

Southern Cross Early Childhood School



Newsletter 5 | Monday 4 April 2022

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 5 April
P&C Pyjama Day

Thursday 7 April
P&C Pyjama Day – Bunduluk & Dnnawan

Friday 8 April
Last day of Term 1

Tuesday 26 April
Term 2 commences

Dear families and friends

I cannot believe that it is already April! We have had a wonderful term and I would like to thank all of you for your trust and confidence in us to manage the health and wellbeing of our children, families, and staff. A big thanks to our staff for their resilience and dedication to ensure the learning focus has been strong whilst ensuring their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of our children.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our teachers Lisa Ryan and Chloe Gleeson! Both of these amazing teachers had their graduation ceremony last Thursday. Chloe celebrated the completion of her Bachelor of Education (primary and early childhood) and Lisa celebrated the completion of her Masters in Education. It was so lovely that they could celebrate their achievements together.

Play Workshop

As a culmination of their learning this term, our kindergarten and year 1/2 children will be sharing the learning they have been engaged in during Play Workshop this Thursday. It has been lovely to see the deep learning that has occurred through play, and the deeper understandings children have about the concepts.

Children in kindergarten have been learning about what it means to belong in a community and their connections to family, friends and school. They have created books about their learning and will share them with other classes.

Children in year 1/2 have been learning about special places and how to care for special places. The children have been recording their learning using the following questions as prompts: What is your place? Why did you choose this place? Where in the world is your place? What features does your place have? How are you caring for your place? Children will share their responses to these questions with other classes.

Teachers will share this learning with you all on Seesaw.



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

Wushka

Southern Cross Early Childhood School has continued with the subscription for the online reading website Wushka. Many of our families have been accessing this resource for home reading. If you haven't yet accessed this website, it would be great to check that you have access before Friday. If you are experiencing difficulty, please call us at reception on 61420020 and we can help. I would encourage you to put aside 30 mins each day of the school holidays for your child/ren to engage in reading so they can continue to practise the reading strategies they have been learning at school.

School Holidays

The school holidays will begin on Monday 11 April. We return to school on Tuesday 26 April (after ANZAC Day on April 25). Please take the time to connect as a family and enjoy all the wonderful experiences Canberra offers at this time of the year. You may like to visit the following website to explore what the Australian War Memorial has on offer for ANZAC Day: <https://www.awm.gov.au/>

I hope you all have a lovely break and stay well. See you all in term 2!

Warm regards

Kelly

From the Education Directorate

Changes to Rapid Antigen Test Distribution Until the End of Term 1

The ACT Government is making some changes to the way rapid antigen tests (RAT) are distributed to ACT school communities for the remainder of term 1.

RATs will continue to be available through our school but will be provided to students/families and volunteers as needed, or if there are increased cases in our school.

This change will ensure school communities continue to have ready access to RATs, which is one of the many measures that have supported a safe return for students and staff to on-campus learning in term 1.

Families who require additional RATs can request them by phoning 61420020 or emailing Nicole at nicole.emerton@ed.act.edu.au.

You can find more information on the Education Directorate website: [FAQ on Term 1 2022 school arrangements - Education \(act.gov.au\)](#)

Don't forget to report positive rapid antigen test results to ACT Health

Thank you to all those parents and carers who have been following the health advice and reporting to schools when their child has attended school during their infectious period for COVID-19.

Please be reminded that all positive rapid antigen test result must also be reported to ACT Health via the online form at www.covid19.act.gov.au/RAT-positive

This advice applies to everyone in our community.

REMEMBER:

- If you can't complete the form or you're having trouble, you can call 5124 6500 between 8am and 6pm and ACT Health will help you.
- Reporting your positive result is important. It helps us track the spread of COVID-19 in the ACT and it means we can help you access support you may need.
- More information on what to do if your child tests positive is available on our page www.covid19.act.gov.au

Fun Facts: Flag Flying Protocols

The ACT Education Directorate provide schools across the ACT with three flagpoles on which they fly the Australian National Flag, the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag.

The way the flagpoles are positioned determines how the Australian National Flag, the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flags are flown. We adhere to the Flag Flying Protocols provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

At Southern Cross Early Childhood School, we have a taller central flag pole with two shorter poles either side. As protocol states we fly the Australian National Flag on the highest flagpole and then the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag on either side.



If one flagpole is higher than other poles, the Australian National Flag should be flown on that flagpole.

For example, when displaying the Australian National Flag, the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag on a flag stand where the centre flagpole is highest, the Australian National Flag should be placed in the centre.

The Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag may be flown at any time. The Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag may be flown together or either flag may be flown individually, depending on the preference of the organisation. The Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag are equal in precedence so may be flown in any order.

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/government/australian-flags-booklet/part-2/flying-australian-national-flag-state-and-other-flags>

From Southern Cross

Harmony Week Community Gathering

Our Community Gathering was a big success. Seeing everyone make connections, sharing craft and warming up with coffee was a fantastic way to re-engage. The Smoking Ceremony led by Wiradjuri Echoes was a powerful way to cleanse and start anew. Our Year 2 leaders worked alongside Elder Duncan Smith OAM and his daughter Jakida in our Reconciliation Courtyard – they handed over custodianship of this significant place and championed us to get smarter

about traditional ways of knowing and being. We are hopeful that this learning over time will create ceremony, interconnectedness and deep understanding across our community.

Thanks to all of the families and educators that made the extra efforts come along to play – we are grateful for the time shared together.



Anglicare

Welcome our new Educational Leaders for 2022

The educational leader of a service plays a significant role in guiding and developing educators' and families' understandings about play and leisure-based learning, and the significance of the early years in the education continuum for children. (ACECQA, retrieved 4/4/2022)

For 2022 we were able to employ a second Educational Leader to support our team. I would like to introduce both successful applicants who have moved into these roles.



Amy Burrell will be supporting our Nuddya Out of School hours and Walga Nature Preschool teams.



Jeska Marshall is taking on the position of Educational Leader for our Long Day Care Teams - Gula, Buru and Munjawari.

Last Friday we said goodbye to Mel Marshall our Educational Leader and Mel O'Neill from our Out of School Hours Team, to pursue new opportunities in Early Childhood Education and Care and wished them well for the next steps in their careers.

Southern Cross P&C

Thanks from the P&C

We can't believe the end of Term 1 is here already! On behalf of the P&C we would like to extend our thanks to all the teachers and staff at SCECS for their hard work this term. It has remained challenging with COVID, but staff are always willing to go the extra mile, so THANK YOU!

Pyjama Day

Tomorrow - Tuesday 5 April (and Thursday 7 April for end of the week preschoolers) please send your child to school in their favourite PJs and bring a gold coin donation. The P&C have some fun ideas up our sleeve for future events this year (when covid rules are relaxed!).

Any funds raised will help the P&C run these events.

Patty and Katherine
Southern Cross P&C, Co-Presidents

Pyjama Day
GOLD COIN DONATION
Wear your favourite pyjamas to school
Week 10
Tuesday 5 April
Thursday 7 April for end-of-week preschoolers
Money raised will go towards further fun events later in the year

Community Information

Slow down to keep children safe

School environments are busy during the peak periods, please remember to slow down and be alert for other motorists and pedestrians, particularly children.

Motorists are encouraged to drive at a safe speed on the roads around our school, particularly Wirraway Crescent and Ross Smith Crescent. A safe speed during the peak periods may be well below the posted speed limit of 40km/h.

Children aren't predictable around traffic and can be easily distracted when they are with friends or excited to see mum or dad, so they might not be watching out for you.

Children can wait safely near the front office until you arrive, so please remember to drive slowly and take care even when you are running a few minutes late.



Another Chance op shop, Ross Smith Cres, Scullin shops will have 50% off the entire store from Friday 8 – Thursday 14 April.

Six days of great deals, with new stock on display daily.

Choose from clothing, shoes, hats, bags, books, kitchenware, toys, linen, craft and much, much more.

Another Chance is truly a hidden gem with lots of bargains to be found.

Open 10am – 4:30pm weekdays and 10am – 1pm Saturday.



Big skills FOR SMALL BIKES

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SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!

NEXT COURSE STARTS 11 APRIL

Info and bookings:
pedalpower.org.au/courses

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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

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP

BASKETBALL ACT

UPCOMING CAMPS

11-13 April 2022

9am - 12pm
Ages 5-9 years

1pm - 4pm
Ages 10-13 years

Belconnen Basketball Stadium

19-21 April 2022

9am - 12pm
Ages 5-9 years

1pm - 4pm
Ages 10-13 years

Tuggeranong Southern Cross Stadium

Further details about cost, requirements and registration at
www.basketballact.com.au

Authentic ways to discover your child's Creativity

Tuesday 22th April
10am to 12pm

Free Event

John Knight Park
Belconnen

POP-UP PLAYGROUND

Join us for two hours of free play with loose parts. An activity conducted by the University of Canberra preservice teachers to promote the benefits of play and the children's right to it (Parents/Carers presence is required).

Don't miss a day full of energy!

Suitable for children 4-8 years old