

# SOUTHERN CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL

Respect | Resilience | Kindness | Creativity

NEWSLETTER 3 | MONDAY 4 MARCH 2024

Dear families and friends

Welcome to week 6 everyone! We have had a terrific time over the last few weeks at Southern Cross. Children have settled into routines and learning has been focused and engaging. This week, our staff will be walking through the learning spaces in our staff meeting time and providing feedback to support us to continue to improve and enhance learning for the children.

## WHOLE SCHOOL GATHERING

Last week, Wirria hosted our first Whole School Gathering for the year. Our Whole School Gatherings happen each Wednesday of week 5 and week 10 at 9:15am. These are important occasions where we can gather the whole school, and have Anglicare groups join us, we celebrate the learning of the host class, sing together and pass along any exciting news.

Last week, we shared ideas about how we can be a great *Communicator* and *Collaborator* in Play Workshop and across all learning areas. We heard Wirria's learning about their class name – which is a tree goanna in Ngunnawal language. They have been wondering and researching what tree goannas eat, where they live and what their features are. Wirria then sang a song about goannas from the Yorta Yorta people.

Thank you to Wirria for a lovely Whole School Gathering. Many thanks to all the families who were able to come along and share our gathering and learning.

## HARMONY FESTIVAL

On **Friday 22 March**, Southern Cross Early Childhood School and the P&C will host **Harmony Festival at our school from 5-7pm**. We have so many fun

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 4 March | 3.00  
Parent Portal Launch

Monday 11 March  
PUBLIC HOLIDAY – Canberra Day

Wednesday 13 March | 12.00-1.30  
Christian Education in Schools

Thursday 14 March | 3.00  
P&C Stay and Play @ the Treehouse

Friday 22 March | 5.00-7.00  
Harmony Festival

Friday 29 March  
PUBLIC HOLIDAY – Good Friday

Monday 1 April  
PUBLIC HOLIDAY – Easter Monday

Southern Cross Early Childhood School  
Wirraway Crescent Scullin | ACT | 2614

☎ 02 6142 0020

🌐 [www.scecs.act.edu.au](http://www.scecs.act.edu.au)

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



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

experiences to share including, toasted marshmallows, a scavenger hunt, samba and salsa dancing, Momposina Colombian dance group and the Tacontento Taco Food Truck!

We would love to see all of you to celebrate our rich cultures and the collaboration we share as a community. Please wear your traditional dress so we can celebrate you!

As a part of our Harmony Week festivities, we would like to compile a community recipe book. Please email your family recipe to Nicole at [nicole.emerton@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:nicole.emerton@ed.act.edu.au). These will be emailed out as an e-resource to our community.

If your family would like to share any art, dance, music or other unique aspect of your culture, please get in touch with [Sharon.craft@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Sharon.craft@ed.act.edu.au) to let us know! We are excited to bring our community together to share culture and experiences.

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#### FRIENDLY REMINDER – PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND PUPIL FREE DAYS

We have a few public holidays coming up and we would like to remind everyone that our school will be closed on the following days:

Monday 11 March – Canberra Day Public Holiday in the ACT

Friday 29 March – Good Friday Public Holiday

Monday 1 April – Easter Monday Public Holiday

School Term ends on Friday 12 April (this is an 11-week term)

Monday 29 April – Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 30 April – First Day of Term 2

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#### WHAT READING AND WRITING LOOKS LIKE AT SOUTHERN CROSS - READER'S AND WRITER'S WORKSHOP

Research tells us that if we want children to improve their reading and writing, then they need to spend most of their learning time engaged in meaningful reading and writing experiences. The Workshop Model allows for the teacher to explicitly teach and model a strategy or skill for one-third of the lesson time and for children to practice that strategy/skill for two-thirds of the lesson time.

Whilst children are reading and writing, the teacher will conference with individual children or work with a small group of children to provide feedback and to discuss individual reading and writing goals. A reflection is orchestrated at the end of the lesson to enable the children to reflect on their learning and consider what their focus may be for the lesson the following day.

Have a lovely week,

Kelly

# FROM SOUTHERN CROSS

## KINDERGARTEN HAPPENINGS

We have had a great start to the year in kindergarten. Classes have been exploring the outdoor learning environment, the library and settling into school routines.

It has been wonderful to observe the children forming new friendships and reconnecting with their old friends.

During Play Workshop we have had a big focus on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) through brainstorming, reading stories and role playing, 'What makes a good friend?' We explored how to ask a friend to join in play and investigated solving problems such as, 'What could you do if a friend doesn't want to play with you?' We currently have a focus on using kind words and building resilience.



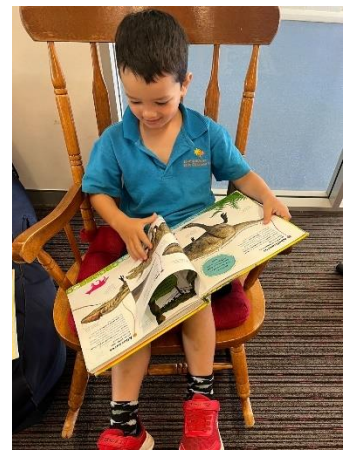
During these workshop sessions we have also been incorporating the Learning Assets of being an effective 'communicator' and 'collaborator' by discussing and brainstorming what these assets look like, feel like and sound like when playing with others.



Play Workshop is linked to our Humanities and Social Science (HASS) unit which focuses on exploring our unique and individual identities. We will do this by investigating the questions, 'What is your passion and why?' We will then identify the significant people and events in our lives and explore a range of different events and celebrations that are significant to us.



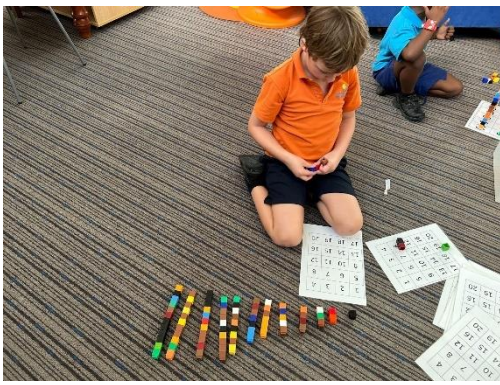
The children have been introduced to our Reader's Workshop model, exploring a variety of texts, songs, and rhymes. They have been developing their reading strategies, focussing on the 3 ways to read a book, and building their stamina when reading, looking for high frequency words and learning about letter/sound relationships.



During Writer's Workshop the children have been exploring the concept of writing. They have been investigating letters, words, and sentences. Through modelled, shared, and interactive writing the children write for a variety of purposes every day.



Kindergarten has been exploring the concept of numbers during Maths Workshop. By engaging in a variety of hands-on activities such as number hunts, quality literature, using number lines, counters and blocks, the children have been exploring numeral recognition, number value, subitising (instant recognition of a small collection) and number formation.



We look forward to a productive year with all of the children and kindergarten families.

*Candy, Chloe, Lyndsey, Leisa, Bella, Michelle and Tanya*

## EARTH HOUR – SATURDAY 23 MARCH – 8.30PM

Earth Hour started in Sydney in 2007 and has since grown to become the world's largest movement for the environment, with over 190 countries and territories participating annually to raise awareness!

Earth Hour has grown to become much more than switching your lights off, but that iconic switch-off moment is still an important part of Earth Hour. Millions of participants around the world will switch off their lights at 8:30 pm local time on Saturday 23rd March to demonstrate their support of the environment. This action is symbolic and is not an action to save power. We know it will take so much more than an hour of turning our lights out to have a measurable impact on climate change, but the action helps to bring greater awareness to the issue and demonstrates your commitment to help protect the planet – both during and beyond Earth Hour.

The world's biggest landmarks, like the Empire State Building, London Bridge and Australia's own Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge, switch off each year as a symbolic display of their commitment to the planet.

**23 March**  
**8.30pm**



**60 EARTH HOUR**



# Harmony Festival

at

# Southern Cross Early Childhood School

## Friday 22 March

**5.00-7.00pm**

**cultural activities**

# SCAVENGER HUNT

# FUN!

# Everyone Belongs

**This is a joint P&C and school event to connect, celebrate and have fun!**

*Dancing performances and workshops-*

**Momposina Colombian Dance Group**  
**Samba and Salsa Dancing**

Come along dressed  
in traditional  
clothing from your  
country!

A graphic featuring a marshmallow on a stick being roasted over a campfire. The words "MARSHMALLOW ROASTING" are written in a large, pink, arched font across the top. The background is light blue with green zig-zag lines representing trees or grass.



TACONTENTO  
FOOD TRUCK

see menu here - <https://tacontento.au/menu>

## PARENT PORTAL – LAUNCHING TODAY

Parent Portal, a secure online platform used to share student information between you and your child's teachers, will be available today.

Using the Parent Portal on your mobile phone, tablet or computer, you will be able to:

- notify us if your child is sick or explain an absence
- book parent-teacher interviews
- receive academic reports
- receive our school newsletter
- receive messages from your child's teachers
- make payments
- access the school calendar and your child's student timetable.

One of the many benefits of the Parent Portal is that it will be used by all ACT public schools from preschool through to year 12, so there will be no need to use a different system as children change schools during their public-school journey. If you have children at nearby schools you will not need to sign up to the system twice. You will be able to easily add a student to your account once their school has access to the Parent Portal.

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### SIGN UP NOW

To access the portal, you will need to create or have access to an ACT Government Digital Account. You can sign up now and complete the **level 2** identity verification process to get ready for our launch.

To complete the identity verification process, you will need one of the following:

- Driver's licence
- Australian Passport
- Birth certificate
- Australian citizenship certificate
- Change of name certificate
- Marriage certificate
- ImmiCard
- Australian visa
- Medicare
- Centrelink Concession Card

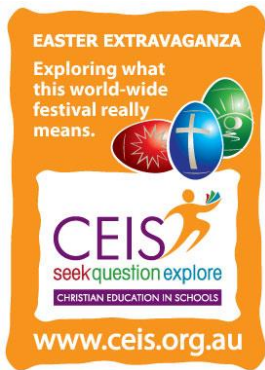
Visit the ACT Digital Account website to create your account: <https://www.myaccount.act.gov.au/>

If you have any issues with creating your account and completing your level 2 identity verification you can get in contact with ACT Digital Account to resolve by calling 13 22 81.

You will receive an email in term 1 with an access code to link your existing account to your child's records. If you have any questions, please contact the school on 61420020.

For more information about Parent Portal, visit the Education Directorate website:

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/parent-portal>.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

### Term 1 - Easter Extravaganza

This term students will move through interactive stations to explore the events of Easter as told in the Bible.

Student attendance is by parent request only.

Christian Education in Schools (CEIS) occurs once a term at Southern Cross Early Childhood School for children in kindergarten - year 2. Children can attend a 45-minute session coordinated by the CEIS project, using approved resources and volunteers. If you would like your child to attend these sessions, please see reception.

## FROM THE SOUTHERN CROSS P&C

### PLEASE SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER AT THE TWILIGHT HARMONY FESTIVAL!

We are busy planning a great Harmony Festival (March 22) for our Southern Cross children and families and can't wait to see you. To make this event really successful we need your help!

Many hands make light work and we promise you will still have plenty of time to enjoy the event with your kids. Follow the steps below to have a look and sign up to one (or more!) of the tasks that we need help with to make this event a success.



Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to go to our invitation page on SignUp: <https://signup.com/go/jCFqSZs>
2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots - SignUp will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: SignUp does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact us [scecsbandc@gmail.com](mailto:scecsbandc@gmail.com) and we can sign you up manually.

**EVERYONE WELCOME - JUST TURN UP!**

# STAY & PLAY

**3PM AFTER SCHOOL**

**THURSDAY 14 MARCH**

**MEET OTHER  
FAMILIES TO PLAY  
AT THE TREEHOUSE**



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE P&C**

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

Kind regards

The Southern Cross P&C

## BELSOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

*Fun, Football and Family*



**REGISTRATIONS OPEN**

**We still have spots available**

**Peewees: U5 to U6**

**MiniRoos Mixed: U7s**

**MiniRoos Girls: U6/U7s to U8/U9s**

**Season will run from May through to September, with games played on Saturday mornings.**

**Register Now**

**<https://belsouthfootballclub.com>**

**Still register if the package says WAITLISTED, you could be the one we are waiting for.**

