



Narrabundah Early Childhood School

Learn • Develop • Nurture

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Week 8, Term 1, 2021

Principal's Message

It is hard to believe we are nearly at the end of term 1. The last day of term 1 is Thursday 1 April. Term 2 commences on Monday 19 April. Week 1 start dates are as follows:

Monday 19 April - Bettongs, Emus, Hoverflies, Wombats, Green Grass Parrots, Kangaroos and 3 year old Butterflies

Thursday 22 April - Koori Butterflies and Red Grass Parrots.

We have started 2021 strong at NECS. The preschool children are now familiar with their routines, are learning a range of social skills and are responding well to the learning experiences on offer. The K-2 children have had a strong focus on reading in the first eight weeks of school. Children engage in Readers' Workshops, reading 'good fit' books and engaging in one on one conferencing with their teacher. Learning to read can be complex but through the use of reading strategies children develop the skills and attitude to become independent and confident readers.

We encourage all families to read over the upcoming term break. Pull old familiar, well loved books off the shelf and maybe join the local library. A NECS family recently informed me that children under 6 receive a free book when they join an ACT Public Library. A great incentive to join your local library.

The NECS P&C Annual General Meeting is fast approaching. We welcome and encourage our Communities@Work families to also consider joining the NECS P&C. The P&C represents the whole NECS community and we invite you to come along. Together we are stronger!

If you are spending time away over the Easter long weekend or term break, drive carefully. We look forward to term 2.

Warm Regards

Julie

Koori Preschool

Welcome to new and returning families to Koori Preschool. Term 1 in Koori preschool has been a busy time learning routines and getting to know class members, developing new friendships and building on prior friendships. It has been wonderful seeing the children excited about being at preschool and being actively involved in learning. Our focus has been engaging in learning experiences that help us to collaborate with each other and develop both our fine and gross motor skills. We are getting better at following routines, instructions, and communicating with our teachers and each other.

One of our favourite learning experiences has been learning about the meaning behind the symbols and colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. and discussing what the colours and symbols meant. We then got to paint them ourselves. Children enjoyed sharing their knowledge and thoughts and having the opportunity to paint their own representation.

We had a wonderful Culture Club in week 6, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children across P-2 worked collaboratively to discuss, unpack and record through drawings, their message in the story, 'Finding our Heart.'



Art at NECS

Welcome to the wonderful, creative and crazy world of ART at Narrabundah.

Children can learn a lot through art.

When children draw, paint, and make collages, they are learning about their world (colours, shapes, and sizes of objects). Children use paints, glue, and markers, children are planning, trying out new things, and solving problems. When children mix paints, they learn to understand one thing can make changes in another.

Art lets children make choices.

Communicating with young children about the process of art by using open-ended comments, encourages them to explore, evaluate, and reflect on their creations. Art provides opportunities for children's ideas to come out and shine. Art helps to

- Promote creativity.
- Encourage neural connections.
- Builds fine motor skills.
- Develops problem – solving abilities.
- Helps kids understand themselves and their world.
- Kids to a common ground of shared experiences.



According to the International Child Art Foundation, “Research indicates that a child who is exposed to the arts acquires a special ability to think creatively, be original, discover, innovate, and create intellectual property—key attributes for individual success and social prosperity in the twenty-first century.” The world needs more and better thinkers” and GUESS WHAT! Narrabundah has lots of creative thinkers. Stop and admire

the creative art of your children. Ask your child about their art experiences and be part of their creativity and every changing world. ENJOY

NECS P&C

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1121/2021_agm_notification_poster.pdf

SEL (Social & Emotional Learning)

To acknowledge National Action Against Bullying and Violence day, which was on March 19, preschool and kindergarten children focussed on the concept ‘kindness.’ Preschool children engaged in stories and discussions about how they can show kindness to others and their preschool peers.

When I'm Feeling Kind By Trace Moroney

"Try a Little Kindness" by Henry Cole

Song - Be kind to everyone (A song about being kind)

In Kindergarten Social Emotional Learning (SEL) we read the story “Words and your heart” by Kate Jane Neal which taught us that your words have power. Your words can make people happy or they can make people sad. Children thought of words that made them feel sad or could make others feel sad and wrote them in speech bubbles. To show how these words can hurt your heart and how they can make you feel, we scrunched up the paper and then tried to smooth it out. We noticed that we couldn't smooth out the crinkles. These crinkles represented how unkind words can leave your heart feeling sad and that the word sorry does not always make the hurt go away.



In the next session, we read the story ‘When I'm feeling kind,’ by Trace Moroney. We discussed different ways we could show kindness to others and recorded our thinking through drawing and writing. This work is on display in the kindergarten classrooms.

The message we came to, was – Be kind to others. Kindness Matters.



Students in Year 1/ 2 explored the question 'What is bullying?' with their first thinking recorded. Children then responded to scenarios posed around actions, whether it was a form of bullying or not and showed their thinking by moving to an area of the classroom for yes/ no/ unsure. We then viewed a couple of clips which explained what bullying is and actions we can take in different situations.

Here are the links we viewed and engaged in discussions about.

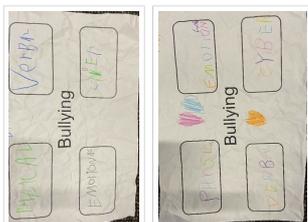
[What is Bullying \(the basics\)](#)

[What is Bullying? - SEL Sketches](#)

[What to do about... Bullying! - SEL Sketches](#)

Children found out that there were 4 different types of bullying and recorded these on a retrieval chart. To show how bullying can hurt someone's heart, children crunched up their retrieval chart and then tried to smooth it out. What did they notice? "You can't smooth the crinkles out". This was to represent that words and actions can hurt people and have a lasting impact.

Children in K-2 received a wrist band to acknowledge the day and their learning around this concept.



Recently the children have really enjoyed gardening. We have been planting lots of different seeds, it has been so exciting to watch them grow. The children have learnt what plants need to grow and even remember to water them each day.



Voluntary Contributions

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1105/voluntary_contributions_2021.pdf

Communities at Work - Preschool Room

The preschool children have been very busy learning, playing and interacting with each other. We have been navigating the idea of taking turns and have been practicing this through playing a variety of games such as fruit salad, duck duck goose and doggy doggy where's your bone.

The children showed curiosity towards what happens when we mix different colours together so we explored this concept. We did a science experiment called Walking Water where we got to see coloured water travel between glasses along paper towel and eventually the colours mixed to form new colours. The children also go to mix primary coloured paints together to see what colours they could make.



As we head towards the end of term one, it is timely to remind you that our school is focused on supporting the wellbeing of our students, staff and school community.

If you believe your child requires some support, we have a range of services available at school, including a school psychologist and other members of the student wellbeing/support team. Our staff are available to assist your young person in accessing these services.

Please find attached some resources that may be useful for your family that have been developed in consultation with Office for Mental Health and MIEACT (Mental Health & Wellbeing Education & Training Providers). These resources provide ideas and activities to support gratitude and resilience for positive mental health and wellbeing.

Other resources in the community you can access include the following:

- Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 - phone support all day every day and online support from 8am-midnight every day (AEST).
- eHeadspace 1800 650 890 - open 9am-1am daily (AEST).
- Lifeline 13 11 14 - phone support all day, every day and online support 7pm-4am daily (AEST).
- Beyondblue 1300 22 4636 - phone support all day, every day and online support 3pm-midnight every day.
- Suicide Call-back Service 1300 659 467 - phone support all day, every day, and follow-up calls.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding the wellbeing of your child.

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1123/20210316_sb_w7n16_information_booklet_for_primary.pdf

Bikelinc

Is your bike registered with Bikelinc?

Many bikes stolen in the ACT are not returned to their owners as they cannot be accurately identified. It is your responsibility to prove to police that you own a recovered bike.

You can use [Bikelinc](https://bikelinc.com.au/) to keep information in one convenient online platform, which police can check to reunite you with your bike:

- Record your bike's serial number
- Take a photo of the bike
- Keep a description of your bike including any markings or characteristics that make your bike easily identifiable.

Bikelinc is a joint initiative with Crime Stoppers ACT and is safe, secure and confidential. The searchable online database allows anyone to check if a bike is registered as safe, lost or stolen.

Visit <https://bikelinc.com.au/> to register now!

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1122/20210309_sb_w6n10_bikelinc_2021_a3_poster.pdf

Wellbeing supports

Child Development

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1120/child_development.pdf

Front Office Notices



Don't forget the last day of term 1 is Thursday 1 April and students return to school for term 2 on Monday the 19th April 2021. Have a happy and safe holiday!

2021 School Term dates

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Term 1 | 1st February 2021 to 1st April 2021 |
| Term 2 | 19th April 2021 to 25th June 2021 |
| Term 3 | 12th July to 17th September 2021 |
| Term 4 | 5th October to 17th December 2021 |



Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who have been covering some of our new books. They are now circulating in the library. If you would like to help some new books have arrived this week. We will supply all you need for the task.



The end of March signals an end to School Board positions. We wish to warmly thank Sophie Harper who has been the NECS School Board Chair for the past two years. Sophie's commitment to play based learning and ensuring that NECS is a welcoming place for each and every child and family has been significant. We also thank Katie Young for her time and commitment over the past two years as a staff representative. In 2021 we welcome Hilary Jones in the role of Parent Representative and Robyn Kiddy and Samantha Harris in their role as Staff Representatives. Please see below the 2021 NECS School Board.

| Name | Position |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Andy Mison | Parent Representative |
| Hilary Jones | Parent Representative |
| Polly Hemming | Parent Representative |
| Samantha Harris | Staff Member |
| Robyn Kiddy | Staff Member |
| Meg Price | Community Representative |

Warm regards,
Cathy & Audrey

MOJO Music

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/11111/mojo_flyer_term_2_2021.pdf

Holiday Happenings

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/11103/holiday_happening_term_1_2021.pdf