

SOUTHERN CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

NEWSLETTER 18 | MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023

Dear families and friends

Welcome to week 6 everyone! The summer weather has now arrived! Please ensure your child has a hat each day and a refillable drink bottle with water. Teachers will remind children to reapply sunscreen throughout the day, however if you could ensure they are wearing sunscreen at the beginning of the day it would be much appreciated.

GO BLUE FOR TYPE 1 DIABETES

Please support children who live in our society with Type 1 Diabetes, including a young person here at Southern Cross. Please wear as much blue as you can on Tuesday 14 November (tomorrow) and bring in a gold coin donation.

STAFFING 2024

I would like to let you all know that we are currently on track for our staffing arrangements for 2024. Whilst it has all not been finalised just yet, I am hoping that by week 8 things will have settled and I can confirm what year levels teachers will be teaching for 2024. If all continues to go well, we will be able to host a 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon in week 9 or week 10 for 2024.

STUDENT-FREE PLANNING DAYS 2024

From 2024, there will be 4 student-free days for ACT public schools. These are the first day of each school term:

- Term 1, Monday 29 January 2024
- Term 2, Monday 29 April 2024
- Term 3, Monday 22 July 2024
- Term 4, Monday 14 October 2024.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 14 November
Go BLUE for World Diabetes Day

Wednesday 22 November
Botanic Gardens Excursion
Guginya & Wamburrang

Friday 24 November
Botanic Gardens Excursion
Bunduluk & Dnnawan

Monday 27 November –
Friday 1 December
Year 2 Swimming

Tuesday 5 December | 12.00-1.30
Christian Education in Schools

Wednesday 6 December
Outdoor Classroom Day

Thursday 7 December | 5.00-6.30
Year 2 Fun Night

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

We use student-free days for staff development, enabling us to plan in a student-free environment. Student-free planning days have been expanded from 1 to 4 days from 2024 as part of our new Teaching Staff Enterprise Agreement which prioritises better teacher workloads for educational leadership, teaching and learning.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Please ensure you check our calendar (to the top right of the newsletter front cover) to update your calendars. We have many events and excursions happening and we don't want anyone to miss out. If you need any support with upcoming payments or paperwork, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Nicole on 61420020.

Have a lovely week,

Kelly

FROM SOUTHERN CROSS

GO BLUE DAY - TOMORROW

G♥BLUE DAY

Tuesday 14 November

Let's join the Blue Army in support of Type 1 Diabetes.

How much blue can you wear to school?



Money raised will be donated to JDRF to support their research into Type 1 Diabetes.



HAPPENINGS IN KINDERGARTEN

Here we are over the halfway mark of Term 4 already! We have been very busy and productive learners in kindergarten and we'd like to share some of our learning from the term with you.

WALKATHON

On Tuesday 17 October we headed out the gates for our Walkathon! It was a cool and sunny day and we managed to complete three laps of the school! We had lovely parents we met along the way who stamped our hands, including Frances (Eleanor in Winyu) and Patty (Jai in Winyu). We had a disco and an icy pole at the end thanks to the P&C. It really was a fun morning.



GRANDFRIEND'S DAY

In week 3 we were all very excited to welcome our grandfriends and special visitors to showcase our school and share all of our hard work. We enjoyed singing our school song and 'I like the Flowers', then we showed our friends to our classrooms. We loved seeing all of the children interacting with their special person and being so proud of all of their work whether it was sharing a story together, looking through their workbooks or showing them a great trick on the yellow playground.



WHOLE SCHOOL GATHERING

Last week we hosted the last Whole School Gathering for the year. It was lovely to showcase our learning with our families and the school community. The children especially enjoyed rapping to the counting by 5s song wearing our glasses and caps. The slideshow highlighting our year in kindergarten really demonstrated how much learning the children have engaged in and how much fun we've had along the way.



PLAY WORKSHOP

This term in Play Workshop the children have been learning about the different elements of drama and performance. The children have been working in small groups to create a story with a focus on characters, the setting and the storyline. They have collaboratively made props and backdrops to enhance their story. We look forward to sharing our stories with the year 1 and 2 children.



AFFILIATED SCHOOLS: TEACHERS AS RESEARCHERS PROGRAM

At Southern Cross, we are lucky to be a UC Affiliated school. The Affiliated Schools Program is a partnership between the University of Canberra (UC) and the ACT Government underpinned by a shared vision for Innovation, Research and Teacher Professional Development. This year a team of our teachers from preschool to year two have been working together to develop a Southern Cross philosophy about play. To create this vision, we have been collecting values and thoughts around play from our staff, children and community. Here are some of the questions we asked:

When you play, what do you see, hear and feel?

What makes play so great?

Here's what our children think about play:



Here's what our staff think about play:



Here's what our families think about play:



There are a few ways we can use this information. Our next steps are:

- To create a shared belief statement to share with our entire community.
- Develop a process to share this information with new and returning staff.
- Work with the P-2 teaching staff to make strong and authentic connections between Play and the Australian Curriculum.
- Reflect on our physical indoor and outdoor learning spaces and make changes for improvement.

In week 3 of this term, our team presented this work to other affiliated schools in the ACT directorate via the annual conference. It was a great way to share what we have learned through the process and celebrate the hard work that has been put into the project. We have committed to continuing this work around play in 2024. We will also welcome back our UC critical friend Dr Naomi Zouwer who has been instrumental in powering the research and planning behind this project.

Please contact one of the team if you would like to find out more about this wonderful project!

Liz, Hayley, Maria, Candy and Katrina



FROM THE P&C

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Thanks to our fundraising efforts throughout the year, we are happy to announce that we have been able to donate \$2000 to the school for ongoing repairs and maintenance of equipment.

END OF YEAR - GET YOUR UNIFORMS READY!

Did you know you can save money by shopping second hand?



Benefits of this sustainable practice:

- Cost-effective
- Environmental benefits
- Supports the local community.
- Reduced manufacturing demand
- Sense of community
- Space saving
- Promotes sustainable behaviour.
- Immediate availability

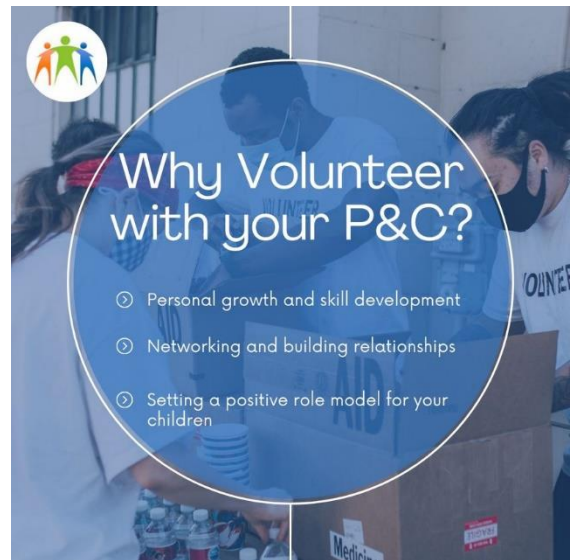
And many more - [click here](http://www.SustainableSchoolShop.com.au) to access the sustainable school shop.

WHY I VOLUNTEER

On the series of **Why I volunteer** this newsletter features Cris Wright and her reasons for giving up her time. She's a busy, passionate educator and teacher, and the President of the Southern Cross P&C. She is also involved with other community associations in different capacities and has volunteered for as long as she remembers. Now after having children, she channels her energy into causes related to them and their education!

Read her piece on our FB page

<https://www.facebook.com/scecspondc>



COMMEMORATIVE TEA TOWELS



Place your orders here!

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

Order by Friday 9 December.

NEXT P&C MEETING

Tuesday 28 or Wednesday 29 November details TBC. Lately we have been doing hybrid meetings (some people meet somewhere physically, and others join in online!) - put the date in your calendar and come along!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on FB and help us lift our page! <https://www.facebook.com/scecspondc/>

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

DADS OF NORTH CANBERRA



[Dads Group](#) promote positive parenting for fathers and father figures + give new Dads the support and connection they need. Our early intervention approach provides new Fathers with positive social relationships and easier pathways to health services if they need them. You can find the official Dad's Group Facebook page for Canberra here - [Dads of North Canberra](#).

The first program launched by Dads of North Canberra is our weekly dad's group – it's like a playgroup/mothers group, but exclusively for dads and their kids. It is a super relaxed and approachable peer-to-peer support program; Coffee, kids, dads and a playground...that's it.

Dads of North Canberra; mid-week Dads Group

- **When:** 10am each Wednesday during the school term
- **Where:** We meet at Gang Gang Café and then stroll across to Melba Street Park
- **Cost:** Nothing! + free coffee on your first visit

The Dads of North Canberra also plan to launch a monthly Saturday morning BBQ in 2024, this event will take place 10am on the First Saturday of the month (location tba).



WE UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES OF FATHERHOOD WITHOUT ADEQUATE SUPPORT.

THAT'S WHY WE EXIST - TO PROVIDE SUPPORT NETWORKS WHERE DADS CAN CONNECT, SUPPORT EACH OTHER, AND NAVIGATE THE UPS AND DOWNS OF PARENTING TOGETHER.

www.dadsgroup.org



Dads of North Canberra meet weekly on Wednesdays.

Dads, kids, coffee, and a playground. A simple formula that provides new fathers with the connection and support they desperately need. Want to know more?

Connect with us on Facebook via the QR code, or, contact Mike on 0468 784 697.

helping fathers, helping families.

