

SOUTHERN CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

NEWSLETTER 1 | MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2024

Dear families and friends

Welcome to the 2024 school year! We have had the most amazing start to the year with children settling into new classes and forming new friendships. I would like to thank our families and our staff for the wonderful work you all did to prepare the children for the transition – it was certainly worth the time and effort!

FAMILY-EDUCATOR MEETINGS – GETTING TO KNOW YOU

This week our teachers are offering ‘getting to know you’ meetings. We value the partnership we have with families and would like to take the opportunity to find out more about the children. Nicole emailed instructions last week about how to book in for one of these meetings. If you would like some support to schedule your time, please do not hesitate to contact Nicole at reception on 61420020.

We kindly ask that if for some reason you cannot attend your scheduled session to please let us know. This will help our teachers to plan their meetings and will mean that we are not waiting late at night if not necessary.

Thank you 😊

WELCOME FAMILY GATHERING

Southern Cross welcomes all families to the outdoor learning area for a picnic and play this Wednesday 4:00-5:30pm. Please bring a rug and some afternoon tea (please no nuts or alcohol). Families will be able to connect with one another whilst teachers are engaging families in their ‘getting to know you’ meetings. Children are to be supervised by family members during this time, however please support one another to attend the family-educator meetings

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 6 February – Friday 10 February
Getting to Know You interviews

Wednesday 7 February | 4.00-5.30
2024 Welcome Gathering

Monday 12 February – Friday 23
February
BASE testing for Kindergarten students

Wednesday 14 February | 5.30pm
Southern Cross P&C AGM

Southern Cross Early Childhood School

Principal: Kelly Booker

Deputy Principal: Liz Marman

Executive Teacher: Johnathan Price

Community Coordinator: Sharon Craft

Business Manager: Emma Muffet

Office Administrator: Nicole Emerton

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



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Government
Education

if you would prefer to not take children with you to the meeting. If you require assistance, please phone the front office number 61420020 or find a staff member.

SEESAW

Seesaw is an app and a way for our teachers and families to communicate quickly and easily. Teachers will post information about the learning that is happening in the classrooms, families can message teachers privately and messages/reminders will be posted as well. Teachers will be posting to Seesaw this week to activate your child's 2024 class journal, please look out for Seesaw notifications. New children to Southern Cross will receive a QR code from their class teacher once all permission forms have been returned to the front office.

RAINY DAYS

I would like to encourage all families to help their child pack gumboots, a raincoat, an umbrella (optional) and **a spare change of clothes** on rainy days (P-2). The children can play outside or have the choice to play under the COLA (K-2). This allows everyone to get some fresh air between learning sessions and will help us all to stay healthy. Unfortunately, we do not have enough spare clothing for the whole school so children can only play outside in the rain if they have spare clothing to change into after their play. Thanks for your understanding.

BASE ASSESSMENTS IN KINDERGARTEN

Each year in weeks 3 and 4 of term 1 and weeks 2 and 3 of term 4, our kindergarten children are engaged in BASE assessments with their teacher. The purpose of the assessment is to measure learning growth in reading and mathematics throughout the kindergarten year. The children will each spend time one on one with their teacher to support the engagement in this assessment. Kindergarten families will be provided with further information this week. Please do not hesitate to reach out and chat with us if you would like some additional information.

We are looking forward to another great year at Southern Cross!

Kelly

FROM SOUTHERN CROSS

SCHOOL TERMS FOR 2024

TERM 1, 2024: Tuesday 30 January – Friday 12 April 2024

TERM 2, 2024: Tuesday 30 April – Friday 5 July 2024

TERM 3, 2024: Tuesday 23 July – Friday 27 September 2024

TERM 4, 2024: Tuesday 15 October – Tuesday 17 December 2024

Southern Cross
Early Childhood School

2024
Family Gathering

Wednesday 7 February
4.00-5.30pm

Come along and enjoy an afternoon
with the Southern Cross Early
Childhood School community.
This is a time for children and their
families to connect and make new
friends.

Where: K-2 Outdoor Learning Environment

What to bring: Afternoon tea for your family (no nuts please)
and a picnic rug

Families have duty of care at this event, please be mindful of our neighbours when parking.

IMPORTANT HOUSEKEEPING

Contact Details: It is **vital** to have up to date contact information for each family with children enrolled at Southern Cross Early Childhood School.

If you have changed your address or updated your phone number please email nicole.emerton@ed.act.edu.au to ensure we have the current information.

Medical Information: Families are required to complete a new **Medical Information and Consent Form** each year. These have been emailed to families last week.

Children with a **Known Medical Condition** are required to provide a current Medical Action Plan, completed by a medical professional, to the school on a yearly basis.

ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS

If your child is away from school, you will receive an SMS to let you know your child has been recorded as absent. We will endeavour to send this message by 10.30am every day. This will reassure you of your child's arrival at school and make it easier for you to keep your child's attendance record up to date when they are absent.

Simply reply via SMS, with your child's name and the reason for your child's absence, your reply will be saved directly onto your child's attendance record. If you do not reply, your child's absence will be recorded as 'unexplained'.

- For **unexpected absences**, responding to the SMS will notify the school and be placed directly onto your child's attendance record.
- For **late arrival**, you may still receive an SMS in the morning, please sign in at reception and your child's attendance record will be updated to a partial attendance for that day.
- For **planned absences**, we would still appreciate advanced notice of your child's absence.

COMMUNICATION

We have many different ways of communicating information with you all. We are hopeful that one of these communication methods works for each family in our school so that all of you have access to the information you need.

Newsletters: The school newsletter is emailed to families each Monday of even weeks (week 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10).

Facebook: We share learning and special events via Facebook. Our school P&C also have their own Facebook page where they share events and information.

Seesaw: Class teachers and leaders will post messages, learning and updates through Seesaw. Your child's teacher will advise once they start using Seesaw.

Email: If you wish to contact your child's teacher directly, you are welcome to send an email or call Nicole at reception who can support you to make contact with the teacher.

Morning Muster: Each morning our teachers will be out in the outdoor learning environment at 8:55am. This is an opportunity for any quick messages you might have for the teacher that will support your child's day.

EDUCATOR CONTACT DETAILS

Below you will find a list of teachers, the class they teach and their email address if you need to make contact.

Preschool		
Guginya	Anne-Maree Smith	Anne-Maree.Smith@ed.act.edu.au
Wamburrang	Bianca Boyle	Bianca.boyle@ed.act.edu.au
Bunduluk	Sarah Hornby	Sarah.hornby@ed.act.edu.au
Dnnawan	Alison Hutchison	Alison.Hutchison@ed.act.edu.au
Preschool Team Leader	Sharon Craft	Sharon.craft@ed.act.edu.au

Kindergarten

Winyu	Chloe Gleeson	Chloe.gleeson@ed.act.edu.au
Dyurra	Candice Kelly	Candice.kelly@ed.act.edu.au
	Johnathan Price (Friday)	Johnathan.price@ed.act.edu.au
Kabbadang	Lyndsey Orchard	Lyndsey.orchard@ed.act.edu.au
Kindergarten Team Leader	Liz Marman	Elizabeth.marman@ed.act.edu.au

Year 1/2

Dyirrigurat	Stephanie Tanner	Stephanie.tanner@ed.act.edu.au
Ghaddi	Katrina Lees	Katrina.lees@ed.act.edu.au
	Liz Marman (Friday, odd weeks)	Elizabeth.marman@ed.act.edu.au
Gudamang	Alys Humphrey	Alys.humphrey@ed.act.edu.au
	Dee Munro (Friday)	Dee.munro@ed.act.edu.au
Wirria	Sharron Wynn	Sharron.wynn@ed.act.edu.au
	Dee Munro (Thursday)	Dee.munro@ed.act.edu.au
1/2 Team Leader	Johnathan Price	Johnathan.price@ed.act.edu.au

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS 2024

Southern Cross Early Childhood School is calling for nominations for three, two year term P&C member positions on the School Board.

All parents / carers of children attending Southern Cross Early Childhood School are eligible to be on the School Board.

If you are keen to contribute to the governance of Southern Cross Early Childhood School, you should nominate for a position on the Southern Cross Early Childhood School Board. No prior experience is necessary. The successful applicant will hold his or her position on the school board for two years.

- You can collect a nomination form from reception or request one to be emailed to you.
- Nominations must be submitted between **11am Monday 5 February** and **11am Monday 19 February 2024**.

- Nominees should include a half-page statement supporting their nomination to the School Board. This supporting statement would be included in notes and/or newsletters sent out to the school community as part of the nomination and election process.
- You can submit your nomination by:
- Hand delivery to front reception
- Email to reception (info@scecs.act.edu.au)

Nominations may be withdrawn at any time up until the close of nominations.

If we receive more than the required number of nominations then an online election will be held.

The voting period will be between: **Monday 26 February to Monday 4 March 2024.**

Appointments will commence on 1 April 2024. Please consider becoming a member.

Emma Muffet

Assistant Returning Officer

FROM ANGLICARE

BRIGHT STAR CAFE

The Bright Star Café is now taking lunch orders for children attending Southern Cross Early Childhood School. Lunch orders can be placed using the Flexischools App or paying in cash at reception. Lunch orders consist of a hot meal and a piece of fruit at a cost of \$6.00. The four-week rotating menu has been created using national nutrition guidelines with a multicultural and seasonal perspective. The menu is updated on the school website each term and can be found here

https://www.scecs.act.edu.au/our_school/bright_star_cafe

Download the Flexischools app from the App store or Google Play for details on how to set up your account.

Once registered, you can start placing orders immediately. If you have any questions, please visit our FAQs

<https://community.flexischools.com.au/s/>.

Flexischools orders can be placed in advance, or orders can be made on the morning before 9:30am. Please note any allergies/intolerances when placing order.



FROM THE SOUTHERN CROSS P&C

WELCOME TO 2024

The P&C run a number of services and events throughout the year to help make Southern Cross an even better place.

These include the uniform shop, Walkathon, Movie Night, a Colour Run, sausage sizzles, Zooper Doopers for special events and more! We are grateful for the support of our school community to make these things happen.

If you are interested in helping out, the P&C puts out calls for volunteers throughout the year. Please keep an eye out for them and get in touch.

"VOLUNTEERS DON'T NECESSARILY
HAVE THE TIME;
THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART."

- Elizabeth Andrew -

P&C AGM

The P&C's Annual General Meeting will be held in the staff room on **February 14 at 5:30pm.**

We understand - and are slightly jealous - if you have something romantic planned for Valentine's Day. If not, we'd love to see you for snacks and a chat.

Everyone is welcome. You don't need to join the committee (unless you want to), but we are looking for a new Treasurer if you have some basic bookkeeping skills (or would like to learn some).

If you can't make the meeting, or just want to chat about the P&C, text or call Frances on [0421 181 981](tel:0421181981).

UNIFORM SALE

The P&C will be selling second-hand uniforms at the Family Gathering on **Wednesday from 4pm to 5:30pm.** Come visit our table to grab a bargain.

If you have any outgrown uniforms to donate you can drop them off at the Parent Hub located in the Library anytime.



SCECS P&C FACEBOOK

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP <https://www.facebook.com/groups/scecsbandc>

Frances
SCECS P&C