



# Narrabundah Early Childhood School

Learn • Develop • Nurture

23-27 Kootara Crescent  
Narrabundah ACT 2604  
Subscribe: <https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

Email: [info@necs.act.edu.au](mailto:info@necs.act.edu.au)  
Phone: 02 6142 3828



Week 4, Term 1, 2023

## 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.



Families were invited to meet their child/ren's class teacher, to look around the classroom and to meet other NECS families. I know the teaching staff appreciated the conversations they were able to have with families. If you were unable to attend, we know several families had swimming lessons or other commitments, and you would like to meet with your child's teacher please contact the front office on 6142 3828 to arrange a meeting. Education is most effective when we work in partnership with families.

### School Photos

Families were emailed a link this week to register for your child/ren's school photos. We are trialling a new company this year, Authentic School Portraits. The photos look child-centred and more varied than a traditional school photo. Please contact the front office if you have any questions. Most of the communication and administration will occur between families and Authentic School Portraits. The school are not required to hand out envelopes, manage payments etc. If you would like to have a look at Authentic School Portraits work here is a link to their website <https://authenticschoolportraits.com/> There is more detailed information later in the newsletter.

### Learning to learn

## Principal's Message

### Welcome BBQ

Yesterday it was wonderful to have a small but enthusiastic group of families at our Welcome BBQ. We were very thankful to have Ngunnawal Elder, Aunty Violet Sheridan, with us to facilitate a Welcome to Country. It is always great to hear Aunty Violet speak from the heart and with passion.



THIS EMAIL COMES TO YOU FROM  
**NGUNNAWAL**  
COUNTRY



At Narrabundah Early Childhood School, we focus on academic learning AND social and emotional learning because we believe both are necessary to succeed and function in life. Even more so following the COVID pandemic where children have had interrupted attendance at early childhood education and care settings and school. The pandemic has had quite an impact on social relationships and children's ability to persevere. Children were at home for greater periods of time which meant they were largely in their 'comfort' zone and engaged in high-interest tasks. School is different. Preschool and school settings require children to follow the directions of adults, to finish tasks even when they are highly engaged, to try new things, to be willing to engage in tasks that are hard and challenging. This can prove difficult for all students.

One of the key priorities in the NECS School Improvement Plan is to *'increase students' capability in critical and creative thinking as they learn to inquire and reflect on thinking'*. What does this mean you might ask? It means we want students to be able to clarify information and ideas, to talk about their thinking, to be curious, to persevere, to be willing to attempt all tasks and learn to stick with it even when it is hard. This is an important life skill. In our jobs and in our life as adults we are presented with hard tasks constantly, generally there is not the option to opt out or ignore the task. We must knuckle down, be willing to ask questions, be willing to have a go, fail and get back up and go again.

You will see in all classrooms this year growth mindset posters –



Teachers will introduce this language with the children and explicitly teach the skills and attitudes to accompany statements such as - I can't do it YET, I'm not good at this YET, I learn through mistakes etc.

Families can support this mindset at home. When your child is learning to tie their shoelaces use the language you can't do it yet but we will keep trying and you will get there; when your child is learning to read difficult words use the language have a go, you try first and then I will help; share examples of tasks that you used to find difficult that are now easy or a new skill you have had to work at. Language such as this teaches children that having a go is important and that we learn by repeated attempts and hard work. With a positive growth mindset, we can get smarter every day.

Warm Regards

Julie

The children in the Grass Parrot groups have had a wonderful start to the preschool year. We have had a great time learning about the things we can do at preschool and getting used to the new routines and environments.

The children have been busy forming new friendships and exploring all the possibilities that preschool presents. We have visited the library, had a ride on the bikes at the bike track, navigated through the hedge maze, had a swing on the swings and been to all the different playgrounds around the school.

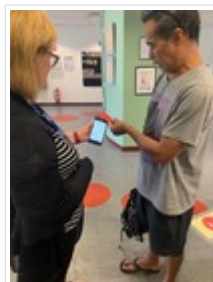
In the classroom, we have been learning all about ourselves and our place in the world. The children are very keen to explore their identity and discover their place in the world.

It is great to see the children so keen to learn at preschool and we will continue to offer challenging and fun activities to encourage the children to further their learning.



## Front Office

Did you hear? We now have Eftpos facilities available when making payments to the school.



A friendly reminder that school pick up and drop off is via the back gate for all children from Preschool to year 2. The gate is open 8:30am - 9:15am and 2:45pm-3:15pm.

If you are dropping your child to school outside of these hours please visit the front office and speak to Erin or Cathy so that your child's attendance can be marked and your child can get a late/early orange card to give to their class teacher.

It is extremely important that we know when your child has left school grounds early or if they are arriving late. This will ensure our rolls are marked correctly and that your child is safe.

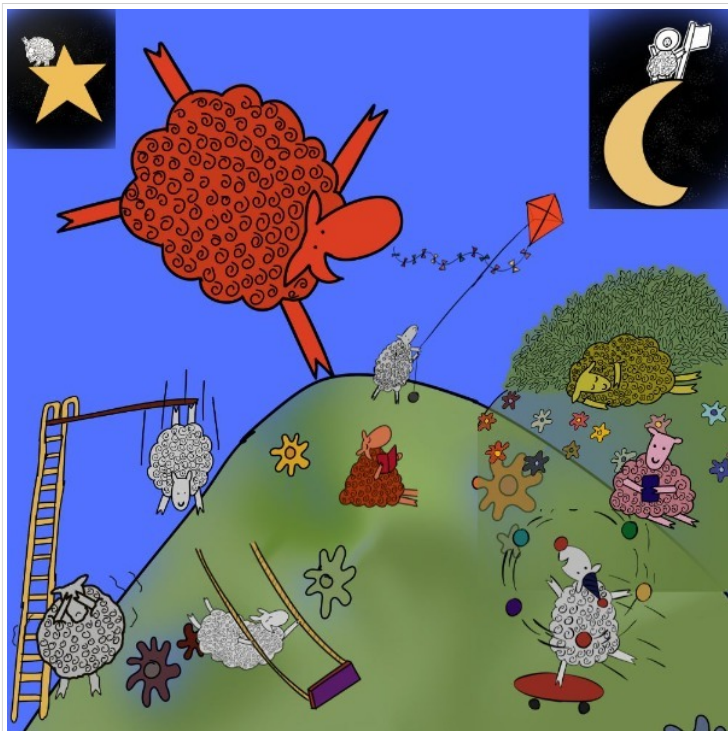




Hello and welcome to a wonderful year of listening to, reading and falling in love with books!

Thank you to all the families who have donated shoeboxes, we still need more. We are creating a library that is a welcoming space, filled with high quality texts and comfortable spaces to sit down and read a good book.

Classes have started coming to the library each week to read and share books. It has been lovely watching the students browse the books and choose books for their classroom book boxes. At the start of the year, I read "Where is the Green Sheep?" by Mem Fox to all the classes and hid pictures of different sheep around the classroom. All the students have had fun hunting for all the different sheep. The pictures below are the sheep hidden in the library. You might like to ask your child, which sheep they found hiding in the library.



### Home borrowing

Each P-2 class will visit the library on a weekly basis. This year library borrowing days are:

- 3-Year-old Butterflies: Tuesday
- Koori Butterflies: Friday
- Green Grass Parrots: Tuesday
- Red Grass Parrots: Friday
- Wombats: Monday
- Emus: Monday
- Bettongs: Wednesday

All P-2 students will be introduced to a wide variety of engaging fiction and non-fiction books and there will also be time for

each student to select a book/s to take home and share with their family.

### Library Bags

We encourage all students to have a library bag to protect the library books. If possible, please send your child with a library bag next week to begin their borrowing.

If you have any spare cloth or plastic bags, we would love to have them donated so we can provide spare library bags for students who forget theirs or don't have one. We will keep a collection of bags in the library for the rest of the year.

### Book Club

Book Club Issue 1 closes on Monday 27 February.

I have included in the newsletter an A4 poster promoting top picks from the catalogue. Back on Country and Our Dreaming are written by Indigenous authors and provide unique indigenous perspectives. I have marked these books with an Indigenous flag on the poster.

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB NEWS** **Book Suggestions**

Orders close: **Monday 27th of February**

**1/2 PRICE \$16**  
Wild Life 2-Pack  
Wombat and Roo are best friends and opposites. 144 pp. \$31.98

**NEW! Swoop**  
This cheeky songbird likes to swoop. 32 pp hardcover. \$24.99 **\$22.00**

**540**  
The Wild Guide to Starting School  
A fun guide through first day jitters! 32 pp hardcover. AGES 4+ \$19.99 **\$14.00**

**SAVE 62% \$10**  
EVA 5-Book Set  
Meet the new 1/2 PRICE \$29

**Our Dreaming**  
Our Dreaming: Explore a deep love and respect for Country and all her spirits. 24 pp hardcover. \$26.99

**BACK ON COUNTRY**  
Celebrate family and the traditions of being back on Country. 34 pp hardcover. \$24.99 **\$22.00**

**EDITOR'S CHOICE \*\*\***  
Brain is Always Right  
Meet the new 1/2 PRICE \$15

**LESS THAN 1/2 PRICE \$6**  
BUG  
Meet the new 1/2 PRICE \$6

**174**  
Fly Guy vs the Flymonster!  
Who knew that one tiny fly could cause so much trouble? 32 pp. \$5.99 **\$4.00**

### School Photos



Hello Narrabundah families,

The team from Authentic School Portraits will be at your child's school the week of the 10 March to 17 March to capture school photos! We thought we'd get in touch to introduce ourselves, tell you a little about what we do and provide tips on what you can do in preparation.

### Who are we?

We are a Canberran team of highly professional and skilled portrait photographers with over ten years of individual experience photographing children. Janet, Steph, Kim, Richard, Jade and Robin are your children's friendly photographers, and they are accompanied by Ben, Danielle, Liv and Hannah - our team coordinators.

Janet and Steph both run highly regarded and successful children and family photography businesses here in Canberra! Their studio is in Macgregor. It's our mission to bring the knowledge and principles from family photography to school portraits while giving families gorgeous, authentic photos of their children that they will treasure for years. Hence, "Authentic School Portraits"!

### What can you expect about the process for viewing and purchasing your children's school photos?

If you would like your child to be photographed during photo week, please pre-register your information and interest with us here: <https://form.typeform.com/to/ISiUIAcG>

Note that all children attending in photo week will still be photographed to provide the school with use of a database photo and that by registering you are not committing to purchasing a photo. If you do not pre-register, your child will only be photographed for inclusion for an internal database photo.

We aim to capture a range of photos by interacting with your child through play-based methods that capture real and authentic smiles! While we don't always get every kid to smile as some kids do not take to strangers quickly, we do our best to engage and interact with children through these play-based methods.

### What can you do in preparation?

Some parents have questions surrounding how to help us capture the best photos possible, and we've got a couple of tips for you before you send your child off to school on photo day. You can find those all at the link below under 'FAQ for Parents'.

<https://orders.authenticschoolportraits.com/webarchive/info.php>

We're looking forward to photographing your children!



Kim Healy

School Relationship Manager

Authentic School Portraits

**STUDIO OPENING HOURS:** Mon – Fri 10:00 am -5.00pm

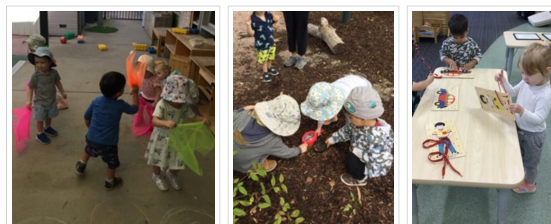
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

*Emails and phone calls will be answered during studio business hours, emails will be responded to within 24hrs during business hours.*

## Communities at Work

Over the past few weeks, we have welcomed a few new faces into our Wombats room. We have been focusing on our routines and transitions to ensure all the children are familiar and comfortable throughout their days and helping them feel settled and happy in their new environment.

During indoor activity time they enjoyed fixing magnetic letters and numbers on the mini white boards, threading picture frames using laces, and playing with various types of musical instruments. whilst outdoors, they explored the environment around them, shooting balls through basketball nets as well as hula hoops, block construction, dancing with scarves, and examine insects, leaves and flowers through a magnifying glass. These learning experiences helped them practice their construction, social, body balancing, gross motor and research skills.



### Manager's Update

This week the children tried Peta's healthy 'Chocolate Hummus' which was a big hit to say the least, alongside fresh fruit and Turkish bread for an afternoon tea. As it was so

popular, we have included the recipe below for you to try at home.



Peta’s Healthy Chocolate Hummus

Ingredients-

- 1 can of drained chickpeas
- 1 tsp unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 drop of vanilla extract
- 1 tsp of milk

Directions-

- Blend or mash the chickpeas
- Add all other ingredients and mix well

Serving suggestions-

- Fresh fruit- bananas, apples, strawberries
- Turkish bread, bagels, rice cakes

If you are still wanting to book either before or after school care for 2023, please get in touch by emailing us at [necs@commsatwork.org](mailto:necs@commsatwork.org) for an enrolment pack.

Should you need to contact the rooms directly throughout the day when your child is in attendance the numbers are:

Koalas: 61420034

Wombats: 61420031

Platypuses: 61420026

Kind Regards,

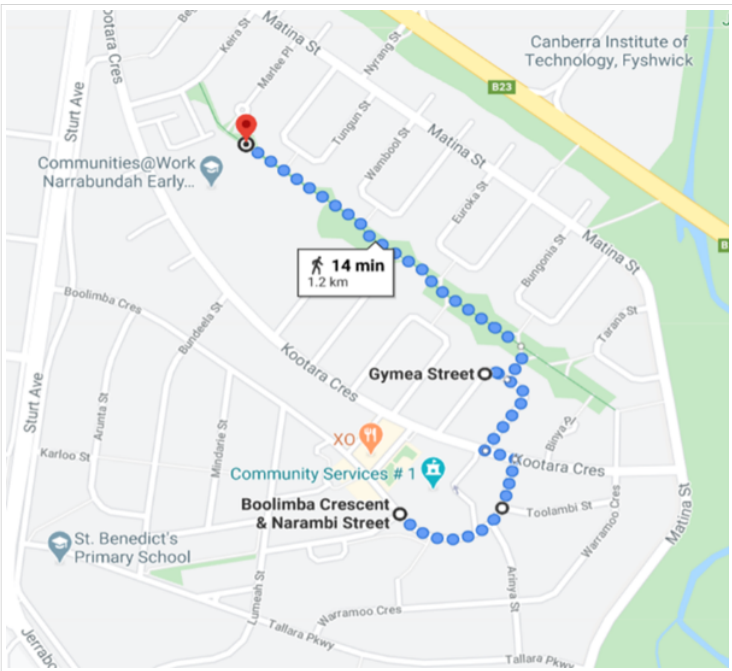
Michelle

NECS is offering students kindergarten to Year 2 living along Route No. 1 (below) the opportunity to join the Walking School Bus (WSB) in 2023. Pre-schoolers are welcome to join the WSB but require a parent to walk with them to school. Parents and carers are more than welcome to join the WSB.

The WSB is a safe and fun way for children to get physical activity as they travel to school in the morning with adult supervision. Depending on the need, the “bus” will walk along Route No. 1 (below) Monday to Friday mornings during school term with one to two leading it, picking children up at designated stops along the route and walking them to school.

If you are interested in your child joining the Walking School Bus please contact Donna Seal, Community Coordinator, via email: [donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au) phone: 61423823 mobile: 0480266493.

Route 1



Walking School Bus



Narrabundah Early Childhood School (NECS) Walking School Bus (WSB)

Expression of Interest for 2023

PBL awards



Week 3 award recipients -

Respect	Inclusion	Safety	Excellence
---------	-----------	--------	------------



Lylanoor	Koda	Frida	River
Jaxon x 2	Oumou	Conan	Hamish
Nevaeh	Max		Finn
Audrey	Mia		Byron
Yindi	Rueben		Ashwin A
Alice	Aaliyah		Naomi
Angus			Duke
Walter			Jackson x 2
Morgan			Nicholas
Adela			
Byron			
Lloyd			

Week 4 award recipients -

Respect	Inclusion	Safety	Excellence
Aaliyah	Curtis	Toki	Siena
Ashwin B	Kingston	Isabell	Vincent M
Amelie	Ashwin A	Abigail	Robbie
Luca	Adela		Vincent S
Nakita			Eva
Violette			Felix
Naomi			Madison
Duke			Conan
Vincent M			Lylanoor
			Teddy N
			Violette
			Madison

## Disability Yarning Circle

The Office for Disability's Disability Reference Group is hosting a Yarning Circle for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability and their families to lunch, yarn and connect on 19 March 2023.

Meet at Yarramundi Cultural Centre for lunch from 1:00 pm and conversations from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. For more information, read the flyer below.

[https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/2976/20230221\\_sb\\_w4a12\\_2023\\_disability\\_yarning\\_circles\\_flyer.pdf](https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/2976/20230221_sb_w4a12_2023_disability_yarning_circles_flyer.pdf)

## Tots Tumbling

Expressions of Interest

Tots Tumbling is a gross motor program for children 6 months to 5 years and their parents and/or carers. Tots Tumbling is an eight-week program on Mondays from 9.30am-11.00am during the school term held in the school hall. The program will commence on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2023.

At Tots Tumbling children 6 months to 5 years and their parents and/or carers can:

- Explore the obstacle course and use many different types of movement, example crawling, walking, jumping, hopping, throwing, catching, and climbing.
- Enjoy active play.
- Make new friends.
- Enhance child development.
- Learn new songs and musical games.

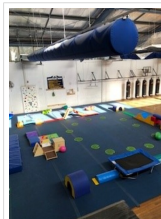
### How to access Tots Tumbling

Bookings are essential for this program. Please complete the Tots Tumbling parent and/or carer self-referral and email to [donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au)

Parent and/or carer self-referral

The cost is \$10 per session payable to the school.

For further information please contact Donna Seal, Community Coordinator, on 6142 3828 or email: [donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au)



## Digital Technologies

Hi! My name is Rachael and I teach Digital and Design Technologies across K-2.

Wombats, Emus and Bettongs have been learning about what digital systems are and what they are not. The children have been exploring and discussing different digital systems around them and their purpose. Some of us have visited preschool and drawn digital systems that they could see.

Next we will be creating our own paper laptop and learning the components. Keep an eye out for a StoryPark post.



## Capital Region Community Services (CRCS)

Hello!

We are the Family Support Practitioners from CRCS-Families'.

We provide free individual support and coordinated case management to vulnerable children, young people and families across ACT.

Capital Region Community Services (CRCS) - Family Support works to connect, advocate, and empower families to access appropriate supports across a range of areas not limited to accommodation, mental health, drugs and alcohol, and family violence. Family Support aims to empower children, young people and their families to develop and maintain their own network of supports. The program offers short, medium and long-term case management, and provides options for online, home visiting and community outreach delivery. We look forward to meeting you.

Currently, we will be working from Narrabundah Early Childhood School (NECS) every Tuesday and can be flexible to meet the needs of the participants. To make an appointment please email [info@necs.act.edu.au](mailto:info@necs.act.edu.au) or phone: 61423828 or drop-in to have a chat.



Hello, I am Daljeet (on the left) and I love exploring new places and trying different food.

Good Day, I am Passang (in the centre) and am super passionate about languages and can speak over 4 languages and would love to learn more.

Hi, I am Sonam (on the right). I am a big believer of Vitamin c and I add chillies in every meal I have.

## Back to School

[https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/3012/2023\\_back\\_to\\_school\\_a5\\_graphic\\_1\\_.pdf](https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/3012/2023_back_to_school_a5_graphic_1_.pdf)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Policy](#)