

SOUTHERN CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

NEWSLETTER 20 | MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023

Hello families and friends,

Welcome to Monday of Week 10! We have had another wonderful year at Southern Cross and as I reflect on yet another year passing, I am so grateful to be a part of this special community. Some things that I am particularly proud of this year are our thorough and thoughtful transition processes, our year 2 leaders and their special graduation ceremony this week, and the determination and dedication of our staff to continue strengthening learning and teaching for all children, that continues to show in the growth of our student learning data.

THANK YOU

I would like to **thank our staff at Southern Cross Early Childhood School** for their commitment, collaboration, and resilience. Working in schools every day is so very rewarding, and it also requires people who go above and beyond each day for the children and our community. I am thankful to have a fabulous team who inspire not only the children, but also me. Thank you for all you do.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank some hard-working people in our community. A huge **thank you to our School Board members:** Jasmine Glover, Frances Stewart, Jasja van den Bos, Nicole Emerton and Elizabeth Marman. I appreciate your time, expertise and commitment to our school. It has been a pleasure to work with you all again this year.

A huge **thank you to our P&C committee members** and those who have volunteered throughout the year. Thank you for your support and dedication to our school community. We know so many of us have little time to share in roles such as these, and I thank you for committing your energy and time to

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 11 December | 2.00-3.00
Year 2 Graduation

Tuesday 12 December | 5.00-7.00
End of Year Celebration

Thursday 14 December | 8.30-9.30
Volunteers Morning Tea

Friday 15 December
Last day of Term 4

Tuesday 30 January
Preschool and Kindergarten start
school for 2024

Wednesday 31 January
Year 1/2 start school for 2024

Thursday 1 February
End of Week Preschool start
school for 2024

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

support us.

If you have volunteered at our school this year, please join us for a **Volunteers Morning Tea** so we can thank you for your time and expertise. Thursday 14 Dec 8:30-9:30am in the Community Room.

I feel incredibly grateful to be leading such a wonderful community and I cannot wait to do it all again in 2024.

2024 RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Beginning of the week preschool and kindergarten children will return on Tuesday 30 January.

Year 1/2 children will return on Wednesday 31 January.

End of the week preschool children will start on Thursday 1 February.

Families are welcome to bring their child to their classroom on the first morning to settle them in. Preschool families will be emailed a specific time for the first day drop off to allow us to support our youngest children as best we can on this special first day. We will post up maps and be available for any of you who may not know where the new classroom is. Access will be through the front doors or through the back gate onto the blacktop, behind kindergarten and year 1/2.

ENJOY AND STAY SAFE

Please enjoy your well-earned break and enjoy time with family and friends. Here are some links to access information about mindfulness, physical activity and how to care for your wellbeing during the break. This year has been a busy one, so please take the time to recharge and rest ready for 2024.

- <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/physical-activity-and-exercise/physical-activity-and-exercise-guidelines-for-all-australians/for-children-and-young-people-5-to-17-years>
- <https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/health-daily-care/mental-health/children-s-mental-health>
- https://www.werribeeps.vic.edu.au/uploaded_files/media/wellbeing_tips_for_primary_school_kids.pdf
-

I would like to wish all of our families who are moving to new schools in 2024, the very best for the new year at your new school. Please stay in touch. Our 2023 graduating year 2 children, remember to keep an eye out for your alumni invitation in term 3 2024, as we rely on your expertise to provide advice for our next cohort of year 2 leaders who will transition to a new school.

See you all on Tuesday 12 December for our End of Year Celebration, starting at 5:30pm.

Warm wishes,

Kelly

FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

NEW MOBILE PHONE POLICY FROM TERM 1 2024

From term 1, 2024, a new policy will be in place regarding the way student mobile phones are used across ACT public schools. This follows an extensive engagement process with feedback received from over 3,200 staff, community, students, and stakeholders. Through the engagement we heard that there is strong and consistent support for the minimisation of student mobile phone use in ACT public schools.

WHAT WILL CHANGE?

Changes for students P-10

Students in Years P-10 at ACT public schools may not use or access personal communications devices at school, including recess and lunch, or during school authorised events.

- Students are strongly encouraged to leave their phones and other personal devices at home.
- It is acknowledged that some students will need their phones or other personal devices immediately before and after school to help them get to and from school safely.

Special considerations and exemptions

An exemption can be requested and must be approved by the school principal or delegate. An exemption can be requested if a student needs their device/assistive technology:

- to manage or monitor a medical condition.
- to help meet caring or family responsibilities.

An exemption application form must be completed and is available on the Education Directorate website. An exemption request will only be approved if sufficient supporting evidence is provided, for example, from a treating general practitioner.

A transition period up to the end of term 1, 2024 will be available for schools to implement the change, and for those families needing to provide exemptions and the necessary documentation to the school. Each ACT public school will implement this policy aligning with their unique circumstances. Your school will let you know how this policy will work at your school ahead of the start of term 1 2024.

To read more, including the full policy, exemption information, and frequently asked questions visit:

www.education.act.gov.au/about-us/policies-and-publications.

For information about supporting your child to manage their screen time at home visit:

www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/screen-time.

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

WHEN WILL YOUR CHILD START IN 2024?

Tuesday 30 January 2024: Beginning of the week **Preschool** and **Kindergarten** children start school.

Wednesday 31 January 2024: **Year 1** and **Year 2** children start school.

Thursday 1 February 2024: End of the week **Preschool** children start school.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

A colorful illustration for an end-of-year celebration. It features two large, leafy green trees on a yellow-orange ground. A string of colorful triangular flags hangs from the left tree. In the background, there are three stylized stars in yellow, orange, and blue. The text is written in a playful, hand-drawn style.

Southern Cross Early Childhood School & Anglicare at Southern Cross
End of Year Celebration
Tuesday 12 December
5.00–7.00pm

Come along for an afternoon of
fun & entertainment.

Children from Southern Cross and Anglicare will be
performing a few songs to delight their families
and see the school year out with a bang!

Corner of Ross Smith & Wirraway Crescents, under the shady trees.

SOUTHERN CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL



Volunteers

THANK YOU Morning Tea

As a token of our appreciation, the Principal and staff would like you to share morning tea with us on Thursday 14 December 2023 from 8.30-9.30am in the Family Hub.

PRESCHOOL EXCURSION TO THE BOTANIC GARDENS

We spent our morning exploring the garden's plants and landscapes through the eyes of Indigenous Australians. Our Preschoolers delved straight into the Indigenous handling collection to learn how native plants can provide many of the essentials of life, including food, tools, baskets, and toys. We started with grinding wattle seeds into flour to create bread, how to make wattle cordial, wooden toys out of trees and noticed how some trees are hollow where others are solid. A favourite part of the excursion was noticing all the lizards lazing around the gardens.





FROM THE P&C

OUR LAST NEWSLETTER FOR THE YEAR!

As 2023 draws to a close, it's a great time to reflect on everything that we've accomplished together this year. So many people have volunteered their time to help out with activities and events that have been great for the kids and have raised money for the school.

We've had the Bunnings BBQ, the walkathon, a movie night, the Referendum BBQ and cake stall to name just a few. These events take a village to pull together, and it's been wonderful to work with so many of you in making them happen. Thank you!!

Together we've raised approximately \$10000 and were able to donate to the school \$2000.

A CALL FOR SPARE CLOTHES

Our preschool classes have run out of spare clothes. If you have any preschool-sized clothes (sizes 3-6) that you would like to donate, please drop them off at school any day or bring them along to the end of year celebration. Thank you!

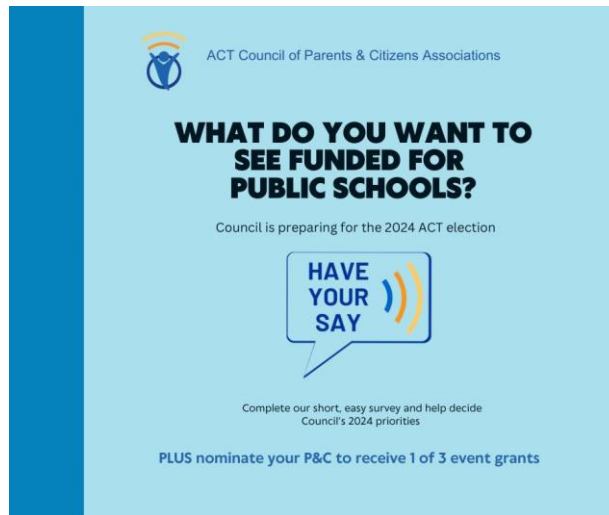
AGM

If you are interested in finding out more about the P&C Committee, we'd love to see you at the 2024 AGM! It will be held on school grounds, time and date TBC.

SURVEY

Just a reminder it's not too late to have your say on what you want to see funded for public schools!

Don't forget to complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/electionpriorities2024>



SUSTAINABLE SHOP

Remember there are second hand uniforms available from the sustainable shop - a great way to recycle and keep costs down!

SCHOLASTIC BOOKCLUB

Thank you

For all your orders this year.

It has been a pleasure to make them all ready.

We have been able to buy lot of new books for the school while you bought valuable books for your children.

Jasja van den Bos

Your Book Club coordinator



SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on FB, like and comment on our posts to help raise our online presence!

WHY I VOLUNTEER

On the why you volunteer series, today we hear from Kathryn, our wonderful secretary.

"I moved with my family to Scullin at the start of 2023. We were lucky enough to get a place for our kids at Southern Cross, with one in preschool and the other in kindy. Our daycare centre in Sydney was community-run, with a community management committee and lots of encouragement for parents, grandparents and carers to get involved in different ways. I'd seen how great that was and how, even when it was a bit painful to find the time (!!), what a close community spirit that helped to form.

So when we moved to Scullin I was really keen to get involved in the P&C and see that again at SCECS. I've loved being able to make small contributions to activities and events that make all the kids so happy, like getting a million stamps and an ice block at the walkathon. Things like the Referendum BBQ were also great for making SCECS a central part of the community and it was wonderful to see friends and neighbours all being a part of that too.

I'm still a newbie in lots of ways and have lots to learn about SCECS and about how P&Cs work, but I've been lucky to be on the Committee with a bunch of really committed people who all know and love the school and have met some awesome people through volunteering at events. At the heart of it, I hope that I can help in some way to support all the kids at SCECS and contribute to building our community."

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

RENT RELIEF IN THE ACT

The Christmas/Festive season is fast approaching, and along with it is the additional Christmas/Festive preparation expenses, not to mention the bills that will start rolling in come the New Year!

Care continues to facilitate the ACT Government's Rent Relief program for those who rent privately in the ACT. **Eligible renters can apply for the one off grant of 4 weeks rent up to a maximum of \$2,500.**



Please note: The current turn around for applications is 2-3 weeks but could increase depending on the volume of applications received.

For more information, eligibility criteria and application form head to our website – www.carefcs.org/rent-relief-scheme

Care will be closed for Christmas from Friday 22nd December 2023 reopening Tuesday 2nd January 2024.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

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