



Welcome to Preschool in 2020 at Southern Cross Early Childhood School!

The Preschool teachers this year are Candy, Sarah, Maria and Kellie. They will be assisted by Lizz, Kerrie Michelle and Bianca. Jackie, Jason, Nicky and Emma will also be working with some of our groups at different times throughout the week. Please read our 'All About Me' posters on the wall as you walk in the main entrance to find out more about our preschool team.

Term One Overview

Events for your calendar

- ✚ Family Picnic – Thursday February 20 (Week 3) 5.00-7.00pm
- ✚ All about Preschool Curriculum – Parent Information Session – Tuesday February 25 5.15-6.00pm (Week 4)
- ✚ P&C AGM – Wednesday February 26 (Week 4)
- ✚ Whole School Gathering (hosted by Year 1/2) – Wednesday March 4 (Week 5) 9:15am
- ✚ Canberra Day public holiday – Monday March 9 (Week 6)
- ✚ Funky Hair Day – Wamburrang and Guginya: Tuesday March 10 (Week 6)
Dnnawan and Bunduluk: Friday March 13 (Week 6)
- ✚ Community Breakfast – Friday 13 March (Week 6)
- ✚ Connecting to Community Picnic – Wamburrang and Guginya: Tuesday 24 March (Week 8)
Dnnawan and Bunduluk: Thursday 26 March (Week 8)
- ✚ P&C Walkathon – Date TBC (Week 9)
- ✚ Easter Parade – Wamburrang and Guginya: Tuesday 7 April (Week 10) 9.15am
Dnnawan and Bunduluk: Thursday 9 April (Week 10) 9.15am
- ✚ Whole School Gathering (hosted by Year 1/2) – Wednesday 8 April (Week 10) 9.15am
- ✚ End of Term One – Thursday 9 April (Week 10)
- ✚ Good Friday public holiday – Friday 10 April (Week 10)

The Preschool session formally begins at 9.00am, but we do have a Morning Muster at 8.55am which allows time for an incidental chat before the beginning of the session. Please remember that if you require a longer discussion, we are happy to receive an email or you can make an appointment to discuss your child's progress and/or needs.

We encourage healthy meals and snacks for our three breaks at preschool: Munch 'n' Crunch (fruit, vegetables, cheese), Lunch and Afternoon Tea. Your child will also need a drink bottle filled with water each day. This term at preschool we are extending our Waste Free Wednesday initiative. Where possible we would like to encourage waste free meals each day. Simple changes to meal times such as yoghurt placed in a reusable container opposed to a squeeze tube or sandwiches placed straight into a lunchbox instead of wrapped in cling wrap and then in the lunchbox can go a long way to helping our environment. This term we be begin to have conversations with our class about sustainability and what we can do as individuals and collectively to make a positive impact on our world.



Please ensure you provide adequate amounts of food for your children as they are very busy throughout the day. We are an anaphylaxis-friendly school, so please do not pack nutty muesli bars or sandwiches (this includes Nutella and peanut butter).

Please label all food containers and clothes clearly with your child's name

The Oasis, just outside the preschool gate is an exciting addition to the school outdoor learning environment and will become a regular part of our preschool program. The Oasis will allow children to explore with water and mud; experiment with maths concepts such as capacity and be encouraged to be messy and dirty! Please remember to send spare clothes each day in your child's bag. These come in handy for the occasional accident, water play in preschool and the Oasis.

Preschool lunch cover will be covered by Candy, Jackie, Emma, Nicky and Jason.

The preschool routine for this term will incorporate the following activities

Mindfulness

The preschool children will be participating in Mindfulness activities each day after we come in from outside play. We will be doing some Mindful listening, seeing, smelling, tasting and movement. Some of the experiences we will be involved in are 'Calming Countdowns', relaxing to music, matching sounds, mystery scents and mindful movement.

SEL

[Social and Emotional Learning]

The children will be involved in weekly SEL [Social and Emotional Learning] experiences with their peers. These sessions will focus on identifying and dealing with emotions, developing relationship skills and social decision making. The children will participate in sharing and turn taking activities and will explore different ways of approaching difficult situations.

Library

Preschool library days:
*Wamburrang – Tuesday
*Guginya – Tuesday
*Bunduluk – Friday
*Dnnawan – Friday

Children are encouraged to borrow two books of their choosing to share with you at home. We will work on our Library skills, such as locating books, re-shelving books, listening, lining up and caring for our school resources.

Technology

The children will have opportunities to participate in a weekly iPad exploration time during the year. They will be able to develop their skills in negotiating a variety of apps with support from educators involving areas such as maths, literacy and art. They will also be involved in group experiences on the Smartboard, such as Yoga, music, maths and storytelling.

Term One Overview

The Preschool curriculum is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework

Teaching and Learning Outcomes from the Early Years Learning Framework

This term we are working towards:

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

- Children feel safe, secure and supported
- Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

- Children become strong in their social and emotional well being

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

- Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

- Children will begin to engage in enjoyable interactions using verbal and non-verbal language
- Children begin to develop an understanding of how symbols and patterns work

Experiences

We will be participating in a range of experiences related to these outcomes, such as;

Outcome 1

- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) activities
- Discussions about similarities and differences
- Sharing aspects of the children's culture
- *What makes us special?*

Outcome 2

- Developing group learning agreements
- Learning about our school environment
- Connecting to Country – story telling, walks, songs, learning experiences
- Negotiating roles in group games
- Exploration of school values – Respect, Resilience, Kindness, Creativity.

Outcome 3

- Mindfulness experiences
- 'Emotional Check-In Time'
- Discussions and stories about feelings
- *How can we take care of ourselves?*
- Collaborative group work with shared goals

Outcome 4

- Interest based Investigations
- Small group work
- STEM activities [Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics]
- Wonderings, "I wonder..."

Outcome 5

- Story telling experiences with puppets, felt stories and role play
- Group discussions to explore ideas, understandings and feelings
- Patterns, numbers, counting
- Letter and sounds investigation

We are looking forward to a sharing a wonderful first term with you and your children.

Sarah Hornby (Wamburrang), Kellie Rogers (Dnnawan), Candice Scott (Guginya) and Maria Kerr (Bunduluk)