



Narrabundah Early Childhood School

Learn • Develop • Nurture

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Week 6, Term 1, 2020

Principal's Message

In the last newsletter I outlined the 2020 Annual Action Plan. A key component of the plan is embedding the Ten Essential Literacy Practices to develop school wide literacy practices. Last week we had Australian Literacy Educators' Association Fellow, Christine Topfer, model a literacy lesson for all K-2 educators. Christine Topfer has worked as a school leader, literacy coach and early years teacher. She has published journal articles, contributed to publications, co-authored two books *Supporting literacy learning in the early years*, and *Guiding thinking for effective spelling* and led literacy action research projects. She has presented nationally and internationally in a range of literacy areas including spelling, writing, reading comprehension and leading literacy improvement.

The leadership team spent time working with Christine and a School Improvement Mentor outlining NECS' teaching and learning focus in 2020. All K-2 teachers then observed Christine model a literacy lesson in the K/1 Wombat class. Christine read the book *Mr McGee and the Elephants* by Pamela Allen and modelled the use of high-quality questioning and the explicit teaching of letters and sounds using quality literature.



NECS is committed to supporting all educators professional learning and development and to improving student outcomes. Throughout 2020 NECS staff will continue working with our School Improvement Mentor and Christine Topfer to embed the Ten Essential Literacy Practices.

Maximising your child's learning time at school is critical to their education. At the recent Information Night, I shared some data with families. Being just 30 minutes late each day equates to 19 lost days of learning each school year!

Every Minute Counts

LATENESS = LOST LEARNING	
(Figures below are calculated over a school year)	
5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost!

Learning in classrooms begins each morning at 9am. Being on time helps your child to settle in for the school day, hear the schedule for the day and bond with their teacher and peers. Many of the tasks teachers engage in between 9am and 9.15am set the learning for the whole school day.

Today I am attaching an article from the *Australian Parenting Website: Raising Children* that outlines some practical tips on getting ready for school. I would encourage you to have a read. If you find you are struggling each day to get your child ready and to school on time please speak to Donna, our Community Coordinator, for support.

https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/school-learning/school-homework-tips/morning-routine-for-school#.XI-N_nQyi_l.email

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/236/9am_matters_use.png

Each morning from 8.30am an educator is on duty on the playground to supervise children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. Families may drop their child/ren off in the yard under the supervision of the educator. However, families with children in preschool must wait until the classroom doors open each morning before leaving your child.

Comms@work - Playschool Room

At 3pm educators open the back door to their classroom to greet families and support children to find their adult. We are lucky to have Communities@Work on site at NECS whom offer Outside School Hours Care for families that require supervision after 3pm. If you are late to pick up your child, educators will walk your child to the front office to wait in the foyer with Audrey. We know that sometimes things happen unexpectedly in the day and ask that if you are running late that you give the school a call so we can reassure your child.

I am attaching to this message an update regarding the operation of ACT public schools with regard to the potential spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/256/managing_novel_coronavirus_in_act_public_schools_information_on_parents_and_carers.pdf

At NECS we are encouraging the children to wash their hands with soap and water thoroughly throughout the school day. We have also put up a number of posters to encourage healthy habits to minimise the spread of germs. We would encourage families to stay up to date via the ACT Health website or the Australian Government website.

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/257/cv_hand_hygiene_poster_accessible_1_.pdf
https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/258/issue_a_tissue_a4_posters.pdf
https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/259/prevent_the_spread_of_germs_poster_final_050320.pdf

Kind Regards

Julie

Koori Preschool

Koori Preschool

We have had a wonderful start to the 2020 school year. In Koori preschool we have been settling into our morning and daily routines. With a focus on culture, we have been learning about the Aboriginal Flag and what each of the colours represent. Children shared their first thinking and demonstrated their new understanding through artworks and conversations. Uncle David has been sharing and engaging us through story telling of Dreamtime stories including Tiddalick and Dinewan the emu. The children have been hunting for bush honey using Boomerangs.



The Playschool children have all had a lovely start to 2020. The children have enjoyed exploring and interacting within both our indoor and outdoor environments. We have been focusing on literacy and numeracy so far this year, the children were focusing on letter recognition and the sounds that they make through song and counting to 10 with flash cards to start building on their numeracy skills. As march starts we are about to begin learning all about our bodies, focusing on what is inside the human body and how to look after ourselves with healthy eating. Each month our room will change the theme for the month and that will be the main focus of our intentional lessons and activities for the children. Although we have planned activities the children are still encouraged for spontaneous learning and play experiences helping the children explore the world around them.



Celebration Days



Next week NECS will be recognising Harmony Day – Everyone Belongs, and National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. These two focus concepts will be explored in learning time through quality picture books where students will have the opportunity to share and extend their thinking and knowledge. It is also an authentic opportunity to reflect and make deeper connections with our Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) framework which helps schools to create positive learning environments. At Narrabundah we RISE above every challenge by showing Respect, Inclusion, Safety and Excellence.



On Friday March 20 students are invited to wear cultural/traditional dress unique to their background or the colour orange which symbolises Harmony Day. This may include special clothes worn for celebrations or special occasions. Children may like to wear ORANGE (clothing, hair ties etc), which is the colour worn to signify Harmony Day and the celebration of diversity and inclusive culture. Children are also invited to bring in an item/artefact from home that represents their cultural background or a book in their first language to share its significance/story with others.

P & C News - Upcoming AGM



Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) Wednesday 1st April 2020

Narrabundah Early Childhood School (NECS) is a unique and innovative setting designed to support the learning, development and wellbeing of your child and their families from pre-birth to Year 2. The P&C fulfils many vital roles in the school including representing the wishes of the community, fundraising, second-hand uniform shop, organising events, and generally collaborating with the staff to ensure a positive learning environment for children.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for Wednesday 1st April 2020 at 3:05pm in the school library. All parents and carers are encouraged to attend. Children are welcome to attend.

The P&C is calling for nominations (including self-nominations) for our association's office bearers. Major roles and responsibilities include:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Council Delegate
- Fundraising

For further details about the major roles and responsibilities or to nominate for these positions please contact Donna Seal email: donna.seal@ed.act.edu.au or phone 6142 3828.

Raising Girls and Raising Boys Presentation

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/237/steve_biddulph.pdf

Read and Write for Google Chrome

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/239/rw4g_parent_workshop_2020.pdf

Network Student Engagement team (NSET) Flyers

IS IT BULLYING?

NOT NICE

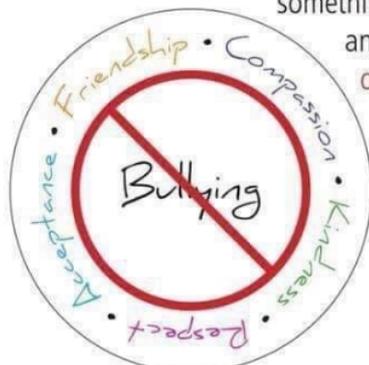
When someone says or does something **unintentionally** hurtful and they only do it **once...**
That is **Not Nice**

MEAN

When someone says or does something **intentionally** hurtful and they do it **once...**
That is **Mean**

BULLYING

When someone says or does something **intentionally** hurtful and they **keep doing it, over a period of time, even when you tell them to stop or show them that you are upset...**



That is **Bullying**

The Network Student Engagement Team (NSET), Support at Preschool team within the ACT Education Directorate is providing information sessions for parents/carers of children with developmental delay and disability who will be enrolling in an ACT government preschool or kindergarten in 2021.

Tuesday 7th April 2020 - Transition to Preschool

Thursday 30th April 2020 - Transition to Kindergarten

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/252/parent_session_transition_to_kindergarten_2020.pdf

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/253/preschool_transition_parent_information_session_flyer_2020_disability.pdf