

SOUTHERN CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

NEWSLETTER 1 | MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2023

Dear families and friends

Welcome to the 2023 school year! What a terrific start we have had. The children have settled beautifully into their new learning spaces and are getting to know new friends and educators.

FAMILY – EDUCATOR MEETINGS – ‘GETTING TO KNOW YOU’

This week our teachers are offering ‘getting to know you’ interviews. 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.

WELCOME PICNIC - THIS WEDNESDAY 5:00-6:30PM

Southern Cross welcomes all families to the outdoor learning area for a picnic. Please bring a rug or chairs and some dinner (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. Please ask a friend or a staff member to watch your child/ren while you attend your meeting.

SEESAW

Teachers will be posting to Seesaw this week to activate your child’s 2023 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 reception.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Wednesday 8 February | 5.00-6.30
2023 Welcome Picnic

Monday 13 February – Friday 24
February
BASE testing for Kindergarten students

Monday 13 February | 6.30pm
Southern Cross P&C AGM

Southern Cross Early Childhood School

Principal: Kelly Booker
Deputy Principal: Liz Marman
Executive Teacher: Emily Hartley
Community Coordinator: Sharon Craft
Business Manager: Emma Muffet
Office Administrator: Nicole Emerton

Anglicare at Southern Cross

Director: Erin Uphill
Educational Leader: Jesska Marshall
Educational Leader: Amy Burrell
Centre Administrator: Rosie Chant & Natalie Vrans

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



ACT
Government
Education

UPDATE ON THE COLA (COVERED OUTDOOR LEARNING AREA)

Unfortunately, there were some unexpected delays over January, but we are on back on track and we are hoping the COLA will be complete by the end of this week or early next week. This area will allow families to stay dry at pick up and drop off when it rains, it also provides a wonderful, shaded area for the children at lunch and recess, and it will enable our whole school to be outside at lunch and recess when it rains.

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.

AFFILIATED SCHOOLS – OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

Over the last two years, Southern Cross Early Childhood School have had a strong partnership with the University of Canberra through the Affiliated Schools initiative. We are continuing this partnership in 2023 and our first engagement as a part of this initiative is to host PCK English Clinics at Southern Cross. On a Thursday morning from weeks 3-9 this term, we will host up to 20 UC pre-service teachers at our school. These pre-service teachers engage in their tutorial on our school site and then will work in small groups with some of our children in year 1/2 for up to 60 mins. We value this opportunity to support the learning of our pre-service teachers.

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.

Have a lovely week,

Kelly

FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

STAYING COVID SMART IN 2023

Being COVID Smart remains a priority for all ACT public schools in 2023.

Students, staff and visitors are reminded to:

- Stay home if unwell and get tested for COVID-19
- Stay up to date with your vaccinations
- Practise good hand and respiratory hygiene
- Physically distance from others when in public places

Individual schools may implement additional measures to manage COVID-19 if deemed necessary in a particular setting. Any changes will be communicated to parents and carers.

If your child has COVID-19, you must let the school know. We recommend keeping your child home for at least five days.

RATs are again available from the school for students in term 1 from the front office.

You can read more about how we are being COVID Smart in ACT public schools at

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/covid-school-arrangements>

SAFE PARKING AROUND SCHOOLS

The start of the school year is a particularly busy time in our school carparks and surrounding streets. It's important that we park safely and legally to support the safety of students.

Parking on a footpath, nature strip or roadside verge can:

- Cause safety risks for pedestrians as they are less visible to oncoming cars
- Increase the risk for vulnerable members of our community like children, people who are visually impaired, and those using a wheelchair or pram
- Restrict the line of sight for other road users
- Restrict access for emergency services vehicles.

Parking on nature strips can also damage trees, footpaths, gutters and underground pipes and cables. Please also remember not to park across driveways or block neighbouring residents' properties.

As students return to school remember to also slow down and stick to the 40km/h limit around our schools between 8am and 4pm.

Parking inspectors regularly patrol school zones to support safe parking and keep students safe.

If you cannot find a car park in our school car parks, we suggest parking a little further away and walking or riding the rest of the way – it's a quick and easy way to get in some exercise too.

Let's all work together to keep our kids and community safe!

More information about travelling safely to school is available on the [Transport ACT website](#).

FROM SOUTHERN CROSS

SCHOOL TERMS FOR 2023

TERM 1, 2023: Monday 30 January – Thursday 6 April 2023

TERM 2, 2023: Monday 24 April – Friday 30 June 2023

TERM 3, 2023: Monday 17 July – Friday 22 September 2023

TERM 4, 2022: Monday 9 October – Friday 15 December 2023

Southern Cross Early Childhood School

2023

Welcome Picnic

Wednesday 8 February

5.00pm-6.30pm

Come along and enjoy an evening with the Southern Cross Early Childhood School community.

This is a time for children and families to connect and make new friends.

Where: Outdoor Learning Environment

What to bring: A picnic dinner (no nuts or alcohol please) for the whole family, rug and/or chairs

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 will be emailed to families in Term 1, 2023.

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.

EDUCATOR CONTACT DETAILS

Preschool

Guginya	Bec Morgan	Rebecca.morgan@ed.act.edu.au
Wamburrang	Sophie Jarvis	Sophie.jarvis@ed.act.edu.au
Bunduluk	Belinda Smith	Belinda.smith@ed.act.edu.au
Dnnawan	Bianca Boyle	Bianca.boyle@ed.act.edu.au
Preschool Team Leader	Liz Marman	Elizabeth.marman@ed.act.edu.au

Kindergarten

Dyurra	Chloe Gleeson	Chloe.gleeson@ed.act.edu.au
Kabbadang	Candice Kelly	Candice.kelly@ed.act.edu.au
	Anne-Maree Smith	Anne-Maree.smith@ed.act.edu.au
Winyu	Sharron Wynn	Sharron.wynn@ed.act.edu.au
	Sarah Hornby	Sarah.hornby@ed.act.edu.au
Kindergarten Team Leader	Liz Marman	Elizabeth.marman@ed.act.edu.au

Year 1/2

Dyirrigurat	Stephanie Tanner	Stepahie.tanner@ed.act.edu.au
Gudamang	Katrina Lees	Katrina.lees@ed.act.edu.au
Ghaddi	Alys Humphrey	Alys.humphrey@ed.act.edu.au
Wirria	Hayley Jones	Hayley.jones@ed.act.edu.au
	Johnathan Price	Johnathan.price@ed.act.edu.au
1/2 Team Leader	Emily Hartley	Emily.hartley@ed.act.edu.au

FROM ANGLICARE

BRIGHT STAR CAFE

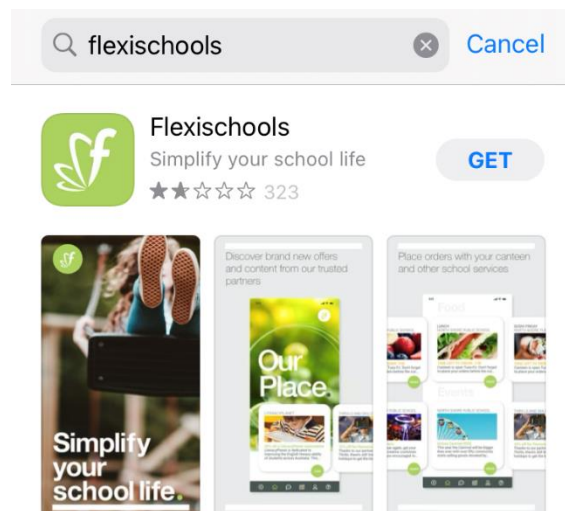
The Bright Star Café is now taking lunch orders for children attending Southern Cross Early Childhood School. Lunch orders can be placed using the Flexischools App or paying in cash at reception. Lunch orders consist of a hot meal and a piece of fruit at a cost of \$6.00. The four-week rotating menu 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!

Welcome to all our new and returning Southern Cross families! We are so excited that restrictions have eased, and the P&C is able to have a full calendar of events this year!

There's just one problem... many of our experienced P&C members are stepping down or have left the school and we need YOU to help us plan, organise and run the events.

Most positions on the P&C Committee require just a couple of hours of your time a month to contribute and make some magic for the children and our community. It's a team effort, so you won't be in it alone.

Children are welcome to meetings and events- we can work



around your busy schedules! Please consider joining - it's a lovely way to meet other families at the school and put your ideas on the table for the school.

If you'd like to know more, the outgoing committee are happy to chat - come chat to us at the welcome picnic this Wednesday, send us an email or message, or join us at the AGM on Monday 13 February where we will elect the new committee.

AGM DETAILS

When: Monday 13 February, 6.30pm

Where: School Staff Room, Southern Cross Early Childhood School.

Parking and entry: Please park on Wirraway St and walk into the school via the sliding door next to the Teacher Parking lot.

Light refreshments provided. Children welcome.

WELCOME PICNIC - SECOND HAND CLOTHING STALL

Thanks to the generosity of our community our second-hand clothing pool is bursting!

If you need extra uniforms, we will be setting up a stall at the Welcome Picnic, **Wednesday 8 February from 5.00pm - 6.00pm**. We will be able to take both cash and electronic payments.

If you have donations for the second-hand clothing pool, we'll be accepting those as well.

CAMPOUT!

We are so excited to be able to hold CampOUT at the school this Term! This was last held in 2021 and 2019.

CampOUT is a fun family event where SCECS families get to stay overnight in tents in the school grounds! We have campfires, marshmallows, story time and scavenger hunts- topped off with a BBQ Breakfast provided by the P&C.

We look forward to sharing more about this with you soon, the date is likely to be Friday of Week 9.





COMMUNITY INFORMATION

COME & PLAY DAY

THE NETBALL ACT COME AND PLAY DAY IS THE PERFECT INTRODUCTION TO THE WOOLWORTHS NETSETGO PROGRAM AND THE EXCITING WORLD OF NETBALL!

WHERE: SOUTH CANBERRA NETBALL COURTS, DEAKIN
WHEN: SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY
TIME: 9:00AM - 11:00AM

COME & PLAY

LINK TO REGISTER ATTENDANCE

SENSORY STORY TIME

School terms only

📍 Kippax Library 📍 Belconnen Library
🕒 10am - 11am, Thursdays 🕒 10am - 11am, Fridays

Help build your child's social play and literacy. We will model appropriate behaviours while reading. Plus, we'll explore simple questions and our seven senses together.

This program is great for children living with autism or have sensory challenges.

Bookings are required. Scan the QR code or visit our website to book.

SCAN ME

ACT | LIBRARIES ACT

www.library.act.gov.au | [f](https://www.facebook.com/librariesact) [i](https://www.instagram.com/librariesact) [y](https://www.youtube.com/librariesact) @librariesact | 6205 9000



Child Development Service
26 Weingarth St
Holder ACT 2611
Intake Phone: (02) 6207 8884
Email: Child.Development@act.gov.au

CDS Speech Pathology/Physiotherapy/Occupational Therapy Clinics

For Drop-In-Clinic Timetables and current health advice, please visit:
communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice/drop-in-clinics

What is Drop In Clinic?

Child Development Service Clinics provide parents in the ACT with an opportunity to discuss concerns about their child's development with a Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist. These clinics take the form of an informal discussion and screen of skills; it is not an assessment. If assessment and/or intervention is recommended following the clinic, a referral will be made to the appropriate service.

Who should come to a Clinic?

Parents and guardians are welcome to attend a Drop In Clinic or call our Intake Service if they have concerns about their children in any of the following areas:

Physiotherapy	Speech Pathology	Occupational Therapy
General/lower limb posture concerns	Speech (sounds)	Fine motor skills e.g. grasping toys, using pencils and scissors.
Delays in gross motor development, e.g. sitting, walking, jumping	Language (understanding and speaking)	Self- Care skills e.g. dressing, toileting
Clumsiness	Fluency (stuttering)	Play skills e.g. playing with toys and alongside others
Difficulties with catching, throwing, kicking balls		Difficulties participating in everyday activities due to sensory responses

Please note that CDS Drop In Clinics are only available for children 0-6 years who have a residential address in the ACT and are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

CDS does not provide services for

- Injuries, back conditions, and painful joints (refer to your doctor)
- Voice disorders
- Handwriting concerns, literacy, and numeracy concerns
- Baby head shape, talipes, neck issues where there are no current concerns about development

For concerns about feeding or swallowing or further information about Drop In Clinic please contact our Intake Service Ph: 6207 8884 Email: child.development@act.gov.au

A program of





MAGPIES



**AUSKICK ROOKIES
STARTS SATURDAY
THE 11th OF FEBRUARY
@ 10AM
PADDYS PARK · GINNINDERRY
rego@magpiesjuniors.com**



**Simply scan the
QR Code
to register
your Little Legend**



**REGISTER NOW
FOR 2023**

