attend school while unwell.
- Parents and carers must inform schools if their child is COVID-positive.
- Keep up to date with vaccinations.
- Families can access a free rapid antigen test from the front office of their school. Test when symptomatic or as a precaution.
- Practise good hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Distance where possible.



For the latest COVID-19 advice please visit the ACT's COVID-19 website.

STRANGER AWARENESS SAFETY

This is a reminder to ensure your children and young people understand the importance of stranger awareness safety and information has been included on how to report an incident.

Please support us to keep our children safe by having conversations about moving safely around the community. You may wish to visit the Australian Federal Police website section on [Child Safety](#) for tips. In addition, the [Safety4Kids](#) is a non-government website that has useful information and links. The [Constable Kenny website](#) also has several tips for parents of younger children.

If you become aware of an incident or notice anyone acting suspiciously around a school or student, contact police immediately on 131 444 or in the case of an emergency call 000. If you witness an incident or if you have any information that could assist police, contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Information can be provided anonymously. We would also ask that you notify the school so we can also support the wider school community to be aware of incidents.

FROM SOUTHERN CROSS

RECONCILIATION GATHERING AND SMOKING CEREMONY LED BY DUNCAN WIRADJURI ELDER.

This Reconciliation Gathering will be led by our Year 2 Leaders in the spirit of storytelling and friendship.

Thursday 1 June at 12.00pm

We will be gathering under trees in our Community Gathering Space (corner of Wirraway and Ross Smith Crescents),

- Smoking Ceremony led by Duncan Smith
- Story telling led by Year 2 and Sing along - "From little things, big things grow". [Paul Kelly - From Little Things Big Things Grow - YouTube](#)
- Reconciliation Walk - Families are invited to walk alongside us, as we share stories, advocate for and grow our understanding of reconciliation.



We will repeat this event on Tuesday 6 June for Guginya and Wamburrang – with the support of Year 2 Leaders (sadly no smoking ceremony) the reconciliation walk for Pre-schoolers will be on the inside of the school gates.

Thursday 1 June and Tuesday 6 June – Community are invited to wear **yellow** as we advocate for First Nations Educators [Wear it Yellow](#).



TERM 2 IN KINDERGARTEN

This term kindergarten has been working incredibly hard developing their reading, writing and maths skills and it has been great to see everyone having a go and supporting each other.



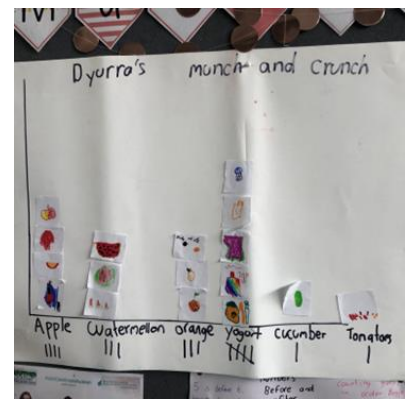
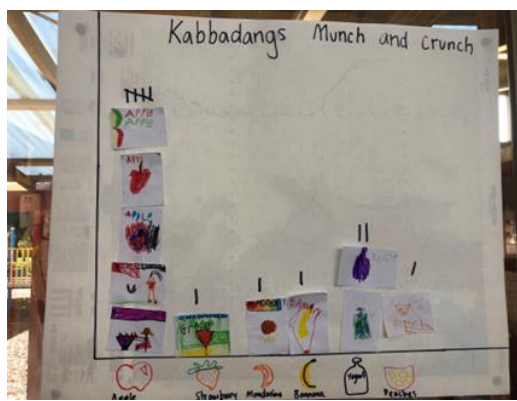
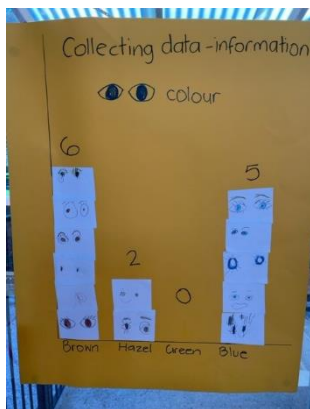
Maths has been the focus of Play Workshop this term. The children have been investigating number through counting to and from 20, looking for patterns, exploring place value, skip counting, sorting and matching number names, numerals, and their quantities.



The children have been introduced to measurement through investigating length using informal units. They are developing an understanding of the need for formal units when measuring to ensure accuracy!

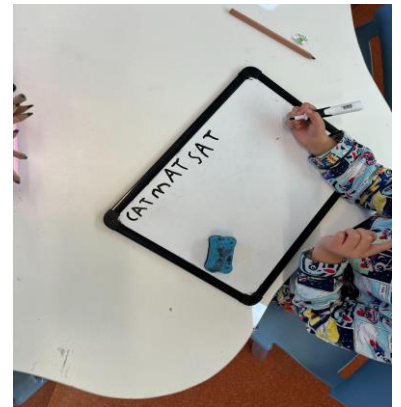


The children have also been having fun collecting data using tally marks and displaying the information they have collected. We have made picture graphs using information about our munch and crunch, the colour of cars driving past the school yard and our different eye colours.



We are so proud of the way the children are developing their writing skills. They are having a go and using the tools we have in our classrooms, including the word wall and sound charts.

The children are becoming experts in our interactive writing lessons, using the white boards to record their ideas and write sentences.



It is great to see so many children reading each night and changing their home readers. This supports the reading the children do in class each day. The children are beginning to use strategies to support them in their reading as they build on their letter/sound and high frequency word knowledge.



Finally, Kindergarten was very excited to help create a wonderful gift for our SLC, Emily Hartley, who is due to have her first baby in June.

Emily's last day was Friday, week 4 and the children were busy drawing a picture for Emily on fabric which we then turned into a quilt for her new bub.

We wish Emily and her partner, Josh, all the best xx.

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS

Over the next term, children across P-2 are going to be getting smarter about the big idea of personal safety.

Protective Behaviours is an education program that provides children and carers with information and strategies on how to identify and deal with unsafe and threatening situations. Protective Behaviours consists of ten lessons which will be taught across the school as part of our social and emotional learning program.

Protective Behaviours Topics

Theme 1: We all have the right to feel safe at all times.

Theme 2: We can talk with someone about anything, no matter what it is.

Lesson 1 Theme 1	Lesson 2 Theme 1	Lesson 3 Theme 1	Lesson 4 Theme 2	Lesson 5 Theme 2
Feelings and feeling safe Rights of the child	Recognising early warning signs Early warning signs and safety	Risking on purpose and keeping safe Different people have different reactions	When to seek help Secrets	Networks Networks Invitation
Lesson 6 Theme 2	Lesson 7	Lesson 8	Lesson 9	Lesson 10
Review networks Asking for help Persistence	Public and Private Safe and unsafe touches	Relationships and personal space	Saying no Being assertive	Revision of themes and concepts

END OF MAY IS HATS OFF DAY

This week marks the end of May, the time of the year when we start to witness local UV levels dropping off and staying low (under 3) all day in Canberra - low enough for us to relax our normal school sun protection behaviour, including hat wearing and sunscreen application.

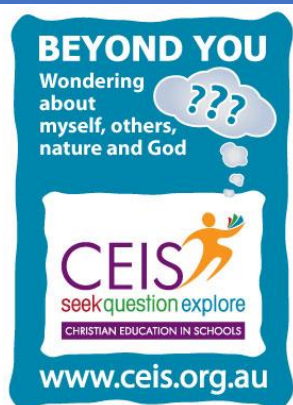
Cancer Council ACT coined the phrase - **End Of May is Hats Off Day** to assist Canberra schools and early childhood services with their hats on (and off) policy - incorporating a balanced approach to UV protection.



So, in keeping with the **End of May is Hats Off Day** jingle, all Canberra school students (and teachers) can leave their hats at home or replace it with a beanie as we enter in the low UV June and July winter months.

Please remember to pack appropriate clothes for your child at school. This may include a beanie, jacket, gumboots or layers of clothes which can easily be taken on and off. If you could clearly label items, that would be very helpful.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Term 2 – Beyond You

Using an interactive game which takes a journey through the Bible, students this term will discover more about God (as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)

Student attendance is by parent request only.

Christian Education In Schools (CEIS) occurs because parents request it for their children, under ACT legislation. Sessions are coordinated by the CEIS project, using approved resources and volunteers. If you would like to add your child to the existing attendance list please contact reception for a copy of the permission form.

FROM ANGLICARE

FAREWELL JESKA

Our wonderful Educational Leader, Jeska Marshall has resigned from Anglicare, and finishes up with us in June. Jes has contributed to our service for the last 6 years, where she has developed beautiful relationships with many of you. Jes is heading off to work with the union, doing the amazing advocacy work she is exceptionally passionate about at a different level. More information about what this looks like for the service will be released when things have finalised soon.

ASSESSMENT AND RATING

Anglicare is undergoing Assessment and Rating through ACECQA from June 13- June 16 of next month. You may see different faces popping in and out of all of the programs we offer, as Authorised Officers work with our teams to gather information about our service. From here, we will be given feedback about the things that are working well within our service, and points for improvement against the 7 National Quality Standards. More information can be found at <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/assessment/assessment-and-rating-process>

WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Please take a look at the activities for our Winter School Holiday Program. Booking forms have been emailed to Anglicare families. To enrol in Anglicare's school holiday program, please return your booking form by Wednesday 7 June. If you have not received a booking request form, please contact Natalie at southerncross@anglicare.com.au.

Winter School Holiday Program				
Monday 3 July	Tuesday 4 July	Wednesday 5 July	Thursday 6 July	Friday 7 July
<u>Christmas in July</u> We love the holidays in Nuddya, so let us wrap up by a fire with some hot chocolate and enjoy some cosy Christmas crafts!	<u>Race Around Scullin!</u> Split into two teams and navigate using a map/compass to find key landmarks across Scullin! Which team will return to school first!?	<u>Science Pranks</u> Spin the wheel to pick the prank! Slime educators, stink bomb the hall, throw paint bombs and more!	<u>Boundless Park Excursion</u> Venture to Boundless Park and explore the musical park, before picnicking at the Carillon! *This excursion will incur an additional fee*	<u>Mario Movie Madness</u> Come join us in the 'Nuddya Cinema' to make some Mario and Luigi themed popcorn and watch the Mario Movie!
Monday 10 July	Tuesday 11 July	Wednesday 12 July	Thursday 13 July	Friday 14 July
<u>Children be the Teachers Day</u> Why yes, yes it's true! Today the teachers are only you! Let's flip the roles and you decide what activities to provide. And the educators...? They might run and hide!	<u>Ridgeline Park Excursion</u> Come adventure through Ridgeline Playground's slides, swings, flying foxes, rocking climbing walls and more! *This excursion will incur an additional fee*	<u>Choose your own adventure – baking day!</u> You cook it, you build it, and everyone eats it! Pancake Tacos for breakfast, Sushi for lunch and scones for afternoon tea.	<u>Puzzle Day?</u> You make puzzles and we try to solve them! Or is it the other way around? I don't know! I'm a bit puzzled! Mazes, magic and puzzles await...	<u>Pyjama Party</u> Roll out of bed and get your groove on: disco, games and more await for those of you who get their move on!
Various activities will be offered as an alternative for all programmed days. These include craft, construction, reading, music experiences, group games, and free learning experiences. Also, bring your child's bike/scooter and helmet if they wish to go to the bike track.				

Please Note: Walga Nature Preschool does not operate during the school holiday period. If you need care for your children over this time, please book into our school holiday program.

FROM THE P&C

ONLINE P&C MEETING

Our next meeting will be held online on **Monday 5 June**. Everyone is welcome to join, even if it's while you make dinner, walk the dog or whatever else you need to do. <https://facebook.com/events/s/pc-meeting/1383773415501958/>

MOVIE NIGHT 'ROBOTS' TICKETS ARE ON SALE!

Movie night will be held on Friday 16 June at the Hall. Arrive 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start.

Cost is \$10 per family: Buy your tickets here:

<https://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/southern-cross-early-childhood-school/custom-store/scecsmovien>

PIE DRIVE- ORDER NOW!

Orders close 12pm 5 June. Order here:

<https://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/southern-cross-early-childhood-school/custom-store/scecspiedrive>

