



Narrabundah Early Childhood School

Learn • Develop • Nurture

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Week 6, Term 1, 2022

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.

Principal's Message

At NECS we value play. A famous quote is:



When children play they are problem solving, testing out skills and theories, developing and using language, building muscles, applying mathematical skills, practising social skills and much more. Play is busy work. Preschool is based around developmental play. Educators plan play based learning experiences to engage children and develop their skills and understandings. In kindergarten to year 2 play continues to

play an important role both in the classroom and out of the classroom.

At NECS children in K-2 have three schedules outside play breaks each day. These are important brain breaks, they provide time for movement and engaging with peers. Educators set up the outside environment each day with a range of play experiences that cater for robust, physical play and quiet play options. We have recently purchased some board games, card games and loom bands for those who prefer quieter play in the outdoor environment.



Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL)

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is a framework that schools use to get everyone – students, staff, families and the school community - on the same page to create a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.

PBL is an international evidence-based whole school process which can be implemented in any school setting to support students from pre-school through to Year 12. PBL views behaviour as a set of skills that should be valued, explicitly taught, encouraged, and remediated. For some students, social skills may look different at school to their home environments.

The Positive Behaviour for Learning framework:

- Creates positive, safe, and predictable learning environments
- Improves academic, social and emotional outcomes for students
- Reduces challenging behaviour and increases prosocial behaviour
- Enhances positive school climate

- Ensures behaviour is managed consistently across the whole school

What are the benefits of PBL?

When PBL is implemented well, teachers and students have more time to focus on relationships and classroom instruction. Students and staff benefit from:

- increased time focused on instruction
- improved social-emotional wellbeing
- positive and respectful relationships among students and staff
- reduced inappropriate behaviour
- better support for teachers to teach, model and respond effectively to student needs
- a predictable learning environment where staff and students know what is expected.

PBL establishes a continuum of support that helps students with diverse academic and social needs. The continuum is aligned with Trauma and Neuroscience Informed Education practices. All students receive supports that are for everyone, some students need additional support with specifically designed strategies and a few students need intensive wrap-around support to help them to engage at school.

At NECS our PBL values and expectations for all settings are:



You will hear educators use this language at NECS. We constantly frame choices, consequences and expectations using the NECS PBL language e.g. “Is that a safe choice?”, “I like the way you included Ben in your play”, “That was a responsible choice”. The PBL team at NECS works with an external coach from the Education Directorate on a fortnightly basis to analyse student behaviour data and make decisions about what our next focus should be.

For the next few weeks our school wide focus is on *Respect*, being respectful with and towards resources and when interacting with peers. The language educators will use is

- We keep our bodies to ourselves
- We make responsible decisions
- We encourage others
- We use positive language
- We take care of our toys/resources

Educators will be pre-teaching intended behaviours and expectations both in the classroom and in the playground. Your support with this messaging would be greatly appreciated.

Warm Regards

Julie

Emu Classroom

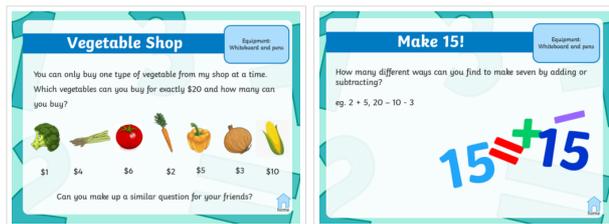
The Emus have had a wonderful start to the year. The past 5 weeks the students have been getting to know each other, making new friends and reconnecting with old friends. We developed our class agreement using the school RISE values of Respect, Inclusion, Safety and Excellence and everyone is able to demonstrate these values in the classroom.



Every morning we come in and start our day with a math challenge. Students come into class, grab a whiteboard and complete the math problem on the board. They will either work independently or with a partner to complete the open-ended question, sharing their answers with those around them and helping each other when they are stuck.

The students mental computation skills are improving with these quick morning activities, it is wonderful to watch them use different strategies each day to find new ways to solve the math problem.

Here are some of our favourite questions:



them feel settled and happy in their new environment. This term we have introduced a new curriculum plan that ensure that intentional teaching experiences link to key general capabilities outlined in the Australian curriculum as well as Early years learning framework outcomes. With this new program we have begun focusing on key skills such as literacy, numeracy, fundamental movement skills, art and stem. Another key focus area of the platypuses' room is emotional regulation, we have been engaging in our daily emotion check in and learning about the zones of regulation and ways we can keep ourselves in the green zone, we have also been exploring emotions through art, listening to different types of mood music and painting how it makes us feel. This term we have engaged in multiple different cultural experiences from our educators' backgrounds such as traditional Chinese Lunar New Year activities involving creative dance, music and craft; and exploring the Pacific Islands through dress ups such as grass skirts and flower headbands, painting and learning cultural dances.

Families@NECS (P&C)



NECS P&C
Notification of general meeting
and special resolution
Thursday 31st March 2022,
5:30pm

Dear NECS Families,

Due to limited interest in its continued operation, the P&C will seek agreement to close the organisation and donate remaining funds to the school for the purpose of facilitating ongoing family engagement.

Parents and carers are invited to attend the online meeting via the link below and vote on the proposed special resolution:

The Narrabundah Early Childhood School Parents & Citizens Association Inc wishes to:

- (i) **Voluntarily wind up the Association; and**
- (ii) **Disperse any assets to the Narrabundah Early Childhood School**

Kind regards,
Families@NECS
 families.necs@gmail.com
Meeting link:
<https://meet.google.com/tzg-mvcp-cxu>
 Or dial: +61 2 9051 6577 PIN: 426 056 742#



Community conversation

To help inform the development of the Directorate's Inclusive Education Strategy, independent facilitators, Strategic Development Group are undertaking a consultation called "A Community Conversation".

This includes an online survey and discussion groups starting next week 14-26 March.

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1893/community_conversation_invitation_.pdf
https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1894/discussion_groups_community_conversation_flyer.pdf

Google Meet joining info

<https://meet.google.com/tzg-mvcp-cxu>
https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1874/special_resolution_letter.pdf

NECS Voluntary Contribution 2022

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1842/voluntary_contributions_2022.pdf

Platypus Room - Communities at Work

This term we have welcomed new faces into our room, be they new to the service or children transitioning over from our Wombats room. Over the past few weeks, we have been focusing on our routines and transitions to ensure all children are familiar and comfortable throughout their days, helping

RAP Update

Narrabundah Early Childhood School (NECS)
 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)



NECS flies the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags as a demonstration of our pride and respect for the histories, cultures and contributions of Australia's First Peoples. As a demonstration of our respect and commitment to reconciliation, the school has commissioned a contractor to install a new flagpole to ensure that all flagpoles are the same height.



Flag_of_Australia_converted_.svg.webp

Did you know that on the 14th of July 1995, the Governor General of Australia William Hayden proclaimed both the Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag to be 'Flags of Australia' under the Flags Act 1953?

To promote reconciliation and to enhance staff and students' knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions, the focus this term for our school community is to learn more about the importance of flags for cultural identity.

To learn more about the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags](#) you can view the Reconciliation Australia short video and/or visit the AIATSIS website to learn more about the history and continued symbolic meaning of the [Aboriginal flag](#) and the [Torres Strait Islander flag](#).



PBL Certificates

The recipients of the PBL RISE award certificates this fortnight are:

Week 5

Respect	Inclusion	Safety	Excellence
Violette	Angus	Byron	Bryon
Lylanoor	Keyak	Keyak	Naomi
Mia	Conan	Cruz	Max
Pippin	Alice	Emus class	Laura
Ashwin			Felix
Adela			Oumou
Eh Ku Soe			
Colin			
Marius			
Kingston			
Morgan			

Week 6

Respect	Inclusion	Safety	Excellence
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Nevaeh	Jaidyn	Hamish	Harlei
Jayden P	Ashwin	Maibungha	Teddy Mc
Maxwell	Henry	Vincent S	Ashwin B
Cali	Owen	Conan	Frida
Lucas	Fred G	Lylanoor	Eva
		Alex	Ashwin
			Naomi
			Thomas x 2
			Laura
			Mia
			Keyak
			Angus
			Kyeson x 2
			Kingston

COVID Updates

ACT Health has released instructional videos about how to do a rapid antigen test (RAT). The instructional videos are available on the COVID-19 website page -

https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/symptoms-and-getting-tested/when-to-get-tested/_recache#Rapid-Antigen-Tests

COVID-19 vaccination social scripts: a resource for families who have children with autism

Amaze and the National Disability Services have developed social scripts that outline the process of getting a COVID-19 vaccination. These social scripts provide people with autism with an opportunity to prepare themselves for their vaccination and reduce anxiety. Social scripts are stories and images that explain new experiences and social environments.

While the social scripts have been developed for people with autism, anyone who is feeling anxious about the process of getting a COVID-19 vaccination can use and benefit from the resources. For more information and to download the scripts, go to [COVID-19 vaccinationsocial scripts - Amaze - Autism resource](#).

Manager Update - Communities at Work

Enrolments for the upcoming April school holiday program have now opened. If you are an existing enrolled family these have been emailed to you as well as added to Storypark (hard copies are available from Lora during before and after school care).

If you are a new family wanting to join us for the school holiday program, please email me at necs@commsatwork.org and I can email you the enrolment pack and booking form.

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

Koalas: 61420034

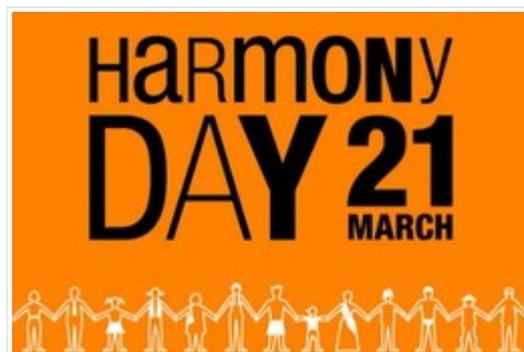
Wombats: 61420031

Platypuses: 61420026

After school care: 0481 462 733 (3pm to 6pm only)

Kind Regards,

Michelle



National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence and Harmony Day

How is NECS acknowledging National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence and Harmony Day in 2022?

On March 18, it is 'National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence'. The theme for this year is, 'Kindness Culture'. Kindness is about showing **empathy** towards others, (putting yourself in someone else's shoes), embracing diversity and being inclusive.

On March 21, it is Harmony Day – Harmony Day is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, building a place and culture where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

To acknowledge & celebrate Harmony Day children are invited to dress in cultural dress or orange (the signature colour of Harmony Day) and bring in an item that represents their cultural background or heritage to share with their class as a speaking and listening experience.

Tuesday 22 March – Green Grass Parrots, Kangaroos & 3 year old Butterflies.

Thursday 24 March – Red Grass Parrots & Koori Butterflies

Friday 25 March – Emus, Wombats & Bettongs



Teachers at NECS will be acknowledging both days through reading a range of picture books around the concepts of inclusion and kindness. Children will engage in learning experiences around the key messages and concepts in the stories. The themes of both days connect authentically to our NECS Positive Behaviours for Learning RISE expectations -

Respect – showing respect and kindness to each other.

Inclusion – including others in play or inviting others to play with you.

Safety – being safe around others (gentle hands and feet).

Excellence – Being the best person I can be and trying my best.

Inclusive Education

Help shape the future of inclusive education in ACT Public Schools

The inclusive education survey on disability and education in ACT Public Schools has re-opened. Discussion groups are also being held over the coming month.

Students with disability (both current and former), carers, families, advocates, school staff and the broader community are invited to join the 'Community Conversation' and help shape how we strengthen inclusive education in ACT Public Schools.

If you haven't already done so, visit 'A Community Conversation' to complete the survey and/ or join a discussion group.

For more information about the survey and this work visit the Education Directorate website:
<https://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/students-with-disability/strengthening-inclusive-education>

From Friday 18 March to 24 March teachers will explore the following questions

- What is kindness? What does kindness mean to you?
- Why is being kind important?
- How can you show kindness to others and the environment?

Teachers will share key aspects of the learning on Storypark.



Foodbank NSW and ACT Fresh Produce Pop Up Queanbeyan

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1883/foodbank_nsw_act_fresh_produce_pop_up_queanbeyan.pdf

MOJO music lessons

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1841/mojo_poster.pdf

Disabled Parking



At NECS we have a number of families who are eligible to use the disabled car space in the car park. It is essential that you display your parking permit when using the designated car park.

A few reminders from Access Canberra:

- Disability parking permits are issued to the holder not the vehicle.
- If a permit holder is NOT travelling in the vehicle, it is an offence for any other person to display and use the permit.

To support members of the NECS community please do not park in the disabled car park unless you have a valid permit.

Safety around schools

Please note this is general information from the Education Directorate, we have had no specific incidents at NECS.

This is reminder to help our children understand the importance of stranger safety and the need to report any unusual incidents or approaches to staff immediately.

If you become aware of an incident, or notice anyone acting suspiciously around a school or child, contact police immediately on 131 444 or in the case of an emergency call 000. If you witness incidents or if you have any information that could assist Police, contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Information can be provided anonymously.

Please support us to keep our children safe by having conversations about moving safely around the community and what to do if they ever feel unsafe. You may wish to visit the Australian Federal Police website for tips on [Child Safety](#) or the [Safety4Kids](#) non-government website for useful information and links. The [Constable Kenny website](#) also has a number of tips for parents.

The school and the Education Directorate will continue to work with ACT Policing on this issue.

Health alert

Public Health Alert: protect against mosquito bites – message for school newsletters

The ACT Health Directorate has alerted the Canberra and surrounding community to protect themselves against mosquito bites. Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) has been detected in samples from pigs in commercial pig farms at locations in regional New South Wales, northern Victoria and southern Queensland, indicating the virus is likely circulating in the mosquito population.

The alert includes more information about the symptoms of JEV and a list of simple actions to avoid mosquito bites. [Public Health Alert: protect against mosquito bites.](#)

Matildas vs New Zealand

Australian Women's football team the Commonwealth Bank Matildas will play New Zealand at Canberra's GIO Stadium on 12 April 2022.

[Matildas.webp](#)

The Matildas are a huge inspiration for our aspiring young female athletes in Canberra. \$1 (plus GST) from every ticket will be donated to the women's CP national football program for female footballers with cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury or symptoms from stroke. Ticketing information is available from the official [Commonwealth Bank Matildas website](#). The match will also be broadcast live and free on 10 Bold and simulcast on 10 Play and Paramount+.