

Southern Cross Early Childhood School



Newsletter 11 | Monday, 7 September 2020

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 8 September | 10.00
Larry Brandy – Wiradjuri Storyteller
Preschool & Kindergarten

SCECS Paint & Play | 10.00-11.30

Wednesday 9 September | 7.00-8.30
P&C Meeting

Thursday 10 September | 10.00
Larry Brandy – Wiradjuri Storyteller
Preschool & Year /2

Tuesday 15 September
Waste Free Day

SCECS Paint & Play | 10.00-11.30

Wednesday 16 September | 12.15
Disco – Preschool and Kindergarten

Thursday 17 September

Disco – Preschool and Year 1/2 | 12.15
Waste Free Day – Preschool Groups

Friday 25 September
End of Term 3

Monday 12 October
School resumes for Term 4

Dear Families,

Yuumma and welcome to week 8 of the school term. In acknowledgement of our continuing commitment to cultural integrity, our Reconciliation Action Plan Team has booked Larry Brandy to present to the children. We will host these presentations tomorrow (Tuesday for Preschool and Kindergarten children) and Thursday of this week (for Preschool and Year 1/2 children). Our Preschool friends in the Anglicare program will also be joining us for this event.

The name of the Education Directorate's newest school, located in Molonglo Valley, was also announced last Friday - *Evelyn Scott School*. This school has been named after Dr Evelyn Scott, who was a tireless advocate of social justice for Indigenous people across Australia.

COVID-19 Update

The Education Directorate has been consulting with the Chief Health Officer about the considerations schools need to make

when planning events such as formals, assemblies and graduations. Like many aspects of our lives in 2020, this year's end of year celebrations at Southern Cross Early Childhood School will inevitably be different to what we're been used to in the past. For example, events such as graduations and assemblies must be seated and seats need to be set up in a way that provides physical distancing of 1.5 metres between adults or household groups. We also need to collect RSVPs in order to manage attendee numbers, as well as record contact information about all attendees. The leadership team will provide you with more information as we roll into term 4.



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

Reading 'boost' groups

We have one more week of this project to go before we reassess and measure the distance travelled for each child. The progress for some children has already been so great that we have made contact with some families and exited some of the children already. We are really pleased to greet so many enthusiastic children in the mornings, which tells us that the children are enjoying the direct and systematic instruction provided to them – success breeds success! We have also appreciated our Kindergarten families ensuring each child's arrival to school by 9am. Over the next week, our teachers from Kindergarten to Year 2 will be analysing writing samples that the children have produced over the last week.



Early Childhood Educators' Day

Last Wednesday Southern Cross hosted an afternoon tea to celebrate [Early Childhood Educators' Day](#) for both our Education Directorate and Anglicare staff. We honoured the valuable work of our early years educators. Bianca Boyle has also returned to SCECS following a period of parenting leave. Bianca is teaching Visual Arts on Monday and Friday of each week.



Year 2 Focus Groups

Last week, the school leaders met with all the Year 2 children to discuss and make recommendations regarding how the Year 2 children would like their outdoor learning environments to operate. We quickly identified that our young leaders definitely wanted to have a say in both the use of the 'treehouse' and 'oasis' playing areas as well as the playgrounds in general. The children see themselves as decision makers and want to share the responsibility for ensuring safety on the playgrounds as well as acting as stewards for the playgrounds. Emma, Nicky and I are very grateful for the children's ideas and solutions. We will collate the information shared from the three focus groups and present some broad connected themes back to the students at the next meeting.

Slide Mountain Update

Construction of this playground installation is well and truly underway with progress every day. The preschool children have enjoyed the construction activity and marvel at the 'lovely dirt pile' that the digger has created. Candy, Sarah, Maria and Kellie have also been researching loose parts play. Thank you to Sascha Steinbeck (Early Childhood

Teacher of the Year in 2016) from Neville Bonner Primary School for sharing loose parts play ideas with our team. Plans are now underway for a loose parts play area to be developed in the preschool playground adjacent to Slide Mountain. Construction and landscape plans of Slide Mountain have been positioned by Nicole Emerton at the school's front entrance and at the school's back gate, for viewing by families and the children. With Children's Week approaching in October, we are working towards having an 'official opening' of Slide Mountain in partnership with Anglicare. All our SCECS children will participate in an outdoor learning day to acknowledge Children's Week 2020.



Thank you to the P&C Team, ably led by Jess Yeo, for hosting another Pie + Pasta + Pastry Drive as well as daytime discos next week as end of term events. The Leadership Team continues to plan Term 4 activities and events as well as the beginning of the 2021 school year. We will communicate these with you as ideas and plans are progressed.

Please find later in this newsletter a piece of writing from Hudson in Year 2 that we have published – Hudson has used a variety of literary techniques to innovate the story of *Goldilocks*. Thank you also to Maple from Year 2 who led a discussion this morning during one of our boost reading groups about the need for everyone to use inclusive language. We love your work Hudson and Maple!

Yerra, *Catherine*

Catherine Dillon
A/g Principal



From Southern Cross

Protective Behaviours Weekly Topics

The following 'Protective Behaviours' topics will be taught in class in Week 9 and Week 10 of this term:

Week 9

Topic: Saying no - using the 'No, Go, Tell' strategy if you feel unsafe

Topic: Being assertive - using assertive responses when responding to an unsafe scenario

Week 10

Topic: Revision of themes and concepts - revisiting the content of the Protective Behaviours Program

For more information on the content covered each week, please speak with your class teacher or visit the Protective Behaviours ACT website - <http://www.pbact.com.au/>

Sporting Schools – Touch Football

This term our Kindergarten to Year 2 children have been participating in touch football clinics every Monday. Elise Wilson, who is an Australian representative has been teaching the children new skills of throwing and catching while playing fun and interactive games and developing their cooperative and team building skills. The children and teachers have been enthusiastic and excited to participate each week. The clinics are finishing up in week 9, we will have some new touch footballs out in the playground for the children to continue to practise their skills.



Waste Free Day



Term 3

Whole School
Tuesday 15 September
2020

Bunduluk and Dnnawan
Thursday 17 September 2020

Say **NO** to general waste by packing your child's lunch in a re-usable container.

What class will have the least amount of waste on the day and receive the highly coveted 'Green Recycling Truck'?

Linking Families to Learning

Helpful Hints for Home

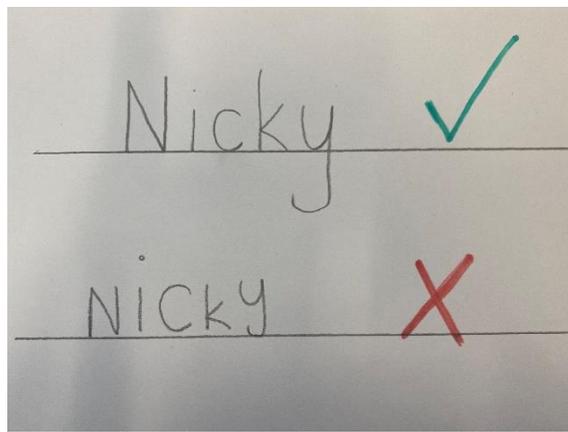
Writing – Handwriting

In today's world where we are surrounded by digital technologies, it is still important to learn how to write with pen and paper. Handwriting is a communication tool that not only helps people to express themselves or scribe their message, it can also contribute to other areas of literacy learning such as reading and creative writing. It helps with reading fluency because it activates visual perception of letters.

It is important to support our children to form letters correctly, as this will help them when they are learning to write words and sentences. Learning to write is a complex process, so if children can identify and form their letters correctly, then they are then able to focus on other components of writing such as spelling and creativity.

Here are a few tips when helping your child with letter formation at home.

- When learning to write their name, ensure they only use a capital for the beginning. This normally is the first thing children are taught to write, and they do it numerous times. It is difficult to unteach using capitals in the middle of their name.
- Make sure children are practising both capital and lower-case letters.
- Capital letters should sit on the line and be larger than the lowercase alongside them. For example



Most letters are formed from top to bottom, here is an alphabet handwriting prompt to help you.



A letter formation chart can be found on our website here:

http://www.scecs.act.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/430113/Ab Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll.pdf

If you have any questions please speak to your child's teacher or come and have a chat with Nicky.

From the P&C

Meeting this Wednesday

The next P&C meeting will be held at Sue's Kitchen at 7pm Wednesday 9th September. ALL WELCOME! There will be an online option available- just let Jess know on 0413 224 496 if you would like to attend remotely.

Pie + Pasta + Pastry Drive

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER FOR THE PIE DRIVE! Get your orders in now

at <https://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/southern-cross-early-childhood-school/custom-store/scecspiedrive>

Party Rainbow Daytime Disco

Next week we will be hosting TWO daytime discos. The theme is Party Rainbows. The beginning of the week Preschool + Kindergarten disco will be Wednesday September 16th. The end of the week Preschool + Year 1/2 disco will be Thursday September 17th. All children are welcome to dress colourfully both days.

EVERY student will be included in these events so we ask that when you are paying the \$2.50 for your child to attend, you may consider "paying it forward" for another family by donating an additional \$5 to the P&C. This donation will either offset the costs of hosting the event or pay for a family that can't right now. We thank you in advance

You can purchase your tickets here: [Disco Tickets](#)



From Anglicare

School Holiday Program

The School Holiday Program will be in operation from Monday 28 September – Friday 9 October 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. If you need a request form please email southerncross@anglicare.com.au

Monday 28/09	Tuesday 29/09	Wednesday 30/09	Thursday 01/10	Friday 02/10
Stay Outside Day Spend the day outside. There will be gardening, oasis play and fun at the treehouse. To end the day we'll have a picnic. Bring changes of clothes!	Spring Baking There is no better way to celebrate spring with some delicious treats! Let's get baking!	Crazy Hair Day Come to holiday program styled with the craziest hair you can imagine! Let's make hair pieces, then head to the photo booth with crazy props! Prizes galore!	Toy Making Day Bring your own small toy for a day of construction. Make amazing toy accessories using craft and loose parts. We'll make cars and robots, too!	Pyjama, movie & Disco Come dressed in your pyjamas to watch a G/PG movie. We'll sing, dance and create our own music homemade instruments. Create and decorate your own pillow case
Monday 05/10	Tuesday 06/10	Wednesday 07/10	Thursday 08/10	Friday 09/10
Public Holiday	Relaxation Day Today will be full of relaxation, mindfulness activities and basic yoga. We'll create mandalas, origami, hama bead creations, scavenger hunts and riddles.	Science Experiments Let's make an explosion!! Ah just kidding, science day will be full of cool and fun experiments. We will be creating items such as bath bombs, bath jelly and elephant toothpaste.	Bring your Bike Day Join us for races and an obstacle course within the school grounds. Don't forget your helmet!	Halloween Day Wear a costume; let's put on a play! We're going to carve a pumpkin and make spooky potions. We will end the day with a treasure hunt.

Various activities are offered as an alternative for all programmed days. These include craft, construction, reading, music experiences, group games, outdoor activities, and free learning experiences. Please ensure you have 2-3 changes of clothing for when we play in the mud and get messy.

Please also bring your child's bike/scooter and helmet if they wish to go to the bike track that day. **All meals provided**

Community Information

2020 Westfield Local Heroes

Westfield Local Heroes are nominated by their communities, and the outcome of the public vote will determine the three successful 2020 nominees for every Westfield centre, with each of their affiliated organisations awarded a \$10,000 grant to support their work to thrive. **Every vote counts - voting closes 14 September 2020**

Sue White, a member of our school community has been nominated, please see her nomination below.

Sue White

Scullin Community Group

Passionate. Vibrant. Determined



Sue White is known as a super-connector and is on a mission to transform her suburb of Scullin into a vibrant community. In late 2018, Sue and neighbour Rachel Howard founded [Scullin Community Group](#). Within weeks they had set up a popular Facebook group, organised a community get-together and canvassed the views of locals about strengthening the suburb's sense of community. In under 18 months, the group has spearheaded an impressive list of improvements, including the volunteer-run Scullin Traders, murals, garden beds and events for locals. "I love how connections between residents change our feelings about where we live," Sue says.

If Sue is successful, the community group will buy an events trailer with tables, bunting, lights and fake lawn for use across the Belconnen area.

If you would like to vote or see other nominees for our region please follow this link-

<https://www.westfield.com.au/belconnen/story/LPy3A9YzZkMIndUIOv6eE/local-heroes-2020>

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

Canberra Health Services

Instead of Kindergarten Health Screening being held at the school Canberra Health Services is offering a **targeted Kindergarten Health Check concentrating on vision and hearing.**

These health checks are performed in clinics at the City Health Centre Mondays and Fridays and there will be appointments most days in the school holidays.

An appointment can be made by phoning the Central Intake Line on 51249977. ACT Nutrition Support Service

ACT Nutrition Support Service

A Very Healthy Handful

Can you think of a snack that is nutritious and delicious, requires no preparation and can be stored in your bag all day? We are here to remind you of all the benefits of nuts!

Research shows that nuts are little nutrition gems, with the winning combination of protein, healthy fatty acids, fibre, vitamins and minerals. This can lead to great health benefits when consumed regularly.



Let's go nuts over almonds

Today's nuts in focus are almonds, but why all the fuss? This is what a small healthy handful of almonds (about 20 almonds or 30g) provides:

- 70% of your vitamin E requirements for healthy hearts. Not to mention those healthy fats and plant sterols for your ticker
- 7% of your daily calcium needs for strong bones and teeth.
- 10% of your daily fibre needs for a healthy digestive system
- zinc which can support a healthy immune system, AND
- iron which helps keep us energised



As you can tell, they pack a punch!

Easy ways to enjoy your almonds:

- grab a healthy handful
- toast and sprinkle on salads or roast veg
- use almond meal to crumb chicken or tofu
- incorporate into your pesto sauce
- make our yummy [choc balls](#)!



Free parent assistive technology webinar: Literacy accessibility tool for Google Chrome

Due to popular demand this one-hour parent/carer webinar will provide an introduction to the fundamentals on Read&Write for Google Chrome to support reading and access to curriculum, writing tools and accessibility features such as text to speech, dictionary, vocabulary and more. All students enrolled in ACT public schools have free access to Read&Write for Google Chrome both at school and at home, with the license being extended for an additional three years.

To access the webinar, participants will need to register via the link below.

[Free Parent/Carer/s Assistive Technology Webinar - Read&Write for Google Chrome \(264 kb PDF\)](#)

eSafety live family webinar

The Education Directorate, through its partnership with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner and the Australian Federal Police, will be hosting a live webinar for families on Wednesday 16 September 2020 from 7.00pm to 8.15pm. This webinar is suitable for adults and will provide an overview of the role and function of the Office of the eSafety Commissioner and the AFP. It will cover prevention tips and resources, difficult conversations, how to help your child be a responsible digital citizen and how to report inappropriate and harmful content.

Participants will be able to ask questions throughout the webinar through a secure link. [Register](#) for the best experience and full functionality. We encourage you to use a personal PC/laptop or mobile device.



Introducing Southern Cross Paint and Play

Each Tuesday Morning

10am-11:30am

At Southern Cross Early Childhood School

33 Wirraway Cres, Scullin

Come along and join in with the painting, singing, craft and construction. Paint and Play will be held outdoors each week during the school term.

Call ACT Playgroups on 1800 171 882



Tuesday 15 September 2020

7-8 pm

webinar

Transition to school

Tips and resources for parents supporting children who are starting school or preschool

Parents and carers are invited to hear about the research supporting transitions, and ways to help prepare children and families for starting school or preschool.

A resource kit will be available

To register (or request resources):

Facebook - ACT Council of P&C Associations

or phone: 02 6241 5759

Presented by the P&C Council and the ACT Education Directorate.



ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations



Excerpt from the innovation of a well-known text

by our local author from Year 2 – Hudson

Once upon a time there was a girl named Goldilocks. Goldilocks lived in a small village nearby the woods. One soft and gentle morning, Goldilocks awoke from her sleep then she went downstairs to play outside. Just then, Goldilocks saw a little cricket. Goldilocks ran after the cricket and soon she was lost in the woods. Then she saw a little cottage across a stream. She cried "I think whoever owns this cottage could help me find my way back through the woods". She knocked on the door three times. On the third knock the door swung open and no-one was there.

Then there was a smell that caught Goldilocks' eye. There were three bowls of porridge. "I'm sure no-one will notice" she said. She took a spoon and the nearest and biggest of all the bowls of porridge. She took one spoonful of porridge. Once she swallowed it, she yelped so tremendously that she couldn't hear herself. Next she tried the medium bowl of porridge but it was too cold. Next she tried the smallest bowl and it was just right. In fact she ate it all. After all that eating she felt a bit tired. She went into the living room. There were three chairs. Goldilocks sat in the biggest chair but it was too hard. Next she sat in the medium chair but it was too soft. Then she tried the smallest chair and it was just right. Just as she got comfortable it cracked.