

# SOUTHERN CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

NEWSLETTER 5 | MONDAY 3 APRIL 2023

Dear families and friends

Welcome to week 10! We have had a wonderful term 1 full of learning, play and fun.

## HARMONY DAY GATHERING

Thank you to all of our wonderful families who came along Tuesday of week 8 to gather, connect and celebrate diversity in our community. It was lovely to see the children engaged in play with their family members and peers from across the school. A huge thank you to Sharon, our Community Coordinator, who organised the event for us. There are some lovely photos further in this newsletter.

## RAINY DAY PLAY

At Southern Cross we encourage children to play outside even when it is raining. If you would like your child to participate in rainy day play, please ensure your child has a raincoat and gumboots and **a spare change of clothes** in their bag (an umbrella is optional). Rainy day play will be offered at lunch time as it is a larger break time and allows us time to ensure the children are changed ready for learning after the break. We will check with your child to make sure they have rainy day clothing and a spare change of clothes prior to going outside. Those children who do not wish to participate, or who have forgotten their rainy day clothing will be offered play under the COLA on the blacktop where they can stay dry.

Allowing children to play in the rain provides a connection to nature and their environment. It provides a unique sensory experience and will allow children to remain active on these days and to get some fresh air to help avoid illness

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 5 April | 9.15-10.00

Whole School Gathering - Kindergarten

Thursday 6 April

Last day Term 1

Monday 24 April

Term 2 Commences

Tuesday 25 April

ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Friday 5 May | 9.30-10.30

2024 Preschool Information Tour

Tuesday 9 May | 4.00-5.00

2024 Preschool Information Tour

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

too. We will ensure the children are wearing their warm jacket underneath their raincoat during our colder months. If you are experiencing financial difficulty and would like for your child to participate in rainy day play, please do not hesitate to talk to Nicole or Kelly at reception.

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## OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

It is with sadness that I inform our community that we have a significant tree borers infestation in our beautiful Treehouse. This was picked up through our usual playground inspection and through the engagement of a contractor to maintain this play area. Our lovely Slide Mountain is also needing some repairs due to the high amounts of rain that we have experienced recently. We are planning to replace timber that has begun to decompose with sandstone. Our Balance Challenge Circuit is also 'on the mend' with old logs being removed already and new stones and logs ordered to replace the old ones.

Emma and Kelly are working fast with our Education Directorate to rectify these issues to allow us to open these play spaces for the children as soon as we possibly can.

During the April school holidays, an awning is going to be built off the current year 1/2 building to allow for protection from wet weather and extreme heat. We are hoping the building work will be completed in time for when the children return at the beginning of term 2. We appreciate the collaboration with the Education Directorate on this project and thank them for their continued support.

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## COVID-19 UPDATE

We are still experiencing high numbers of reported COVID-19 cases in our school community. This includes children, families and staff. We will continue to include additional measures in an effort to reduce the spread across our community. These measures include:

- Increased hand washing
- Additional cleaning by school staff
- The opening of windows and doors
- Increased outdoor learning
- Staff have been advised to wear a mask if they wish for additional safety measures and to stay at home if they have COVID-19 symptoms
- Awareness of bringing cohorts of children together who wouldn't normally be in close contact, for example K-2 and preschool.

If your child is presenting with COVID-10 symptoms, I would like to strongly encourage you to test for COVID-19.

I would like to remind families that they can access saliva RAT tests from reception. Please call 61420020 to arrange collection. If your child does test positive to COVID-19, you must notify the school.

Thank you for your continued support. I know that we will work together to ensure everyone's safety in our community.

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## WHOLE SCHOOL GATHERING

This Wednesday Kindergarten will be hosting our Whole School Gathering. As a part of our additional measures to keep everyone safe, year 1/2 will come along as the audience for this gathering. We are hopeful that preschool and

Anglicare can join us again in week 5 of next term. Families are welcome to attend, however we ask that you please stay home if you are feeling unwell and if you have recently recovered from illness, we strongly encourage you to please wear a mask. Of course, everyone is welcome to wear a mask to protect themselves from illness in our community.

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## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Just a friendly reminder that Thursday 6 April (this week) is the last day of term 1. School returns on Monday 24 April and the school will be closed on Tuesday 25 April for ANZAC Day. Please stay safe and have a wonderful holiday break.

Warm regards

Kelly

# FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

## 2024 ENROLMENTS

It is that time of year again – enrolments for the 2024 school year will open Wednesday 26 April. Please do not try to enrol now as the system is currently enrolling for the 2023 school year. We have several Preschool 2024 School Tours available early next term. See our Facebook page or our school website page for further details. To book, please contact Nicole at reception to book your place.

This is also a friendly reminder for our year 2 families that enrolling for year 3 also occurs during this enrolment period. If any family would like to chat about the process or needs some guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## ENROLMENT INFORMATION SESSIONS:

### CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY, DIVERSE LEARNING NEEDS AND DISABILITY

An online session on **Wednesday 19 April from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm** will provide parents and carers of children with developmental delay, disability, and diverse learning needs with information on the 2024 school year enrolment process and developing a relationship with their child's next school. The session will be relevant for the enrolment of students from preschool through to college, including specialist school enrolments.

Sessions for parents and carers about supporting school transition will be held in term 3. Parents and carers can register by emailing [EDUCommunityPartner@act.gov.au](mailto:EDUCommunityPartner@act.gov.au) and they should include the school year their child will commence in 2024 (i.e. preschool, Year 9 etc.).

Contact Jean Walker on 02 620 58495 or [jean.walker@act.gov.au](mailto:jean.walker@act.gov.au).



# FROM SOUTHERN CROSS

## HARMONY DAY – COMMUNITY GATHERING

It was lovely to see so many families and friends join us for our Harmony Day Community Gathering. We had many varied activities on the morning, with plenty of different opportunities for everyone to sample, everyone belongs!





## PRESCHOOL – TERM 1

What a fabulous start to preschool we have had! This term we have been busy painting, writing, reading, visiting the library, riding on the bike track, and playing outside in the sandpit and slide mountain. We have learnt the preschool routines and have engaged in play opportunities in both the indoor and outdoor learning environments. Our focus this term has been 'I am a preschool learner'! Through this



big idea we have asked questions such as, 'What do I need to do when I am at school? How can I ask for help? How can I show kindness and who can help me at preschool'?

The preschool team would like to thank all our families for your amazing support this term. We hope you have a safe and relaxing holiday, and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS – BELCONNEN ROTARY CLUB

The Belconnen Rotary Club is one of 14 Rotary Clubs in the Canberra area.

Rotary is here serving our local, national, and international communities.

Our club raises money from the Trash and Treasure market in the Jamison Shops car park every Sunday morning.



The market is run entirely by volunteers. Any money after running costs is donated back to others.



Belconnen Rotary Club has donated money to Southern Cross Early Childhood School for helping with vouchers for underprivileged families and costs arising from schooling (uniforms, excursions, stationery etc.).

Please support our market so we can help others.

If you are interested in joining Rotary or helping at our market, please contact us on:

[secretary@belconnenrotary.org.au](mailto:secretary@belconnenrotary.org.au)

## FROM ANGLICARE

### SPRING BULB FUNDRAISER

We are currently fundraising with Tesselaar, if you would like to purchase bulbs for colour in your spring garden catalogues are available at the centre or please visit our fundraising page:

[www.bulbfundraiser.com.au/ANGLICARE](http://www.bulbfundraiser.com.au/ANGLICARE)

**Orders close Friday 6 April 2023**

We are raising money to purchase puddle suits for our children to engage in outdoor play on rainy days.



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## ONLINE SAFETY WEBINARS


### Parent & Carer Online Safety Webinars - 2023

Help your family be more confident and safe online

All parents and carers of an ACT public school student are invited to attend an online safety (eSafety) information session designed to develop their knowledge and skills in supporting their child with digital technologies. This webinar will look at understanding the current eSafety issues children and young people are experiencing, how to support your child to be safe online, resources for preventing and responding to online issues, and where to go for further support.


Families are invited to attend one or more of the following sessions held online from 6.00-7.00pm:

	Primary	Secondary
Term 1	21/2 or 23/3	23/2 or 21/3
Term 2	9/5 or 8/6	11/5 or 6/6
Term 3	1/8 or 31/8	3/8 or 29/8
Term 4	17/10, 14/11 or 16/11	19/10, 14/11 or 16/11



[bit.ly/3TyRaZx](https://bit.ly/3TyRaZx)

Scan the QR Code or type in the address for more information and to register for one or more parent and carer eSafety webinars.



## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

### HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS™



The next Holiday Happenings edition is now available online.

To see the *Programs, Activities & Events* happening these holidays go to:

[www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet](http://www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet)

PARENTLINEACT.ORG.AU

# TELEPHONE PARENTING COUNSELLING

Professional Counsellors are now  
just a phone call away!  
(02) 6287 3833

