

# SOUTHERN CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

NEWSLETTER 12 | MONDAY 7 AUGUST 2023

Dear families and friends

Wow – what lovely weather we have been experiencing over the last few weeks. This is a timely reminder that we are now back in a ‘hats on’ month. Please remember to pack a labelled broad brimmed hat for your child to use when engaging in the Outdoor Learning Environment.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT - UPDATE

**Slide Mountain:** I am pleased to let everyone know that the maintenance work on Slide Mountain has now been completed. Once it has been officially approved, the fencing will come down and our children will have access to play in this area again. I would like to thank the ACT Education Directorate for their assistance and support with this project.

**Reconciliation Courtyard:** Work will begin shortly in this courtyard area to build a covered outdoor learning area (COLA), similar to the one on the blacktop. This will enable us to use this space in all weather and allow our children, P-2, to access this courtyard for learning. We are expecting that this work will be completed within two weeks, opening just in time for spring.

## 2024 PLANNING

Today our families would have received an email from Nicole asking families to complete a Google Form survey that will provide us with information in regard to your intentions for the 2024 school year. This information is important for us to begin planning how many teachers we will need, how many children in our classes and of course begin to plan classes for 2024. We ask that you complete this form even for children in Year 2 at Southern Cross to let us know what school your child is transitioning to.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 16 August | 9.15-10.00  
Whole School Gathering

Tuesday 22 August | 9.15am  
Book Week Parade  
Guginya & Wamburrang

Wednesday 23 August  
Hall School Museum Excursion  
Dyirrigurat & Wirria

Thursday 24 August | 9.15am  
Book Week Parade  
Kindergarten – Year 2

Tuesday 22 August | 9.30am  
Book Week Parade  
Bunduluk & Dnnawan

Friday 25 August  
Hall School Museum Excursion  
Ghaddi & Gudamang

September 11 – September 15  
SCHOOL PHOTOS

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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## NATIONAL ALEA & AATE CONFERENCE

In the last school holidays, many of our staff attended the 2023 Australian Literacy Educators Association (ALEA) and the Australian Association for the Teaching of English (AATE) National Conference that was held at the ANU. Alys, Hayley and Kelly also presented at this conference, sharing the wonderful practice here at Southern Cross. Alys presented on Interactive Writing and the impact this has on children's writing development and Hayley and Kelly presented how we use the Listening to Reading Protocol to document children's reading behaviours and how we use this information to identify next steps for children's reading development. Both sessions were well received, and we have since been contacted by local Canberra schools to continue to share our great practice.

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## STAFFING UPDATE

We have been experiencing increased absences from staff as they are impacted by the increasing illness in the Canberra region. Many of our staff are also mothers trying to care for their own children who have also been unwell. Our leadership team are scrambling on most mornings to ensure classes are covered and when this is not possible, classes will be split across their cohort. Unfortunately, there are very few relief teachers left as many have now been given contracts to cover teaching positions in schools in Canberra. Our teachers plan together and have a well-documented program that supports consistency of learning for the children. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and would like to reassure families that our priority is to ensure consistency for learning across learning spaces. We thank you for your ongoing support and kindly ask you to continue keeping your children at home if they are unwell to reduce the illness in our community.

Have a lovely week everyone,

Kelly

Principal  
Southern Cross Early Childhood School

# FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

## 2023 SCHOOL SATISFACTION & CLIMATE SURVEY

Each year, the Directorate surveys all parents and carers, school staff and students in Years 4 to 12 about their experience of public education. The 2023 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey will be available online from **18 August to 8 September**. The survey results will help us to continue to make quality informed decisions about how to improve our schools. No personal identifying information will be provided to any school or college.

For each child in their family who attends an ACT public school, parents and carers will receive:

An email about the parent survey, including a unique link to access the survey. Genuine survey invitation emails will have the title "The 2023 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey is now open!" and will be sent from EDU Surveys & Evaluation with 'from' address [EDU@qualtrics-survey.com](mailto:EDU@qualtrics-survey.com).

If you do not receive the survey invitation, please check your Junk email folder; if it is not there, please contact your school.

The Parents and Carers Survey will be available online in other languages: Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Urdu, Vietnamese, Punjabi, Bengali, Spanish, Telugu, French and Italian. Respondents can select their preferred language when they start the survey.

For the results to reflect the opinions of our whole school community, we need as many parents and carers, staff and students as possible to complete the survey. Your feedback is important, and we hope you will take part.

For more information, visit: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/school-satisfaction-and-climate-survey>

## FROM SOUTHERN CROSS

### SCHOOL PHOTOS

The team from **Authentic School Portraits** will be attending our school the week of the Monday 11 September to Friday 15 September to capture school photos!

#### How to view and purchase your children's school photos?

If you would like your child to be photographed during photo week, it is **essential to pre-register** your information and interest with Authentic School Portraits here:

<https://form.typeform.com/to/DPUaEfUJ>

If you do not pre-register, your child will only be photographed for inclusion in the school's internal database.

**Sibling Photos:** For families with more than one child at the school/centre, pre-registering your interest is crucial to guarantee a sibling photo session. Please register before photo week as we are unable to accommodate requests once photo week begins.

#### What can you do in preparation?

Some parents have questions around how to help us capture the best photos possible, Authentic School Portraits have a couple of tips before you send your child off to school on photo day. You can find those all at the link below under 'FAQ for Parents'.

<https://orders.authenticschoolportraits.com/webarchive/info.php>

**REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!**



## PERFORMING ARTS IN YEAR 1/2

Year 1 and 2 are exploring Performing Arts within our Play Workshop time. Children are sharing their own knowledge of performance including types, jobs, and experiences. Big questions we are answering are “What is a performance? What types of performance are there? Why do people perform? How is performance connected to culture?”



Across the unit, children will use their prior knowledge to expand their understanding of dance and drama.

Children have already begun to create and view performances and discover ways to be involved in a range of different roles, even when not the one performing.



As you can see, we are already having a lot of fun exploring our inner ‘movie star’.

## CHIEF MINISTER’S READING CHALLENGE

The Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge finishes this **Friday 11 August**. Please return all completed reading records to Reception this week.



You still have time to complete the challenge if you would like to do so.

Reading Challenge record sheets can be found here -  
[https://www.scecs.act.edu.au/our\\_school/notes](https://www.scecs.act.edu.au/our_school/notes)



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## SCULLIN COMMUNITY MUSIC JAM



# SAT 12 AUG 11AM

Got an instrument? Or like to sing? Come and workshop some pop tunes and make some noise with the community!

*Free coffee ☕ for all participating musos!*

**BRING:** your instrument • music stand

**optional:** folding chair, amp or mic if you need

*Get the song list, lyrics  
and chords here!*



(limited print-outs available on the day :)

**BELCOLAYLEE!**  
BELCO'S UKULELE GROUP - SCULLIN  
[fb.com/belcolaylee](https://fb.com/belcolaylee)

SCULLIN COMMUNITY GROUP  
LOCAL • COLLABORATIVE • CREATIVE

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

