



# Narrabundah Early Childhood School

Learn • Develop • Nurture

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Week 4, Term 1, 2021

## Principal's Message

### Open Classrooms and Welcome BBQ

It was lovely to have so many families come along to our 'open classroom and welcome bbq' afternoon on Wednesday. It was wonderful to have so many families onsite to hear about their child's learning, families connecting and children playing so freely. A huge thank you to Donna and our support staff for organising the bbq and to Donna Brookman and Dave Morgan for helping out with the bbq.



### Outdoor Indigenous Mural

Narrabundah Early Childhood School Parents and Citizens Association were successful in their application under the 2020 Reconciliation Day Grants program through the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs to create an outdoor Indigenous art mural.

Kristie Peters, a local Indigenous artist and respected community member, was commissioned through her company, Yarrudhamarra Creations, to assist the school create the mural.

This project was a collaborative partnership between the P&C, the school community and Yarrudhamarra Creations.

Krisite used Aboriginal symbols/icons to share Aboriginal People's cultural stories through her artwork together with our ongoing school-wide journey of reconciliation. In 2020 all NECS students contributed to the mural via their personal handprints. The mural is a wonderful addition to our outdoor environment and represents our strong connection to each other. Thank you Kristie.



### Student Wellbeing

Early childhood is a critical time for children to develop a sense of self, emotional skills and social skills; this is often referred to as social and emotional learning (SEL).

Children and young people with social and emotional learning skills have better academic outcomes, as well as improved physical health and a better quality of life. How well individuals do in their learning community is affected by things such as how:

- confident they feel about their abilities

- effectively they're able to manage their own behaviour
- well they can concentrate and organise themselves
- effectively they can solve problems
- positively they can get on with educators and their peers
- effectively they consider others' needs
- well they can understand and accept responsibilities.

Therefore, SEL and success within the learning community go hand in hand. (Be You; <https://beyou.edu.au/fact-sheets/social-and-emotional-learning/social-and-emotional-learning>)

[https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/1023/social\\_and\\_emotional\\_learning\\_be\\_you.pdf](https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1023/social_and_emotional_learning_be_you.pdf)

At NECS we recognise the importance of social and emotional learning and its impact on academic learning. This is why each K-2 class has a 45 minute specialist SEL lesson every week with our Deputy Principal Robyn Kiddy. SEL is taught at other times during the week with class teachers across preschool to year 2.

The NECS Student Wellbeing Procedures outline the ways in which NECS address bullying, harassment and violence. It includes information on how we teach positive behaviours, support children when they feel harmed and respond when negative incidents occur. Ensuring our school remains safe is a shared commitment between families, children and the school community. This is not always easy as young children's brains are still developing and each individual has a different way in which they react to perceived problems. Our job is to explicitly teach children new ways of responding. However, it can take a long time for children to learn to use these new strategies. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the leadership team.

[https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/1024/student\\_wellbeing\\_at\\_necs.pdf](https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1024/student_wellbeing_at_necs.pdf)

## 2021 Key Priorities at NECS

Each year schools have an **Annual Action Plan (AAP)** that drives decision making and outlines measures to improve student learning outcomes. The Annual Action Plan should be read in conjunction with, and flows directly from, our School Improvement Plan which articulates:

- a commitment to the Education Directorate's three Strategic Indicators for 2018-2021
  - To promote greater equity in learning outcomes in and across ACT public schools
  - To facilitate high quality teaching in ACT public schools and strengthen educational outcomes
  - To centre teaching and learning around students as individuals

Below is our draft AAP for 2021. We welcome your feedback. If you would like more information about the 2020 Annual Action Plan please come and have a chat or you can email questions to [Julie.dixon@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Julie.dixon@ed.act.edu.au)

Priority 1: Improved wellbeing for each child	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Intended impact</i>
Systematic curriculum delivery	Increased consistency across the school will lead to improved outcomes in personal and social capabilities and increased self-regulation.
<i>Action</i>	
Embed consistent practice in the area of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)	Improved positive behaviours for learning across the school.
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Intended impact</i>
Differentiated teaching and learning	Students will participate in learning targeted to their needs. Teachers will make evidence informed decisions to plan learning to meet student needs.
<i>Action</i>	
Educators will use evidence of student learning to inform teaching	
Priority 2: Maximise the growth in learning for all children	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Intended impact</i>
Consistent school wide literacy practices	Students will experience consistent, high quality literacy practices across the school.
<i>Action</i>	Improved reading and writing outcomes for students. Students will hear consistent language at home and at school. (Families will have the opportunity to learn key strategies educators use at school in order to better support their child at home.)
Embed Ten Essential Literacy Practices and engage families in literacy development	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Intended impact</i>
Use of feedback to improve outcomes	Students will receive targeted feedback on their learning. Students will know how and what they need to do to progress their skills and knowledge.
<i>Action</i>	Reflective educators leading literacy learning in classrooms. (Teacher practice will receive feedback on their implementation of the Ten Essential Literacy Practices.)
Provide quality descriptive feedback to students and staff	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Intended impact</i>

Consistent culture of analysing and tracking data	All staff able to identify learning patterns at differentiated levels and plan effective instruction for each learner. Student growth will be tracked, monitored and celebrated.
Action	Improved student outcomes.
Utilise data to measure and monitor student progress and inform decision making	

Warm Regards

Julie

## NECS Front Office Notices

### SMS ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS

On days when your child is away and you have not notified the school of their absence you will receive an SMS from the school. It also lets you know if your child has not arrived at school for the start of the school day. You are able to respond to the SMS with an explanation for your child's absence. You should ring the school immediately if you have dropped your child at school and they have been marked absent.



### MEDICAL PLANS

Please ensure that any medical plans and medications that students require are returned/submitted to the front office ASAP. This helps us to keep your child safe and well at school.



### CLOTHING DONATIONS

If families have any spare shorts & trousers in sizes 4 to 8 they would be very gratefully received at the front office. Our current spare clothes pool is running low.



### LIBRARY BOOK COVERING

NECS have purchased some lovely new library books and we are hoping that some parents/carers may be able to help cover them before we put them into circulation. If you are able to help we have all the covering material required, just see Audrey or Cathy at the front office.



### SCHOOL COMMUNITY GARDEN

We are lucky to have local community gardener Rik who helps with our community garden at our school. Rik would love some help if anyone is interested in getting the gardens weeded and ready for the next seasons crop. Please see Audrey or Cathy at the front office if you are interested.

## Kangaroo Classroom

It has been wonderful to meet another group of children ready to begin their education at Narrabundah Early Childhood School. It is always exciting to start school or continue on to a higher class. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and enjoyment the children bring to the environment and the calm and positive attitude the children have displayed towards their learning.

We have been learning lots about the wonderful preschool environment while making heaps of new friends. Friendships are developing quickly as the children take advantage of the many play opportunities at preschool.

We hope to see you all throughout the year and wish you and your family every success for the year ahead.

Matt & Zahra





## Green Parrot Classroom

The Green Parrots have been busy. In our 'Play and Learning to Socialise' (PALS) program we have been looking at the importance of taking turns speaking and listening and how if lots of people are talking, we can't hear what is being said. Our quick reminder is Shh, Look, Listen. We have been exploring the Luna New Year festival and practised our cutting skills as we made lanterns and dragons. We are learning about the concept of size. Children have been exploring size through painting with different sized brushes, ordering puzzle pieces by size, sorting the babushka dolls, playing the 'Goldilocks and The Three Bear' lotto game and measuring Popoid constructions that they built outside. The children have enjoyed being challenged by the new puzzles. Many children were consolidating and extending their knowledge of letters and words as they played the letter/word pair matching game and engaged with the doorway online letter program and starfall phonics program on the interactive plasma. Children have also enjoyed climbing and exploring the fixed equipment playground and building with the Lego construction and railway track. The children have been busy creating tracks with the flexitrack for the cars and the railway track for the trains. Our focus literacy texts has been 'When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears' and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.' Children have enjoyed retelling the story with puppets and felt board story characters and pieces and learning the song 'When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears.' The children have also created some wonderful collage artworks, painted colourful pictures with the knob brush at the easel and completed a cutting task for their portfolios. Playdough is always popular with the children, moulding and creating different constructions. There was some fantastic sorting using the coloured dinosaurs and imaginative dramatic play in the home corner making soups and having picnics.



## Music with Katie

In Music with Katie, we have been exploring our four different voices, in particular our 'singing voice'. We have been learning new songs and games to help us hone our aural skills by listening, echoing and singing in-tune and in time. It has been lots of fun! Maybe you could ask your child to practice one of our songs at home together!



## NECS Community Coordinator

[https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/1042/newsletter\\_community\\_coordinator\\_introduction.pdf](https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1042/newsletter_community_coordinator_introduction.pdf)

## Communities at Work - Toddlers room

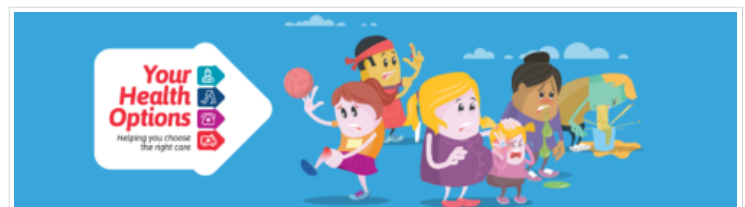
During our indoor learning experience time, our toddlers enjoyed fixing soft foam puzzles, cutting papers using scissors, and fixing trucks and diggers with various tools. These activities enhanced their visual scanning, fine motor, problem-solving, and hand-eye coordination skills.

When the children were outdoors, they participated in a variety of experiences, such as watering plants, riding bikes, and walking on the steppingstones. Throughout the learning experiences, the children practiced their gross motor, body balancing, caring, and imagination skills.

In the sandpit, we invited the children to build a river. After building the river, the children were given paper boats to set sail. This allowed them to develop their creativity, investigation, and inquiry skills.



## Canberra Health Services



With school back, it's important to remember that Canberra has lots of health options that don't involve a trip to a hospital emergency department. Many of these are free and available after hours.

Walk-in Centres provide free, one-off treatment of **non-life threatening injury and illness**, such as:

- strains and sprains
- minor burns or grazes
- fractures
- infections
- colds and flu.

They're a great choice for children over 2 years of age – children under 2 should see their GP.

Walk-in Centres are open from 7.30am to 10pm, every day of the year. They are staffed by highly skilled nurses who can

provide you with a sick certificate and in some cases, medication, saving you time and money.

The service is free and no appointments are necessary.

Walk-in Centres are in Tuggeranong, Belconnen, Gungahlin and Dickson.

To find out more about getting the right health care for your symptoms, visit [www.act.gov.au/yourhealthoptions](http://www.act.gov.au/yourhealthoptions)



## Safe parking around schools

Dropping or picking your kids up from school?

Parents and carers – please keep our kids safe by parking safely and legally around schools especially at school drop offs and pick ups.

It's illegal and not OK to double park or park across pedestrian crossings, corners or nature strips as this reduces pedestrian visibility and blocks the ability for kids to see the road clearly. The consequences can be fatal.

You can also expect to be fined for parking in no stopping zones, bus zones, or in front of driveways.

For drop offs in the morning, why not park a little further away from the school and walk with your kids the rest of the way?

For pick ups at the end of the school day, have a pre-determined meeting spot that's nearby. This helps if you're running late so your kids know where to wait and you don't need to rush.

Please do not leave your baby, toddler or children in the car whilst you drop off or pick up older children. This is unsafe.

Walking part of the way to school is also a simple way to reduce congestion and increase safety around schools. Part way points help make the school drop off and collection run easier and faster for parents and reduces congestion at the school gate. For more options on getting your kids to and from school visit <https://www.transport.act.gov.au/about-us/schools/active-travel-toolkit>

Access Canberra inspectors including License Plate Recognition vans will be on patrol, so let's work together to keep our kids safe.

For more safety tips visit <https://youtu.be/AsIMVXpA9Zc> and [www.act.gov.au/safeparking](http://www.act.gov.au/safeparking)

## Narrabundah Community Mural Day

[https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/1022/mural\\_day.pdf](https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1022/mural_day.pdf)

## Be You

[https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/1019/be\\_you\\_newsletter\\_article\\_2021.pdf](https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1019/be_you_newsletter_article_2021.pdf)

## Canberra Relief Network

The Canberra Relief Network supports the vulnerable in the community affected by the unprecedented health and economic crisis. It can support families impacted by COVID-19 pandemic, including casual workers, international students (especially those isolated due to COVID-19 infection), and carers of individuals with COVID-19, disability, health challenges or chronic illness.

Contact Canberra Relief Network on 1800 43 11 33 or

<https://canberrarelief.com.au/contact/>

## Parent Workshop

[https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/1025/20210216\\_sb\\_w3n5\\_rw4g\\_parent\\_workshop\\_term\\_1\\_2021.pdf](https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1025/20210216_sb_w3n5_rw4g_parent_workshop_term_1_2021.pdf)

## Girls Brigade



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