



Narrabundah Early Childhood School

Learn • Develop • Nurture

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Week 6, term 1, 2021

Principal's Message

In 2020 NECS staff engaged in school wide professional learning on the Ten Essential Literacy Practices. The purpose of the Ten Essential Literacy Practices is to improve children's literacy by identifying a small set of research-supported instructional practices that could be the focus of professional development. The focus is on classroom practices. Research suggests that each of the ten identified practices can have a positive impact on literacy development and furthermore that the use of these practices in every classroom every day could have a measurable positive impact on student literacy achievement. At the end of 2020 the leadership team used a screening tool to help identify our current level of implementation and to identify a focus for the next phase of our work in improving literacy practices at NECS.

The screening tool helped us to identify that our 2021 focus is on developing family engagement. Our 2021 Action Plan strategy is to embed the Ten Essential Literacy Practices and engage families in literacy development. Families were invited to meet teachers in week 4 to ask questions and learn about your child's routine at school. Our next planned task is to invite families to participate in a workshop to learn how to support your child's reading development. This will assist children to hear consistent messages about the teaching of reading at school and at home. To ensure we provide a COVID safe event, families must rsvp by Friday 12 March. We can cater for 35 adults at the session. This information has been emailed to families and children have taken home a paper invitation. Please see flyer below for details.

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1073/2021_necs_supporting_early_reading_development.pdf

Another school focus has been on raising the profile of Narrabundah Early Childhood School as a high-quality option for education in the community. One of the key strategies was to create a short video presentation promoting our school. We

are excited to share the final product with you all. The video is now embedded on our school webpage and can be viewed via the link. We hope you will agree the children at NECS have done a wonderful job promoting our school.

<http://www.necs.act.edu.au/>

When visiting NECS you will notice we have a NECS *Check in CBR* app. Families are asked to check in using the app when on site to help us promote COVID safe guidelines. If you are engaging in a quick drop off/pick up it is optional to use the check in process however if you will be onsite for more than 15 minutes you must check in using the barcode and app.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our reading workshop next week.

Warm Regards

Julie

Hoverflies and Wombats

The Year 1/2 Hoverflies and Wombats have settled into Term One. We have started engaging in Readers' Workshop, developing our writing skills through procedural texts and have been enjoying music, art and PE. Readers' Workshop allows students to read 'good fit' books personalised to each student's level of need, it maximises time spent reading and provides a focussed time for teachers to listen to students read and provide targeted feedback.

Our Inquiry Unit (which incorporates science and geography learning) is about the world and environment and what we need to do to protect it. So far we have explored volcanoes, mountains, rainforests, oceans and deserts.



We have also been enjoying gymnastics sessions on Fridays, which runs from weeks three to nine.



Please visit the link to listen to Thomas Mayor reading the book 'Finding our Heart' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEqbxdtS13Q>



Culture Club

How Can We Find the Heart of Our Nation?

On Thursday March 11, P-2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students participated in the first Culture Club session for the year. Our year 1 and 2 children did a wonderful job leading our Acknowledgement of Country with pride and confidence. It was so wonderful seeing our K-2 children taking the Koori preschool children under their wing, working collaboratively and supportively with them throughout the session.

Our focus text for this session was, 'Finding Our Heart' by Thomas Mayor, Blak Douglas. A story book about the Uluru Statement for young Australians.

This is a beautiful age appropriate picture story book about the importance of finding our Nation's heart through telling the truth and listening to the voice of our First Nations people. That the heart of our Nation is in the culture and history of our First Nations peoples, the oldest living culture on the planet.

The story references, "When we all came together at Uluru, we invited all Australian people to accept our voice and our culture as a gift.' We invited everyone to listen to our heart in our songs, see our heart in our dances, learn where our heart is from in our stories and languages, and how we have cared for our environment.'

Children worked in small groups to listen to and discuss the message in the story and then record their thoughts through illustrations. Children's responses will then be used in the design of the NECS school banner for the annual 'Sorry Day Bridge Walk.'

Our partners from Gugan Gulwan (Karla) and Tuggeranong Community Health Services (Nicole) joined us and shared in our Culture Club experience. Gabby and Samantha from Winnunga's 'Connected Beginnings' program also joined us and had the opportunity to yarn and connect with families during the afternoon tea.

NECS Reconciliation Action Plan

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1095/invitation_to_join_rap_working_group.pdf

NECS Front Office Notices



The Supporting Early reading development note is due back on Friday the 12th March. If you have not returned the note and you would like to attend, could you please email info@necs.act.edu.au with your RSVP.



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.



SMS/Email 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.

Walking School Bus - Expressions of Interest

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1074/necs_wsb_expression_of_interest_2021.pdf

Narrabundah Community Festival

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1075/oncc_a4_festival_poster_2021.pdf

Harmony Day

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1072/harmony_week_2021.pdf

Holiday Happenings

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1061/holiday_happening_term_1_2021.pdf

Death Cap Mushrooms

We have been advised by ACT Health that Death Cap mushrooms have been found growing in the ACT. The growing season has started early this year, due to wet weather and mild temperatures.

Death Cap mushrooms are one of the world's deadliest mushrooms and can be found across the Canberra region. Since 2002, there have been four deaths and several poisonings in the ACT due to Death Cap mushrooms. In the ACT, Death Cap mushrooms often grow near established oak trees, although they have also been found where oak trees are not evident.

People, especially children, should be encouraged not to touch, pick or eat any wild mushrooms. If you think anyone may have eaten a Death Cap mushroom, they must seek immediate

medical attention from a hospital emergency department. It is likely that symptoms will not be evident at first, but prompt treatment increases the chances of survival.

If the ACT continues to have a mild temperatures and wet weather, Death Cap mushroom growth might continue sporadically throughout summer and intensify in autumn. The growing season should cease when winter frosts set in.

More information can be found via the link <https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/fact-sheets>

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1060/death_cap_mushrooms.pdf