



Narrabundah

Early Childhood School

K-2 Bush School (Wednesday 11 May – 20 June 2022)

Dear K-2 Families,

Narrabundah Early Childhood School has been offering Bush School since 2012. Bush School provides unique learning opportunities for children, allowing for hands on experiential learning in an outdoor environment. There is much research to support the value of Bush School in providing a depth of learning that is not possible to attain within the confines of an indoor classroom. Over time, children typically experience an increase in their self-belief, confidence, learning capacity, enthusiasm, communication and collaboration skills.

Bush School provides students in K-2 with the opportunity to visit various outdoor environments within Canberra to engage in purposeful learning within the natural world making connections with and transferring skills and concepts being taught in our inquiry, literacy, numeracy, social and emotional and physical education programs. Students will participate in a range of experiences such as collecting/moving/finding sticks and rocks; looking in tree litter; looking for and at insects and bugs; climbing over rocks and uneven ground.

Through the Bush School experience, students develop their problem-solving skills and become informed risk takers in their learning through interest-based discovery. The day includes planned intentional learning experiences informed by interests and passions, as well as opportunities for students to self-direct their learning through observations and discovery.

Parent information session - A family information session for Bush School will be held on *Monday 2 May at 3.15pm*. 2022 Bush School information session Google Meet joining information:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/gwn-hewh-hzq>

or dial: (AU) +61 2 9051 5439 PIN: 136 469 889#

We invite you to attend this information session to discuss the benefits of this program, learn about a typical bush school day and talk through any wonderings and concerns you may have. We will share the information session via email for families who are unable to attend.

How can I support my child to be prepared for Bush School?

- Dress your child in appropriate clothing for the conditions on the day. All children are to wear enclosed walking shoes with socks. All children must bring an all-weather warm jacket and a hat.
- Pack a lunchbox filled with healthy snacks and a full drink bottle filled with water.
- Arrive at school by 9am. The bus will depart promptly at 9:30am and return to the school at approximately 2:30pm. Late arrivers will need to be transported by families.
- Please pack sun cream and insect repellent if you wish your child to use these items.



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Staff will stay up to date with information from ACT Health and the Education Directorate in terms of COVID-19. We will amend our plans as necessary, and any updates or changes will be communicated to families in a timely manner. Please be aware we may need to cancel Bush School if restrictions change. Staff and students will continue to follow good hygiene practices whilst engaged in Bush School e.g. washing hands before eating, following toileting etc.

Transport to and from the venues will consist of chartered buses when necessary. There will be a cost to families to cover bus transportation. Please contact the school if you have any concerns.

When will Bush School be happening?

The following dates for 2022 Narrabundah Early Childhood Bush School are:

Week	Date	Location
Week 3	Wednesday 11 May	Red Hill nature reserve
Week 4	Wednesday 18 May	Mt Ainslie nature reserve
Week 5	Wednesday 25 May	Isaacs Ridge/Pines
Week 6	Wednesday 1 June	Arboretum
Week 7	Wednesday 8 June	Mt Ainslie nature reserve
Week 8	Wednesday 15 June	Jerrabomberra Wetlands
Week 9	Monday 20 June	Birrigai

An alternate classroom-based program, in preschool, will be run at school for any children who are unable to attend.

Weather

Bush School embraces learning in the outdoor environment and as such will only be cancelled if storms are predicted, the day will proceed with light rain. As such please ensure your child is dressed appropriately. All children are encouraged to have a jumper and/or rain jacket in their bag on these dates. Additionally, if the ground is wet, gum boots are highly recommended. Due to the unpredictability of weather predictions the decision to cancel will be made on the day of the excursion.

This activity is not essential to but enriches curriculum outcomes and a payment is requested for participation. NECS ensures costs for each activity are kept to a reasonable level. Individual records for contributions are confidential and your child will not be refused access if you do not contribute. Should you require financial assistance please contact the school.

A risk assessment has been prepared for this excursion and a copy is available upon request.

Regards
K-2 Team



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Date	Venue	Mode of transport	Departure/return times	Parent Signature (Please sign for each excursion)
Week 3 11/5/22	Red Hill nature reserve	bus	9:30am-2:30pm	Sign Here:
Week 4 18/5/22	Mt Ainslie nature reserve	bus	9:30am-2:30pm	Sign Here:
Week 5 25/5/22	Isaacs Ridge/Pines	bus	9:30am-2:30pm	Sign Here:
Week 6 1/6/22	Arboretum	bus	9:30am-2:30pm	Sign Here:
Week 7 8/6/22	Mt Ainslie nature reserve	bus	9:30am-2:30pm	Sign Here:
Week 8 15/6/22	Jerrabomberra Wetlands	bus	9:30am-2:30pm	Sign Here:
Week 9 20/6/22	Birrigai	bus	9:30am-2:30pm	Sign Here:

Cost:

NECS will be covering a significant portion of the total cost of Bush School. We are requesting the following payment from families: The total cost to families for all seven excursions will be \$40 for one child. Please add **\$20** for each additional participating child in the family e.g. two children will cost \$60.

By signing the dates above I give permission for _____ in class _____ to attend the NECS *Bush School Excursions* on the dates stated above travelling by chartered bus as per the dates outlined above.

I agree to my child participating in the activities associated with this excursion mentioned previously. I have discussed with my child the need for sensible behaviour on these excursions. I authorise the school to make arrangements for the welfare of my child (including medical or surgical treatment) in an emergency and I agree to meet the associated costs. I have provided to the school all up to date medical information relevant to my child attending these excursions.

I agree that my child will be under the authority of the school for the duration of the excursions and that the school is authorised to return my child to school or home at my expense if the school considers that circumstances warrant such action. I give permission for my child to travel by private car, driven by a staff member or parent, in the event of an emergency.

Staff accompanying children on excursions will take all reasonable care while the children are in their charge to protect them from injury and to control and supervise their behaviour and activities.

This form requests information about students which will be held by the school. This information may be disclosed to government or private medical or para-medical staff and other relevant officers in the event of an accident or emergency. The information is collected as a lawful administrative function of the ACT Education and Training Directorate.

Bush School Permission Form

Please return to school by: Friday 29 April 2022

Please complete the attached **Excursion Medical information** form and return with the signed permission note to the front office.

Will your child require medication to be administered during the excursion? Yes No

If yes, please complete a *Medication Authorisation and Administration Record* at the Front Office.

I have read the information regarding this excursion and understand what it contains.

Full Name:
Signature:
Date:
Emergency contact number on the day:
<i>We have parental and emergency contacts on file for your child. Please advise the Front Office if there is a different contact for these excursions.</i>

Method of Payment: Cost of excursion \$40 for one child. Please add \$20 for each additional child.

Online – via the School Website>Payment>QuickWeb.
Student Key=First 5 characters of surname and first character of given name.
Fee Code/Payment Description = **BUSHSCHOOL**

Date Paid: _____

Receipt Number: _____

Cash – Exact money to the Front Office please

This activity is not essential but enriches curriculum outcomes and a payment is requested for participation. NECS ensures costs for each activity are kept to a reasonable level. Individual records for contributions are confidential and your child will not be refused access if you do not contribute. Should you require financial assistance please do not hesitate to contact the Front Office.

A risk assessment has been prepared for these excursions and a copy is available upon request.



Bush School Expectations

Bush School is an exciting, enrichment experience for all K-2 students at NECS. Due to the outdoor nature of Bush School, it is a higher risk environment than a school classroom and so safe behaviour is essential. Staff have explicitly explained behavioural expectations to all students prior to Bush School commencing on 2 May. All expectations are in line with our school RISE expectations.

Appropriate behaviours are a part of the agreement students and families agree to when attending excursions. This is to support all students and staff in having a safe and engaging learning experience outside of the school environment.

Staff will follow a three-step guidance system if children are displaying unsafe or unacceptable behaviour:

1. A verbal warning will be given to the child
2. The child may need to engage in a 'time out/re-set' with a teacher
3. If deemed necessary, a staff member will call a caregiver to collect the child.

This system will be supported using a visual card system identifying yellow and red warnings.

Staff will only contact families in the event of unsafe and ongoing unacceptable behaviour. In this instance we ask that a caregiver come as soon as possible to collect your child from the Bush School venue. The following day a conference between the K-2 Team Leader/teacher/caregiver/child will take place to discuss the incident. This discussion will guide your child's attendance at the next Bush School session.

If you have any concerns or wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me on 6142 3828 or email julie.dixon@ed.act.edu.au

