

# Southern Cross Early Childhood School



Newsletter 6 | Tuesday, 2 June 2020

Dear families

The last two weeks have been just amazing having our children back and returning to learning at school. For most children the return to school has gone very well, but we are conscious that returning to school has been hard for some children. We also know that some children may have a delay in their reactions that will become apparent later on in the term. We will continue to closely monitor and support all our children and encourage you to talk to your child's teacher straight away if you notice a change in behaviour or they say anything that is of concern.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Friday 5 June | 5.00pm**  
**2021 Enrolments close – Initial round**

## Family Survey

We have all learnt a lot over the last few months and we would like to capture this information. We have a short six question survey for families to complete if you have time. Your thoughts going forward are important to us and we would love to know what you think. Please find the link here. <https://forms.gle/a4PX3V6yCeYvPfDQ8>

## National Simultaneous Storytime

Reading Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas for National Simultaneous Storytime last Wednesday was an absolute blast! While we were sorry that we could not have our families join us, the children were so surprised when I ran off halfway through the story and came back dressed like a Diva! Then when the team pulled out their feather boas, they were almost hysterical. It is a great story which is available in the library.



## National Reconciliation Week

There were a number of significant events that we acknowledged last week as part of National Reconciliation Week. The theme for 2020 is *In This Together* which has resonated across our Community due to the last few months! On Tuesday, National Sorry Day, we remembered and acknowledged the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, by walking around the school with purpose and reflection. The children may have also read *Sorry Day* with their class. You can find a reading of the book at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m32cvvJ0tqE>. This is a difficult topic for us all, but it is so important that we



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

acknowledge our history and understand the impact it has to this day. I was so proud of our children and their empathy for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We also took part in the National Acknowledgement of Country across the school, joining with many other schools and organisations at 12 noon on Wednesday to do so. This was an opportunity for us to acknowledge our traditional custodians and their connection to the land on which we live, learn and play. I spoke to the children about how it is important for us to look after the land and to listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as they tell us about their Country and their dreams and aspirations for the future.

Our staff team continue to work on our own professional learning in relation to Cultural Integrity. Each staff member continues to have a goal related to work in this area as part of their Professional Learning Plan for 2020.

### **Preschool Enrolments for 2021**

Friday 5 June 2020 is the last day to register for preschool next year. If your child turns four on or before 30 April they can register to enrol. We do not want anyone to miss out so please let others know in our community. If anyone has any questions please contact Nicole at Reception on 6142 0020.

Kind regards,  
*Lyndall*

## **From the Education Directorate**

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### **Change to Primary Schools Central Placement Panel date for small group programs (LSU, LSU-A, LSC) and specialist school placement**

The 2020 school year has started unlike any other, and this has caused significant disruption to usual routines for students, families, and schools. As we welcome students back into our schools, planning is underway to minimise long term impacts of these unprecedented times on our students and their ongoing schooling. In line with this, the date for Primary Schools Central Placement Panel (where small group program placements for LSU, LSU-A, LSC and Specialist Schools are determined) has been changed, with applications now due in Week 6, Term 3 and letters of offer sent to parents in time for schools and parents to develop a transition plan together in Term 4.

The Secondary Central Placement Panel will proceed as anticipated with outcome letters for Year 6 student applications for high school placements in 2021, sent to parents early in Term 3.

If you would like to access more information regarding the Disability Education Central Placement Panel and process, please see the [Students with Disability](#) webpage on the Education Directorate website or speak to school staff. If you need further information, you can email your query to [DisabilityEducation@act.gov.au](mailto:DisabilityEducation@act.gov.au).

# From Southern Cross

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## Hello

My name is Tabitha and I am in the final year of my education degree.

I will be completing a 4 week placement at Southern Cross Early Childhood School in Gudamang starting Monday 25 May 2020.

I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and learning alongside the students!

I have a two year old boy called Vincent and I've worked in the early childhood sector for 7 years.

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## National Reconciliation Week 2020 - In This Together

The children and staff at Southern Cross have been busy creating reconciliation displays around the school. Our display 'In This Together' (pictured below), represents the importance of coming together to support one another and to value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and people. The children have decorated paper leaves using their fingerprints to add to our tree of hands.

The staff have also started a display representing the places they have visited in Australia that hold special memories. When looking at the AITSIS map of Indigenous Australia, we have discovered all the social and nation groups of Indigenous Australia that we have visited.



## Lunchtime Learning Club - Garden Club - Planting on Country

In Garden Club this week, the children helped Jose and Nathan plant six dwarf eucalyptus trees in the corner of the school grounds. The children recognised that we were planting on Ngunnawal Country and worked together to make sure the trees were planted properly by filling in the holes with dirt and giving the plants a good water.





## Lunchtime Learning Club - Nature Play and Games

On Tuesdays, the children gather in the Reconciliation Courtyard to play Indigenous games and explore the characteristics of our native plants. They have been using magnifying glasses to take a closer look at the leaves and then photographed the plant they liked best. In coming weeks we hope to identify the plant they like most and record their thoughts about the plant they have chosen.







## Lunchtime Learning Club - Outdoor Sports

The children have been playing a number of different sports under the beautiful trees in the corner of the school grounds. Each Thursday we start by playing an Indigenous traditional game and then work together to play relay games. One game we've enjoyed is called 'Kai' which is from the Torres Strait. It involves standing in a circle keeping a ball or balloon up in the air using the palm of our hands. The ball is passed around while the children count how many times they hit the ball. Here are some photos of last week's fun and teamwork.



## Kabbadang in the Garden

Kabbadang have enjoyed checking in with our garden bed since returning from remote learning. During the school holidays, Karen and Jason visited the courtyard to plant our seedlings and Jose kept them watered while we were all learning from home. (Thank you, Jose!)





The vegetables we are growing are lettuce and baby spinach. When we visited the Environment Courtyard this week, there was much discussion as we tried to recognise which of the little sprouts were which.

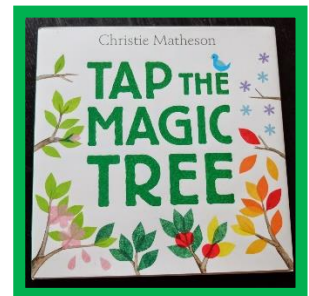


*Lettuce*



*Baby Spinach*

Kabbadang also took a walk down to the orchard to see if we could notice any differences in our class apple tree. With signs of Autumn all around, and Winter fast approaching, we have been revisiting a number of books that illustrate the way trees respond to the changing seasons.



## Linking Families to Learning

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### Helpful Hint for Home

#### Oral Language

A child's oral language development is the foundation of their literacy learning, it is where they begin to navigate their understandings of language. Here is a link to an article on the reading rockets website if you are interested in reading more.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/young-childrens-oral-language-development>

Below are some ideas to help support oral language development.

#### Supporting talk and interaction

Parents can support oral language development through:

- making up stories – storytelling
- singing songs
- telling nursery rhymes
- reading and enjoying books

- interacting with others and engaging in meaningful conversations
- actively listening
- instilling a sense of wonder about the world

### **Dinner time talk**

The dinner table is a great opportunity for families to have a chat. Here are some useful conversation starters:

- I wonder ...
- I noticed ...
- I think ...
- I realised ...

### **Talking about books and experiences**

Talking with children about what they are doing, what they are going to do, and what they have been doing, can help them to develop an understanding of the type of language used in books (e.g. Once upon a time). Children need a lot of experience of this kind of language in preparation for literacy. Try using the acronym TALK as a reminder of what to address with families.

T = Take time to talk, making yourself available for interactions

A = Ask questions to which you do not always know the answer

L = Listen actively

K = Know your child and the language they use.

### **Extending talk**

Extending a child's thinking and conversation supports both literacy and numeracy learning. Invite children to extend their talk with these useful questions:

- 'What makes you say that?'
- 'Tell me more.'
- 'Can you tell me why you think it is true?'
- 'Can you show me which part of the book makes you think that?'

### **Out and about**

Look for letters and numbers when you are out and about. Find words and symbols that give us information – shop signs, street signs, house numbers. Talk about how we use this information to help us find places

(Department of Education, Tasmania Government. Learning Families Together Initiative 2017)

# Anglicare

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## **Pantry Appeal**

We are proud to partner with Southern Cross Early Childhood School in running a donation drive this winter. Winter is already a challenging time of year for the vulnerable in our community, and has become increasingly more difficult with the COVID-19 pandemic. We would love your support in the form of donations to share with the vulnerable; you will be amazed at how much of a difference it can make to someone's life.


To accommodate the new changes of dropping off outdoors, we will be placing extra donation points at the gate near the black top, and the gate near the bike track until the end of term. We thank you kindly for the small differences you will make in the lives of others.

## Pick Up and Drop Off Procedure

A reminder to families that the only entry point to our Centre is via the main doors at the front of the building where reception is. We would also like to remind families that the entry point to the bike track is only to be used by the Education Directorate preschool families doing pick up and drop off. Please walk through the centre to drop your child off, walking their bike or scooter with you.

## School Holiday Program

The School Holiday Program will be in operation from Monday 5 July – Friday 17 July 2020. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, we will not be engaging in any incursions or excursions to reduce the financial impact on families, as well as keeping in line with government guidelines. You will be able to book into the school holiday program from next week, when forms are sent out by Rosie.



## Winter School Holiday Program 2020

Monday 6	Tuesday 7	Wednesday 8	Thursday 9	Friday 10
<p><b><u>Expecto Patronum</u></b> It's Harry Potter day! Come dressed as your favourite Harry Potter character, don't forget your magic wand! Let's cast some spells!</p>	<p><b><u>Winter Baking</u></b> Burr! It's so cold, what could warm us up this winter and fill our bellies? Grab your mugs and cookie cutters we are making hot chocolates and snowflake biscuits</p>	<p><b><u>Cardboard City</u></b> We've always dreamt of a day where we had heaps of cardboard boxes... human sized. Join us as we create cars, ships, and a cardboard house city</p>	<p><b><u>Lava Lamps</u></b> Get out your lab coats and clear goggles because it's science day! We will be conducting an experiment on how to make our very own lava lamps</p>	<p><b><u>African Safari Time</u></b> Today will be a day on the African Savannah! Bring your stuffed toy animal from home, and we'll make a habitat for them to dwell</p>
Monday 13	Tuesday 14	Wednesday 15	Thursday 16	Friday 17
<p><b><u>Disco, disco!</u></b> We hope you have your favourite dancing shoes on, let's move and groove together to a whole day full of dance competitions and singing!</p>	<p><b><u>Snowball Day</u></b> Let's make our own snowballs and simply have a fight! Also on this day: Target practice!</p>	<p><b><u>SCECS Athletics Challenge!</u></b> Ken will be running HIIT circuits, obstacle courses, training sessions and competitions to test your fitness. <b><u>Bring your bicycles!</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Anglicare Scouts Camping Class</u></b> Today we will be making damper, building a tent and roasting marshmallows over the campfire! Bring wet weather gear in case camping gets rough!</p>	<p><b><u>PJ Day</u></b> Are you tired of getting up every morning and getting dressed every day? Don't worry me too, stay in your PJ's and come watch your fave movies and play games all day</p>

Program runs from 7:30am – 6:00pm. Please bring your child's bike/scooter and helmet each day if they wish to go to the bike track.

Various activities are offered as an alternative for all programmed days. These include craft, construction, reading, musical experiences, group games and outdoor activities.

All meals are included. Please pack a hat, water bottle, spare clothes and dress in appropriate winter clothing.

## Bright Star Café Menu Term 2 2020

Please note this week is Week 2 of the Bright Star Café menu. Lunch orders can be handed to LSA's at the School entrances when you drop off your child/children.



# Community Information

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Another Chance op shop, Scullin shops – Ross Smith Crescent, Scullin has reduced opening hours in June due to Covid restrictions on our volunteers.

Find us open Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday 10am – 1pm.

Thursday and Friday – 10am – 4:30pm  
Saturday 10am – 1pm

We're also having a fantastic sale through June with 50% off all books, DVD's, craft books, knitting patterns and needles and yarn.

If now is the time to bunker down and stay inside we've got you covered.

Another Chance is a project of Mosaic Baptist Church. Like us on Facebook for more information.

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## ACT Nutrition Support Service

### Avocado done sweet

We are loving the price and availability of avocados in Canberra right now so be sure to make the most of it before they return to being a special treat. And speaking of treats. Read on to try our decadent avocado mousse.



### Choc avo mousse

This decadent dessert is sure to satisfy your chocolate cravings with some nutritional bang. Once you get past the fact that you are using a green, squishy fruit to create a chocolate dessert, you will never go back.

Give it a try!

Ingredients:

- 1 avocado
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder (or cacao powder for a stronger flavour)
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup (or honey)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract



Method:

1. Place all ingredients in a small food processor or blender and blend until smooth. If you don't have a food processor then electric hand beaters will work too.
2. Evenly divide the mixture across 4 small glasses.
3. Chill in fridge for one hour before serving.

**Delicious served with fresh strawberries.**

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## Parentline ACT



**CANBERRA WE ARE HERE FOR YOU**

**FREE telephone counselling sessions Monday to Friday 9am-5pm**

Sessions via Zoom or Skype  
Limited availability for FREE face-to-face counselling sessions

Sadly our groups and training are temporarily suspended

**Contact us for a FREE confidential chat**

 **6287 3833** 

 [parentline@parentlineact.org.au](mailto:parentline@parentlineact.org.au)