



# Narrabundah Early Childhood School

Learn • Develop • Nurture

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Week 2, Term 1, 2020

## Principal's Message

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Welcome to the 2020 school year. Whilst it has been a difficult January for many in the community, the children have started the year well. It has been wonderful to meet our new children and families and welcome back familiar faces. I have observed children writing about foxes, the explicit teaching of letters and sounds, learning about number expansion and even some delightful mud play following the recent rain. No wonder your children are so tired at the end of each day. Learning is hard work.

Prior to the start of the school year you were emailed information regarding air quality and information on the novel coronavirus. We will continue to keep you up to date with the actions we are taking to keep children and staff safe and healthy during these testing times. Thankfully the air quality is continuing to improve each day. We will keep assessing air quality on a daily basis to inform our decisions regarding the safest environment for children to play and learn in.

Thank you to all of the families that took the time to attend Information Night on Wednesday evening. This session helps us to keep families informed on key routines, learning, curriculum and important information about your child's learning.

We look forward to a successful year of learning together at NECS.

Kind Regards

Julie



## Emus and Hoverflies



The Hoverflies and the Emus have settled into school, are learning the new routines for the school year and are enjoying the structure of the day with three shorter breaks.

We have been starting our day with reading and activity tables, engaging in writing, number sense and problem solving activities. There has been a focus on group work to develop our communication and collaboration skills.

We are developing our investigation skills with iTime every afternoon, and discussed what we want to explore and learn about during this time. It has been a great start to the school year.

## Communication with educators

Education is a partnership between families and school and it is important to maintain positive communication. If you have concerns regarding your child's progress it is important to communicate with your child's class teacher. Communication may take many different forms e.g. face to face, phone call or email. If you would like to have a face to face discussion with your child's teacher it is best to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time. Drop off and pick up time are not always the best time for a detailed discussion, it is not a confidential time to talk and the teacher may still have duty of care for students. If you would like to have a phone call discussion with your child's class teacher it is best to arrange a mutually convenient time or to leave a message with the front office and the teacher will call you back when they have planning time. Teachers have many playground supervisions during the day and often have meetings to attend after 3pm. Email can often be a convenient communication method. Teachers will endeavour to respond to emails within three working days or they may respond via phone. Some issues are better discussed via phone than via email.

Concerns are best raised with the class teacher as the first point of contact. If you feel that a matter is unresolved or requires further investigation families are encouraged to contact team leaders. In 2020

the preschool team leader is Robyn Kiddy (Deputy Principal) and the K-2 team leader is Amy Fletcher (Executive Teacher).

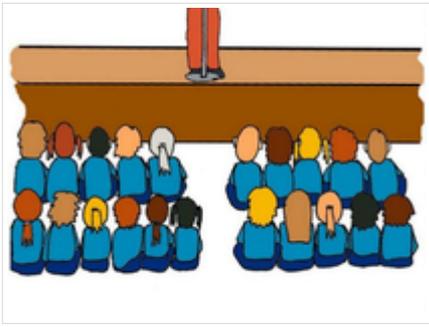
## Communities at Work - Infants room

In the past couple of months, the children in the Infant's Room, have been engaging themselves in sensory play. This has helped them with their fine motor and cognitive skills as they explore different textures and temperatures within the indoor and outdoor learning environments. Some examples of sensory items that we offer were textured books, sandpit play, water play, painting and play dough. The Infant's Room also offered multi-age grouping, this benefits both age groups as they develop their social, emotional and language skills while learning from one another and engaging in peer scaffolding. Every morning we combine with the Toddler Room indoor and in the afternoon we combine outside, depending on the weather, to engage children in this type of learning. This helps to support the children's transition into the Toddler Room as they have already formed a relationship with the educators and children during this time. During this learning, the children work together as a team to construct, create and discover a variety of possibilities. As a team, we encourage the children to participate in any way we can. Exploring free play is a great way to learn and develop their creativity. Our educators will go above and beyond to give every child the best experience. When meeting families and throughout their time in the Infant's Room, we welcome them with open arms and like to get to know them better. We encourage families to share their culture with us and always keep them in the loop with what's happening in the room. We ask questions about their children and also about themselves to build a respectful relationship between families, the child and their educators.



## Assemblies

Each Wednesday at 2.30pm children will participate in a school assembly in the hall. These assemblies will be very informal and age appropriate. To begin the school year our K-2 children will participate. As our pre-schoolers develop and become more settled in the school environment they will join us at assemblies later in the year. Families are welcome to join us at assembly.



## School Board News



Nominations opened for two parent representative positions on the School Board on 3rd February 2020. Nominations close at 11:00am on 17 February 2020. If you are interested in being a parent representative on the NECS School Board attached below you will find the nomination form or forms are available from the front office.

Voting for the two new parent representatives will open at 11:00am on 24 February 2020. We will update you via email in regards to the nominees and the voting process.

[https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/188/3.general\\_schools\\_election\\_nomination\\_form\\_v3.pdf](https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/188/3.general_schools_election_nomination_form_v3.pdf)

## Parent support at NECS

### Parent Support at NECS

Mary Ford is a Case Manager from Woden Community Services and is available to chat with you regarding a range of opportunities to access support, resources and information. Some ways Mary may be able to assist families include:

- Link families to specialist support services (including NDIS support).
- Provide opportunities to discuss parenting hurdles.
- Assist families to secure, appropriate and affordable housing.
- Assist parents return to work/study.
- Support the health and wellbeing of families.
- Assist with completing forms and documents.

Please drop-in or make an appointment to see Mary any Tuesday here at the school between 9:00am-4:30pm. If you would like to make an appointment, please see Audrey at our front office or phone 6142 3828.

## Volunteers

Schools are busy places. We are always seeking help from helpful volunteers. Some of the tasks we would love help with are:

- Cover library books (could be done from home)
- Change home readers with children
- Read with children
- Support small groups of children with writing in the classroom
- Play maths games with children

Donna Seal, our Community Coordinator, manages all volunteers at NECS. Please give Donna a call on the school number 6142 3828 or email on [donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au) Volunteers are required to have a Working With Vulnerable People (WWvP) card to help safeguard our children at NECS. We can support you with an WWvP should you need it.

## Move and Groove





For valuable information about keeping children safe online and using social media safely please visit the safety website -

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>



## Community Breakfast



Move and Groove is a fun music program facilitated by a Music Therapist and the school's Community Coordinator. Facilitators use musical instruments, puppets, parachute and a range of other props to engage children and their parents and/or carers in a developmentally, fun and musical environment.

At Move and Groove children 0-4 years and their parents and/or carers can:

- Learn new songs and musical games.
- Explore percussion instruments, drums, ribbons, puppets and parachute.
- Move and Groove to the music.
- Enjoy active play.
- Make new friends.
- Enhance child development.

Move and Groove is on Wednesdays from 9:00-10:15am during school term in the school library. Please bring a healthy morning tea and sunhat for your child/ren.

### How to access Move and Groove

Bookings are not required for this program. A gold coin donation is appreciated to assist with the cost of the program.

For further information please contact Donna Seal, Community Coordinator on 6142 3828, email: [donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au)

### Community Breakfast – a healthy way to start the day!

All families are invited to our Community Breakfast, a great opportunity to share breakfast together. The Community Breakfast runs in partnership with Australian Red Cross and supported by Narrabundah Friendly Grocer.

When: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (last Thursday of each month during school term)

Time: 8.00am-8.50am

Where: School Hall

Come and join us!

## Photographs

We all love to take photos of our children growing and developing in life. However, we must respect the rights of each family to make the decision about whether they want their child's photo to be on social media. Each family has the right to decide for their child.

If you take a photo of your child at school please do not share it on social media if there are other children in the photo. Please crop the photo or check with other parents before posting, sharing or tagging images that include their children. This also includes taking photos that include staff members. Please check with staff before posting, sharing or tagging images.

**We ask you to think before you share.**

## Variety - Every chance to play



Variety Every Chance to Play Winter 2020 Round is open!

Narrabundah Early Childhood School is a trusted Variety Every Chance to Play referrer. The Variety Every Chance to Play Grant is here to help kids in the ACT, aged 5-18, get out

on the field or the court and enjoy being part of a team and community.

Sports available for the Winter Round are AFL, Netball, Rugby League, Hockey, Rugby Union, Basketball, Soccer.

Applications for the Winter round close on Thursday 30 April 2020.

For further information please contact Donna Seal, email: [donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au) or phone 6142 3828

## Tips from the eSafety Commissioner

5 tips for back-to-school online safety – information from the Office of the eSafety Commissioner

Tuesday 11 February is [Safer Internet Day](#), which is an annual, worldwide event that encourages building a better internet together. The beginning of a new school year is a good time to review online safety and open the conversation with your students before any issues arise.

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner recommends sharing the responsibilities of online safety with your student and working together to develop a 'Family Tech Agreement'; being mindful of what you share online and with whom (e.g. photos of your child's first day of school and other milestones); [know the signs for cyberbullying](#); [set screen time limits](#); use tools such as [parental controls](#) and [privacy and reporting tools](#); and stay engaged.

The [Office of the eSafety Commissioner website](#) is a great place to visit to keep pace with the latest in online safety for children and young people all year round. The Office of the eSafety Commissioner is facilitating a number of [webinars for Parents and Carers](#):

### Helping kids thrive online

Suitable for parents and carers of young people aged 5-12 years old.

- 12 February 2020 – 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM (AEDT)
- 14 February 2020 – 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (AEDT)

### Tech, teens and time online

Suitable for parents and carers of young people aged 12-18 years old.

- 11 February 2020 – 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM (AEDT)
- 12 February 2020 – 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM (AEDT)

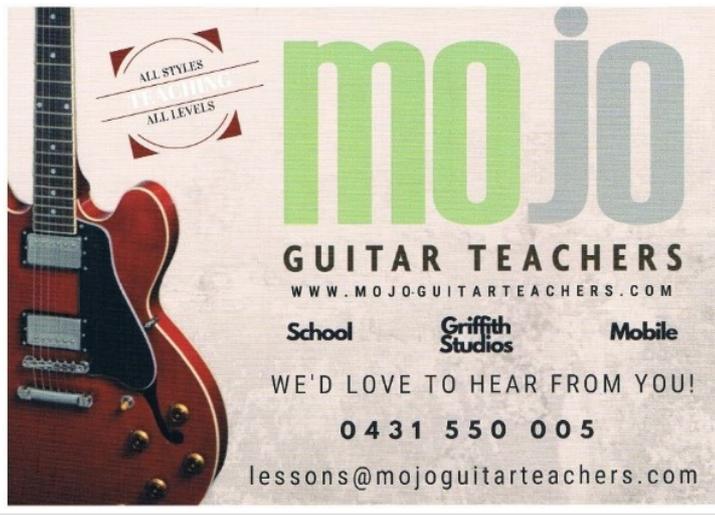
## Transport Canberra

[https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/163/schools\\_attachment\\_back\\_to\\_school\\_2020.pdf](https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/163/schools_attachment_back_to_school_2020.pdf)

## AFL - Auskick

[https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/174/play\\_afi\\_eastlake\\_flyer.pdf](https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/174/play_afi_eastlake_flyer.pdf)

## Mojo Guitar



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