



Narrabundah Early Childhood School

Learn • Develop • Nurture

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Week 8, Term 1, 2020

Principal's Message

I want to begin this newsletter by thanking families for your support, understanding and flexibility during this very complex time. None of us have lived through such circumstances before and we are all learning as we go.

The 'pupil free' status that has been bestowed upon ACT Public Schools allows educators to work on and develop alternative forms of learning for the weeks ahead. Educators need time and space to develop resources that they have not had to use or develop in the past. Please know that all educators that are able to be in the workplace are here working hard to support the learning needs of all children for the rapidly approaching new circumstances we all find ourselves in.

As per the communications sent out earlier in the week the message remains that ACT schools have been declared 'pupil free' however it is important to note that *no child will be turned away*. We have been sending all communication via emails and Storypark to ensure everyone in the NECS community is receiving up to date information. You may experience high volumes of information at times, we are working hard to ensure families are kept up to date with the latest information.

At this stage our Communities@Work partners remain open. If you have queries regarding any services provided by Communities@Work please email enrolments@commsatwork.org. Communities@Work families were sent information & advice regarding their services on the 24th March 2020.

The Education Directorate has released a resource library to support parents and children with home learning. You can find a link to the resource on the Education Directorate website www.education.act.gov.au. All children enrolled in our Education Directorate groups have been sent home or emailed home 'learning at home options'. If you would like to come in and collect a scrapbook to record some of your child's learning please do so.

I want to stress the importance of looking after everyone's mental health right now. All households are under increasing stress and it is critical to find ways to manage your own feelings as well as those of your children.

Some helpful website may be
<https://raisingchildren.net.au/>
<https://www.parentingideas.com.au/>
<https://www.learningpotential.gov.au/>
<https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

Remember children learn through play. Play is learning. Play helps manage anxiety. Play helps manage stress. Play is good for physical health.



Spending some time playing with your child or your child engaging in independent play is time well spent. Please do not try to replicate a six hour school day at home.

We encourage you all to stay safe and follow guidelines provided by ACT Health <https://www.health.act.gov.au/>

We look forward to the children returning to school. We will update families with information as we receive it.

Look after each other
Julie

Wombats Classroom

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/274/emus.pdf

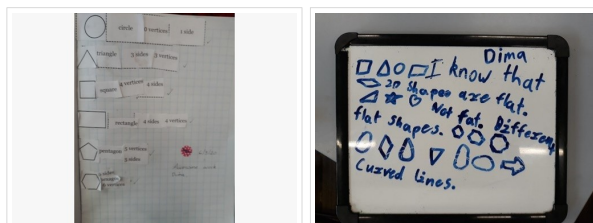
Bettongs Classroom

Year 1-2 Bettongs have had a very productive start to the year. We have established our class agreement, commenced our guided inquiry about Earth's resources and patterns in the sky.

A new initiative at NECS is called iTime. Conducted during the last session of the school day, iTime provides students a voice in their learning which supports a holistic approach to learning. iTime can encompass all subject areas and is driven by the student. Learning experiences are created for the students after discussing their interests.



During mathematics, the children have been participating in learning experiences about expanding numbers, place value of numerals within large numbers and 2D shapes.



Preschool Room

In the preschool room we have been exploring a wide range of activities such as construction, using various blocks and items around the room to create buildings, towers and beds. The children have been exploring different types of science experiments that have been very exciting. These were focusing on our problem-solving skills and all of the children have contributed to their ideas. We have been concentrating on our physical activity using the YouTube channel 'go noodle', to provide dancing videos and to follow the actions and sing along. This has been a fun way for all the children and educators to explore physical skills and social interactions. We have recently begun celebrating the children's different cultures, the first being Dutch. The child taught us a couple of words in Dutch and then

together, we made some delicious Dutch pancakes. The children this week have been interested in water painting using visual references for them to paint. We then celebrated their effort and amazing results by displaying their artwork in the room.



- * P&C Annual General Meeting
- * P&C fundraising
- * Community Breakfasts
- * Move and Groove
- * Circle of Security Parenting Program

Communities@Work services remain open.

For now ACT Health clinics that are provided on site at NECS remain open.

Where to get help

Donna, our Community Coordinator, has compiled a list of supports that families may wish to access during this difficult time. It was sent out earlier in the week via Storypark but here it is again.

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/292/where_to_get_help_2020.pdf

NECS School Board News



NECS is very pleased to welcome Andy Mison & Polly Hemming to the NECS School Board. Andy and Polly will represent the parent community in their newly appointed roles as parent representatives. The School Board look forward to working with you in the near future. We thank everyone who took the time to vote during the recent elections.

Why children and siblings fight

I thought it might be timely to share an article from the Australian Parenting website [raisingchildren.net.au](https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/behaviour/friends-siblings/why-children-fight). You can access the article via this link <https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/behaviour/friends-siblings/why-children-fight> or the information is provided below.

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/269/why_children_and_siblings_fight.pdf

Events and programs

For the time being the following events are postponed at NECS: