



Narrabundah Early Childhood School

Learn • Develop • Nurture

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Week 6, Term 2, 2022

with their children in the playground. We hope you enjoy using this space.

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the Ngunnawal people, the traditional custodians, of the land on which we meet, learn and play.

We pay our respect to Elders past, present and future and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families at our school.

We will work in partnership to create and share our stories.



At a recent special meeting, Families@NECS have decided to fold as a formal organisation. This decision was not made lightly it was based on surveys undertaken in 2021 and is not an uncommon experience in schools these days. Families@NECS acknowledged the school's ongoing commitment to family engagement and that opportunities to engage families will still be offered through various activities such as the recently run election day BBQ by the School Board.

We would like to extend our thanks to the School Board for hosting an election day BBQ. We had a really positive day providing our community with tasty democracy sausages and showcasing our school to local prospective families. Thanks to the hard work and time given by a few families and staff approximately \$1580.15 was raised on the day. Special thanks must go to Hilary and Donna for their organisation in order to prepare for the event, to the Deutscher-Jones, Gustafsson and McCormack families, as well as our staff Robyn, Kellie and Mel for their cooking and serving on the day, and to Danny's Bakery for their generous donation of the bread and Mike's Meats for the sausages. Thank you for hosting this event. Donna and Hilary are working together to create a guideline so that hosting such BBQs in the future is easy and fuss-free for any volunteers.



Principal's Message

Family Engagement

Last week the final piece of the Family Engagement Grant project was installed. There is now a family noticeboard located on the side of the shed, as you enter the side gate. We will endeavour to put essential information on the noticeboard for your information. If you have something that you think is relevant to the wider community, please approach a member of the leadership team or front office staff to discuss.

We would like to thank the 2021 Families@NECS (P&C), in particular President Shannon Birch, for their work securing the Family Engagement Grant. As a result of coffee cart chats undertaken by Families@NECS members early in 2021 it was identified that families would like a place to sit and talk with other families and that families enjoyed watching their children play. This work guided the improvements to the playground which support families to interact with each other and engage

Lost property

Winter has arrived this week in Canberra. As you reach for your child's jumper each morning, please take a moment to check the name on it. We have many families searching for their child's NAMED NECS jumper at the moment. If you happen to find that another child's jumper has made its way to your house, it would be appreciated if you could please return it to school so we can find its rightful owner. Again, we encourage families to

label everything with your child's name. This is not a foolproof strategy, but it does make life easier when we find jumpers on the playground etc.



School Review

We are still waiting to receive the final report from the recent School Review process. We will share details as soon as we have them. In semester two we will host a series of workshops for interested families and community members to guide the development of the next NECS School Improvement Plan.

Bush School

Week 5 saw us eventually get to Isaacs Pines, we attempted this twice last year, but the weather prevented us. It might be in the running as the new favourite Bush School location! Pine cones were in abundance and were used for a game of cricket, playing families, comparing size, colour and weight and even creating pine cone towers. A large group of children worked collaboratively to locate strong fallen branches, drag them to the small water crossing and build a bridge. This was a labor of love and I'm sure locals going for their regular walk will enjoy keeping their shoes dry as a result of this construction.



This week the children visited the Arboretum. The children had the opportunity to explore the sensory garden, following the storyline of 'Somebody's Land' by Adam Goodes, a proud Adnyamathanha and Narungga man. Children were particularly fascinated with the different types of cacti on display at the Arboretum. The walk up to Dairy Farmers Hill lookout allowed the children to see and discuss a range of topics; focussing on natural, managed, and constructed features of the landscape, living and nonliving things, special places and how places have changed over time linking to Science and Geography outcomes of the Australian Curriculum. Children enjoyed the opportunity to engage in play, games and self-exploration in the natural environment, with some children building 'campfires' and shelters.



Semester 1 reporting

In week 9 this term all families will receive an end of semester 1 progress report outlining your child's progress to date this year. As part of NECS Reporting Procedures we offer families the opportunity to participate in a mid-year family interview to discuss any concerns you may have, to help celebrate your child's growth and progress at school and to collaborate on relevant learning goals for semester 2.

Teachers will be conducting interviews during week 10, term 2 and week 1, term 3. Interviews will run for approximately 10-15 minutes and will be conducted onsite in the classroom, unless otherwise arranged with the classroom teacher. If an online or phone interview better meets your needs this can be arranged. In the interest of fairness to all, teachers will be following a strict timeline. If you have a complex issue you would like to discuss, please request a longer interview at the time of booking. A letter outlining how to book interviews will be sent to families in the coming weeks. We ask families to make note of the COVID safe guidelines that will be outlined in the information letter and support us in hosting COVID safe meetings.

All kindergarten, year 1 and year 2 reports are emailed to families, this is standard ACT Education Directorate practice. If you have recently changed your email address or wish to update your preferred email address, please speak with Cathy or Erin in the front office to make this change.

Preschool reports will be sent home in an envelope via your child's school bag in week 9.

New project

Have you noticed the temporary fencing in the K-2 yard this week? As part of our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) implementation we are installing a set of swings. Swinging allows a child to neutralize the disruptions that are caused by their vestibular system, which can often originate in the inner ear. The smooth, back-and-forth motion can be soothing and calming to a child. The addition of swings to the playground will be another fun option at play time, a tool to support children with sensory regulation needs and an intentional self-regulation strategy when required. We are excited about this project coming to fruition.



Warm Regards
Julie

Reconciliation Week



One of the highlights of Reconciliation Week at NECS has been a special visit from the Wiradjuri Echoes, Duncan Smith and his daughter Jakida. Together they shared traditional knowledge through song, dance, storytelling and language to children in preschool to year 2.

Duncan shared Aboriginal artefacts through storytelling, teaching us the significance of the story behind the artefacts. Through music, song and dance, Duncan and Jakida told and shared stories of the boomerang, Rainbow Serpent and Tiddalik. Duncan used Aboriginal symbols to draw the dreamtime stories for the children. The children enjoyed Duncan and Jakida painting the animals and symbols represented in the focus stories and dance.

Duncan shared how Aboriginal people found tree branches that could be made into a didgeridoo and through the playing of the didgeridoo, children acted out native Australian animals for the different sounds made and for the Rainbow Serpent dance.

We all had an enjoyable and wonderful session with the Wiradjuri Echoes learning about Aboriginal culture and histories.



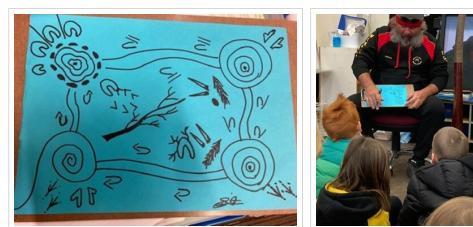
Emus - Year 1/2

Reconciliation Week is a time to dedicated to building positive, respectful relationships between Australians, celebrating Indigenous culture and learning more about our shared histories.

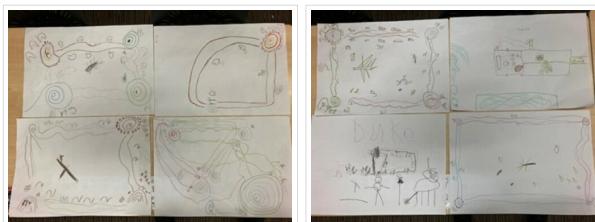
Today we had Duncan Smith visit our class to teach us about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. We saw some of the instruments, tools and boomerangs that were used.



Duncan played some songs on his didgeridoo and told a dreamtime story about the boomerang, sharing some of the symbols used in storytelling.



The Emus wrote their own stories using symbols.



Before he left, he showed us a traditional dance, we painted our faces to represent the kangaroo hunt for the boys and berry gathering for the girls before we had a go at the dance.

Thank you, Duncan and Jakida for visiting and sharing your culture with us.

PBL Awards



Week 5 award recipients:

Respect	Inclusion	Safety	Excellence
Lilly	Byron	Ellie	Ashwin A
Rhys	Thomas vH	Adela	Rosa
Nevaeh	Isaiah	Pippin	Monty
Yindi	Aaliyah	Lylanoor	Henry M
Frederic M	Alex CG	Jayden P	Evie
Bettongs		Oumou	Ranui
			Emily
			Jay
			Harper
			Austin
			Jonah
			Robbie
			Madison
			Colin
			Savannah FV
			Kyeson



Front Office Notices



Preschool families, a note has gone home regarding an upcoming excursion to Birrigai. Red Grass Parrots and Koori Butterflies will be attending Birrigai on Thursday 30 June and Green Grass Parrots and the Kangaroos will be attending on Monday 20 June. Could you please ensure the permission and payment for this excursion are returned to the front office by Friday 17 June? The notes are attached for your convenience. If you require another hard copy please contact Erin or Cathy on 6142 3828.

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/2241/june_20_birrigai_information_note.pdf
https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/2242/june_30_birrigai_information_note.pdf

Week 6 award recipients:

Respect	Inclusion	Safety	Excellence
Hamish	Kingston	Colin	Caesar
Gursaanjh	Duke		Maibungha
Oumou			Vincent M
Nakita			
Walter			

Sorry Day

To acknowledge Sorry Day, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children at NECS created an artwork to share with the team at Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services.

The children read the book 'Finding Our Heart' and used the terms *I am Proud, I am Strong, I am Deadly* from the new Koori Pre Curriculum to create a meaningful Sorry Day artwork.

Three year two children who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander each chose a friend and will visit Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services in the coming weeks to present the artwork.

Communities at Work

Out of School Hours Care

At after school care, we have been focusing on becoming sustainable with our resources. Using different objects the children have been learning about turning them into something fun, the first idea was creating cup towers, the children are able to hold building competitions and challenge others to see who can build them the quickest. Moving forward, the children at after school care have decided to start mini clubs. Each week the club will run different experiences, we will have a sports club, science club, art club and dance club. The children will help the educators come up with different things to do and help to run them each week taking turns in leadership roles.



Communities at Work Manager Update

Bookings for our upcoming July School Holiday Program are now open. The booking form has been emailed to existing families and can be sent upon request from necs@commsatwork.org or hard copies are available from our office, the school reception or Lora our OSCHC (Out of School Hours Care) Coordinator in the hall.

Kind Regards,

Michelle

Communities at Work employment opportunity



We have an employment opportunity available for possibly someone returning to work and wanting to work school hours. The position is for the centre cook and doesn't require any formal qualifications, only a willingness to undertake a food safety course which can be obtained on the job, through Communities at Work. The position can be full time 7.5 hours per day and the rate is \$27.25 ph, however the role could be performed to a high standard working 8.30am-2.30pm.

If this opportunity is of interest to you, or someone you know please contact Michelle Born, Manager of Narrabundah Early Childhood Education and Care Service on 6142 3824 or via email michelle.born@commsatwork.org



School Holiday Booking Form

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/2236/necs_july_shp_booking_form.pdf

Free asthma education for families

Registered Nurse Asthma educators provide children, young people and their families with support to manage their asthma. This free service from Canberra Health Services is available to all children up to the age of 18 in the ACT and surrounds. The service includes:

- advice on asthma, asthma first aid, how asthma medications work and when to use them
- symptom recognition for primary school children, aiming to support increasing independence
- support for teenagers to self-manage their condition and device options.

If this service is of interest to you please call the Community Health Intake line on 5124 9977 to make an appointment.

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/2199/20220531_sb_w6a2_paeds_asthma_dl_flyer.pdf

ACT Public School Boards - Appointed Members

Do you know someone that would be a suitable addition to a school board in the ACT?

The Education Directorate is seeking expressions of interest from people to fill the position of "Appointed Member" on ACT public school boards. NECS has an "Appointed Member" however there are many schools in the ACT that require this position to be filled. Expressions of interest will be used to fill vacant positions in schools across the ACT.

All ACT public schools have a school board. The school board is responsible for the school's strategic direction, its budget, policy implementation and related issues. Generally, school boards consist of:

- the school's principal;
- three parents and citizens members;
- two staff members;
- two student members (at high schools and colleges);
- one Appointed Member; and
- up to two Board Appointed Members (if any).

The appointed member is usually someone from outside the immediate school community, who is interested in and committed to public education. They bring an independent voice to board decisions. Appointments extend for periods up to two years and an appointed member may also be re-appointed after the conclusion of their term.

People interested in becoming an appointed member on a school board, should complete the expression of interest form and return it to the school boards team in the Education Directorate Email: EDUSchoolBoards@act.gov.au

Expressions of interest for this recruitment round will be open until COB Monday 20 June 2022 (week 9, term 2).

