

Southern Cross Early Childhood School



Newsletter 1 | Monday, 10 February 2020

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 10 February – Friday 14 February

Getting to know you Interviews

Thursday 20 February | 5.00-7.00

Family Picnic

Tuesday 25 February | 5.15-6.00

**All about Preschool Curriculum – Parent
Information Session**

Wednesday 26 February | 5.15-6.00

Literacy Information Session

Wednesday 26 February | 6.00

P&C AGM

Thursday 27 February | 9.15-10.00

REPEAT Literacy Information Session

Monday 2 March | 5.15-6.00

**Transition Pathways – Parent Information
Session**

Wednesday 4 March | 9.15-10.00

Whole School Gathering – Year 1/2

Dear Families

Welcome to 2020!

It has been the most challenging of summers and a really interesting start to the year. We know that so many of our community have been impacted either by the fires, the smoke or the hailstorm and that repairs and recovery in some cases are still ongoing. I have to say that last week it was just so lovely to have the children start and to have many aspects of our life get back into routine. Even with the difficult summer, most everyone has made a smooth start. I have also loved meeting our children and families who are new to our community. Welcome! We are really thrilled to be working with your child and with you this year. Learning is our priority at Southern Cross and to do that effectively we also need to work closely with our families. Your expert knowledge of your child is so crucial to us being the best school and the best teachers that we can be.

Team Professional Learning

The week before the children returned was spent in professional learning for the whole staff team. We had two full days together, the first of which was working with literacy expert Catherine Nash on how we can be better teachers of writing. It was interesting, as Catherine got us to do some writing and helped us to see the importance of being writers ourselves as we teach children to write. There is so much for children to learn as they learn to write including what are letters and what sounds they make, how to form the letters, how to put letters together to make words, how you get your thoughts together to get them down on paper and what kids of words you need for particular types of writing. It is no wonder that sometimes our children go home very tired! Our teachers will be working with you to set writing goals for your child so that you can track their progress over the year in this area.



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

☎ Telephone (02) 6142 0020

✉ Email: info@scecs.act.edu.au

🌐 Web: www.scecs.act.edu.au

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

Our second day was to revisit our work in Inquiry Learning with Kath Murdoch. We had a refresher in the inquiry cycle and learnt about the learning assets that help us to be better learners. We focussed on how to be a researcher, thinker, collaborator, self-manager and communicator. We will have more information in future newsletters about the learning assets over the term, so stay tuned.

Our Cultural Integrity journey will continue over the year as we build on our action research we undertook last year. We continue to have a focus about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education and culture, looking at how we can embed quality and meaningful practice in this area into our own learning and our teaching.

New Staff

We welcome three new staff members to our community this year. Sarah Hornby has joined us on preschool, Dee Munro has joined us in Years 1 and 2 and Emma Muffet has joined us as our Acting Business Manager. Please join me in welcoming them to the Southern Cross team.

Any questions?

At the start of the year it can be tricky to remember everything. We have information on our website and on our Facebook page – when you have a moment you might want to check out both sites. The teachers also include information on our SeeSaw app so you can be connected to your child's learning. We also have other supports. Jason Thornton is our Community Coordinator and has a wealth of knowledge and experience to support families. You could also ask a question of Emma, our Business Manager and Nicole at reception as they both are really helpful. Or you can ask any of the executive, teachers or educators. If we do not know the answer we will try to find out and get back to you ASAP. If you have any worries or concerns then please talk to your child's teacher.

Staff Meetings

Please note that our staff meetings are on Wednesdays straight after school and the Kinder to Year 2 teachers have their team meetings on Tuesdays, also straight after school. If you need to touch base with your child's teacher Monday, Thursday and Friday are best for children in Kinder to Year 2. Monday and Tuesday are the best for beginning of the week preschool and Thursday and Friday are the best for end of the week preschool.

Air Quality

We were so happy last week to take delivery of seven Dyson Pure Cool™ purifying fans to use across our school. Our sincere thanks to Dyson Australia for their amazing support of Canberra Public Schools and to the Torrens Primary School dad who first contacted Dyson. If you would like to read more about the story please follow this link hercanberra.com.au/cplife/act-schools-dyson-air-purifier. To place the fans, we have prioritised the rooms without access to any filtered air and then also looked to support our most vulnerable children across the school. For families with sensitive children, please remember to update your child's asthma plan and also talk to your child's teacher or educator should you need individual arrangements in place for your child.

Getting to know you interviews

This week, all our teachers will be meeting with families for our getting to know you interviews. Relationships are the key to teaching and learning and we are better able to meet the needs of your child when we work in partnership together, so these interviews are such a huge help for us. My thanks in advance for making the time to come and talk about your child. If you have not yet made a time please see follow your link to the app to make a time.

Family Picnic

We hope that you can all join us for our Family Picnic on Thursday 20 February 2020 from 5:00 to 7:00pm. This will be a lovely, relaxed opportunity for us to get together and for you to meet children and families who are in your new class and others across the school. Please bring a blanket, your picnic dinner and non-alcoholic drinks (water will be available, no nuts please). We will be meeting out under the trees down the back of the school so there will be ample space for children to play. We really hope you can join us!

Southern Cross Calendar

The 2020 Southern Cross Calendar is available on our website. This calendar will have all our important dates for the year so you can plan ahead. We will try our best to stick to these dates and any changes will be on our Facebook page and school website. Coming up is our wonderful Family Picnic next week.

Book Packs

Thank you so much to our families who have purchased book packs for this year. The children thoroughly enjoyed delivering their packs to their classroom and the teachers are truly thankful for your support. We hope that by the children being involved in understanding what resources they have they will be able to use them wisely and sustainably. It is not too late to get your book pack. Please see Nicole or Emma in the office if you would like to purchase a pack. Financial assistance is also available to families so please do not hesitate to talk to me or to Emma as we can help.

Thank you!!!

Starting the beginning of the year takes a lot of time and effort behind the scenes and I would like to thank the whole team for all their hard work in getting our rooms and school ready for the children to come. The smooth start to the year is a direct result from all their hard work and is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,
Lyndall

From Southern Cross

Family Picnic

Family Picnic

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.



*When: Thursday 20 February 2020
Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Where: Outdoor Learning Environment
What to bring: A picnic dinner (no nuts or alcohol please) for the whole family, rug and/or chairs*



Sausages and drinks will be available for purchase.

Families have duty of care at this event and please be mindful of our neighbours when parking.

SMS Absence Notifications

Southern Cross Early Childhood School will be sending an SMS to inform families of student absences. You will receive an SMS to let you know your child has been recorded as absent on the morning of their absence. 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.

You 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 streamline our processes.

For **planned absences**, we would still appreciate advanced notice of your child's absence, please notify your class teacher or Nicole at reception.

Ngunnawal Class Names

Group/Teacher	Ngunnawal	English	Pronunciation
Anglicare			
Nursery	Gula	Koala	Gu-ala
Toddlers	Buru	Kangaroo	Bu-ru
Preschool	Munjawari	Bandicoot	Mun-ja-wari
Nature Preschool	Walga	Eagle	Wal-ga
BSC/ASC	Nuddya	Bat	Nudd-ya
Preschool			
Candice M/T/W	Guginya	Kookaburra	Gu-gin-ya
Sarah M/T/W	Wamburrang	Black Cockatoo	Bun-da-luk
Maria W/T/F	Bunduluk	Rosella	Wam-burr-an
Kellie W/T/F	Dnnawan	Emu	Dinn-a-won
Kindergarten			
Sophie	Dyurra	Stars	Doo-ra
Karen	Kabbadang	Moon	Kabb-a-dan
Nicole	Winyu	Sun	Win-yu
Year 1/2			
Lisa	Dyirrigurat	Frog	Dirri-gu-rat
Hayley	Gudamang	Turtle	Gud-a-man
Dee	Ghaddi	Snake	Gar-de
Emily	Wirria	Goanna	Wirr-ia

Sources:

- <https://www.forkword.com/plog/?p=694>
- Serena Williams
- William Tompkins - Ngunnawal Elder
- Ngunnawal Language Handbook - produced by the Ngunnawal Language Centre, an initiative of the Local Aboriginal Land Council

New Educators at Southern Cross

Sarah Hornby

I've been working in Early Childhood Education for more than 20 years and every day I seem to find something that makes me love it more and more. This year I'm teaching preschool and I'm enjoying meeting the lovely families from Southern Cross Early Childhood School. It already feels like home.

For the past 7 years I've been working at the O'Connor Cooperative School, where I held the position of Executive Teacher. Along with assisting in managing the school, I taught literacy and science, and spent lots of time in preschool.

I'm passionate about books and singing, so in my classroom you will see lots of quality literature and children regularly singing fun and interesting songs.

With my husband Patrick, we have two daughters, Caitlyn and Jessica. We love reading books together, going for scooter and bike rides and swimming.

Thank you to everyone who has made me feel very welcome.



Dee Munro

My name is Dee and this is my second year teaching. I am loving getting to know the children at Southern Cross, and learning with the 1/2s in Ghaddi. I have just moved to Canberra from the Far South Coast, where my family (mum, dad, brother and dog) all live.



Linking Families to Learning - How do the teachers at Southern Cross expect my child to do his or her best?

Relationships are key to many aspects of our work with children at Southern Cross. Once children know that we are interested in them and care about them, then they are more likely to take chances with their learning and share what they know. As Dr James Comer says "No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship". Teachers use many different strategies to understand where children are at with their learning. These strategies could include observations, anecdotal reports, checklists, assessment tasks, discussions, data, learning journals and reports. Every day teachers are building and growing their understanding of your child and where they are with their learning and development.

Once your child's teacher has some information, they work out what the next steps are, framed by the Early Years Learning Framework for preschool and the Australian Curriculum for Kindergarten to Year 2, to help your child

progress. Detailed feedback during learning helps your child to know what the next steps are or how they can improve their learning. Goal setting is a crucial part of this process and we are working to make our learning visible across the school. This will look different across the years but children will develop with their teachers (and sometimes with you) individual, small group or class goals for their learning. They will then be supported to progress their learning to meet that goal.

As parents and carers, you hold such a comprehensive understanding of your child that often teachers will call on your knowledge of your child to help them in some areas. This is why our Getting to Know You interviews and staying connected over the term are so important. Each term your child's teacher will send out a term overview which will help you know what learning is planned for the term. We also contact families when we are developing Individual Learning Plans (ILP's) and Personalised Learning Plans (PLP's) for children requiring additional support. Should you think that there is a mismatch between your expectations and the teacher's expectations then please talk to your child's teacher as soon as possible so that we can work through the issue.

You can find out more information about how you can support your child to do their best at school at the Education Directorate website below.

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/parental-engagement/information-for-parents>

For more information about the Early Years Learning Framework or the Australian Curriculum please go to

<https://www.education.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework-0> or <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au>

If you have any additional questions please see your child's teacher, Emma (Preschool team leader) or Nicky (Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 team leader)

Lunchtime Learning Clubs

Lunchtime Learning Clubs

BEGINS: Week 2, Term 1
TIME: 11:25am to 11:50am
FOR: Kindergarten, Yr 1 & Yr 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Treehouse Play	Mindfulness Time	Shooting Stars Choir	Drumming Club	Garden Club
				
Hayley	Jackie	Emily	Lisa	Jason
Treehouse	Across the school	Community Room	Community Room	Environment Courtyard

Community Hub

Community Coordinator

A big welcome to all our families for the 2020 school year. My name is Jason and I am the Community Coordinator at Southern Cross Early Childhood School. My role at the school includes child and family support, community engagement, coordinating school events, facilitating parenting courses, overseeing mental health and wellbeing programs and developing functional sustainability practices. I strive to develop strong family – school partnerships and hope there is an opportunity over the year to work with you to create an inclusive and positive learning school environment.



You can contact me by calling the school on 6142 0020 or by email - jason.thornton@ed.act.edu.au

Read with me Café

Southern Cross
Early Childhood School

Read with Me
Café



*Come along to the school library
and read a book with your child
and enjoy freshly cooked pikelets!*

*Starts this
Friday
morning!
8:00am to 8:55am*

Southern Cross Early Childhood School

Story Time



Starts: This Thursday morning

Where: The school library

Time: 9:05am to 9:30am

For: Young children with their parents or carers

Linking Families to Learning

Save the Date

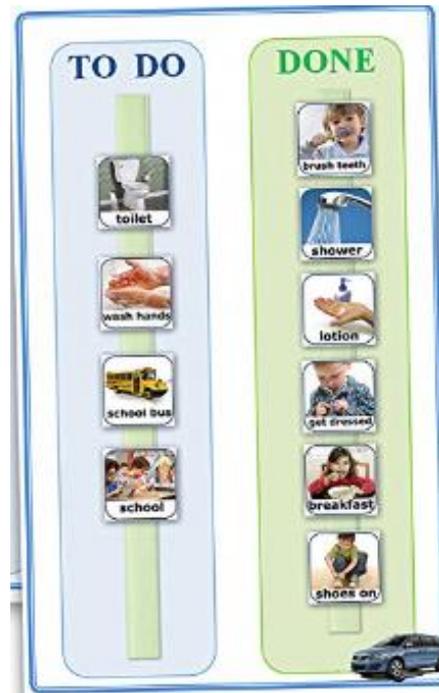
Our first family information session for 2020 will be on Wednesday 26 February, 5.15pm – 6pm in the Community Room. During this session we will be focusing on literacy and the way we teach reading and writing at Southern Cross. Please put this date in your diary, we look forward to seeing you there.

Helpful Hints for Home

Welcome back to a new year of learning together at school and home. This section of the newsletter is designed to give families ideas on ways to support their child at home with their learning. We often get asked questions from families on ways to help with reading, writing, numeracy and social and emotional learning. Each fortnight a different topic with helpful hints will be covered.

The beginning of the school year can sometimes bring big emotions for our children and this could result in the morning drop off being emotional for your child and also yourself. Here are some ways you could help to support your child to have the most positive start to the day.

- Have a set routine in the morning, this could also include a routine when you get to school. Talk about this with your child to see what routine makes a positive morning for them and you.
- Use a visual timetable for the morning this could be something your child marks off when they have completed it.



- They could bring a photo of their family in if they need something to be able to see you.
- Get your child to help with packing their lunch box allow some choice in what they have to eat for the day, for example banana, apple or grapes or sandwich, wrap or salad.
- Start to develop their independence by getting your child to pack their bag. Start by having all the things they need and get them to problem solve where it will all fit.
- Let them know (if possible) when any routine for the morning or afternoon pick up is going to be different so they know what to expect.
- Remember our teachers are out for Morning Muster at 8.55am, so if the morning has been a little different or unsettled touch base with them.

Anglicare

Welcome to a new year with Anglicare!

Things to know

- Renée will be at Reception Mondays could you please email all enquires to southerncross@anglicare.com.au and these will be processed or forwarded on to the relevant team member.
- Rosie will be at Reception from Tuesday to Friday to process accounts, as the Centre Administrator.
- Just a reminder that we require two weeks notice in writing for **any changes to bookings** both long day care and before and after school care.
- If your child is absent please notify the centre on southerncross@anglicare.com.au or 6142 0020

- Children attending the school in Preschool to Year 2 have the option to purchase a lunch order made by our lovely Chef Hana in the Bright Star Cafe – these include a hot meal and piece of fruit for **\$5.00**. Each term we have a new Seasonal Menu on a four week rotation.
Menu and envelopes for payment are found on the reception desk. Please ensure you mark down your class name and any allergies or dietary preferences, and you can pre-order in advance!
- Our information night and family picnic will coincide with the school component of Southern Cross! Thursday 20 February 2020, 5:00-7:00pm.
Come and have a gander through all the classrooms, and stay for a sausage sizzle. Our sausage sizzle fundraiser will go towards more resources for our outdoor learning environments.
Prices include \$2.50 sausage sandwich; \$2.00 for soft drink; \$1.00 zooper-doopers.

Nature Preschool - Walga

Anglicare is currently running a new Nature Preschool Program, called Walga, for preschool aged children. The program is tailored for children who require care for their alternate Wednesday that they are not attending Southern Cross preschool. This program runs during ACT school terms, and vacation care is available for families to enrol in during the school holidays. Included in our curriculum, is a dedicated nature program, meaning that regardless of the weather we venture outdoors into Canberra's very own classroom.

Natasha (our OOSH coordinator) along with Elana and Mel (Educational Leader), plan and run the program for a group of preschool aged children each Wednesday, using research from education theorists such as Froebel, Steiner, Vygotsky and Montessori, all who put the child at the centre of their own learning. An influential theorist that guides our bio ecological style of learning is Bronfenbrenner, who believes that a person's development is affected by everything in their surrounding environment.

We currently have spaces for children who attend preschool during the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday end of the week (Bunduluk and Dnnawan). Please feel free to contact Anglicare reception southerncross@anglicare.com.au for more information or to book your child in for this Nature Program. Please remember that spaces are limited, and we are currently at full capacity for children that attend preschool during the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday part of the week. For further information and a pricing schedule <https://www.anglicare.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Nature-Preschool-Program-Brochure.pdf>



P&C

Welcome to the 2020 school year!

Hello and a big welcome to our new families at Southern Cross! Our P&C runs a number of events throughout the year from discos to movie nights to democracy sausage sizzles. We do all this to raise as much money for our beautiful school as we can AND add to the sense of community we enjoy here. The P&C meet twice a term and our core committee does a lot behind the scenes. We then call out for helpers at specific events. You can be as involved as you'd like and we would love to have some fresh helpers in 2020.

P&C Meeting

Our first meeting will be held at the school Week 4, Wednesday 26 February 2020 with the AGM at 6pm and general business from 7pm to 8pm. All welcome! Come meet the committee and see if there is a role you could help with or just get a sense of what areas might need extra help.

School Clothing

The P&C runs the uniform shop on volunteer power. Because we have to order in high quantities in single colours it may mean polos are only available in one colour in certain sizes. We appreciate everyone's understanding that their preferred colour may not always be in stock. It's a cost and a storage issue for the P&C and we try to strike the right balance between spending all our fundraised money on the school or a huge stockpile of uniforms. Thank you to everyone who was so patient during the school holidays waiting until they could collect their uniforms.

Second Hand Clothing

The P&C currently has a HUGE supply of second hand jumpers and beanies across most sizes. The hot tip is to BUY NOW while the stock is available! Second hand beanies are \$3 and the jumpers are \$10. The second hand clothing pool works on a first in, best dressed model so if you are keen to plan ahead for the cooler months please email scecsclimbingpool@gmail.com. Should we not have what you need we can always add you to our waiting list.

Donations

We have a waiting list for second hand size 2 and size 4 polos. If you have anything in your drawers at home that could be donated, please drop off to the box near reception.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who supported the P&C in 2019. We were mostly a brand new committee and we learned a heck of a lot! We are so proud that we were able to donate \$10,000 to the school and we hope 2020 is just as successful because of the ACT Election later this year. Democracy Sausages are a great boost to our fundraising!!

If you see me around the school and want to chat about the P&C, please do!

Jess Yeo
P&C President

Scholastic Book Club

Your child will soon bring home a new issue of **Scholastic Book Club**.

Every order placed earns points for the school to purchase **valuable resources**. Ordering on line is easy and convenient, but cash orders are welcome too. More info can be found on the first issue.

This is an activity done by the Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) to support the school.

Kind regards,
Jasja van den Bos
Coordinator Scholastic Book Club
schoolbookscecs@gmail.com



Community Information

ACT Nutrition Support Service

Trending lunchbox recipes

It's back to school and the perfect time to try some new recipes and build your repertoire of delicious homemade snacks.

This week we share our trending recipes from the Healthy Lunchbox Week campaign.

[Apricot bites](#)



[Savoury scrolls](#)



[Banana bread](#)



[Rice paper rolls](#)



[Muesli slice](#)



[Choc balls](#)



For more recipes and lunchbox inspo visit:
www.healthy lunchbox week.org