



O'Connor Cooperative School
together we learn, together we grow



ACT
Government
Education

NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 4 Wednesday 23 May 2018

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Principal: Jenny Loudon
Business Manager: Michelle Lorkovic

Board Chair: Marianne Cullen
P&C President: Angela Corin

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed 23 May Assembly hosted by Year 1
Thur 24 May School Board Meeting 7.45am
Fri 25 May Year 2 Athletics - Dickson Oval
P&C General Meeting 3.15pm
Mon 28 May Reconciliation Day ACT Public Holiday
Wed 30 May Assembly Reconciliation sharing

NOTES SENT HOME

Year 2 Athletics carnival note (Green)

Community Singing Friday 2.30pm in Redgum - All welcome

National Reconciliation Week 2018 - Don't Keep History a Mystery

Did you know that the ACT Legislative Assembly passed a bill removing the Family and Community day public holiday and introduced Reconciliation Day? National Reconciliation Week runs from 27 May until 3 June and the theme this year is 'Don't Keep History A Mystery' https://youtu.be/zDBYG_Ao4MI.

In the ACT **Monday 28th May is a public holiday** this year, so there will be no school on this day. We will be holding an assembly on Wednesday 30th May where the children will be sharing some of their learning around Reconciliation and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Welcome Leena (LSA)

I would like to introduce and welcome Leena to our school community. Leena is working Mon – Wed across the school, supporting students in their learning. Please make her feel welcome when you meet her.

Renovations

This term the Education Directorate is funding an upgrade to the Kindergarten classroom, staff room, principal's office and front office verandah. Works have commenced in the Kindergarten room and the children have been excited to learn they are having their wet area relocated.

During the renovations the library itself will be closed for borrowing. With Nathan's help, a collection of books will be made available so borrowing can continue within each classroom on designated library days.

Congratulations to Year 2

On Thursday of Week 2, our Year 2 class walked over to Turner School and participated in the Turner School Cross Country. Our 7 year olds (born in 2017) ran a 500m lap of the oval and our 8 year olds (born in 2010) ran a 1000m circuit around the school – in the rain!!!!

Staff and parents were all VERY impressed with the efforts and perseverance of all our students, with all completing the course. Rose ran with the 8 year olds and Nathan ran in both events! Many thanks to the parents who were there cheering everyone on.

We thank the staff at Turner school for including us in this event, another of our transition to year 3 activities. This Friday the Year 2 group are heading to Dickson Oval to participate in the Lyneham Primary School Athletics carnival

Assembly dates for Term 2

Our timetable for assemblies for term 2 is as follows

Week 1	Monday 30 April	Anzac Commemoration
Week 4	Wednesday 23 May	Year 1
Week 5	Wednesday 30 May	All classes Reconciliation
Week 6	Wednesday 6 June	Preschool
Week 8	Wednesday 20 June	Year 2
Week 10	Wednesday 4 July	Kindergarten

Student progress reports and A-E grades

Later this term all families will receive our school-based reports which provide parents and carers with detailed information on the progress of your child for Semester One. This will include student strengths, areas for further development, strategies to support and/or extend their learning, social development and student involvement in school programs and activities. Information about the student's attitude and commitment to learning is also included. Teachers will be available for interviews to discuss student progress during Week 10.

Families of year 1 and 2 students will receive an A-E grade report along with the classroom teachers school based report in week 9. **If you do not wish to receive your child's A-E report**, please email michelle.lorkovic@ed.act.edu.au by Wednesday 6th June.

School Board

I would like to say a special thank you to our outgoing School Board Chair Marianne Cullen. Marianne has represented you on our School Board for the past two years and has provided valuable feedback and input to discussion on various points of governance during this time.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Angela Corin, who has volunteered to represent you on the Board for the next 2 years. She joins Peter Jones, our other parent representative, Colin Rae our community representative and Rose Patrick our staff representative forming our School Board.

School Improvement

During term 3 our school will be undergoing an external school review as part of our ongoing school improvement process. Through the School Board, P&C, staff meetings and discussions with students and parents, we regularly review aspects of our school which are working well and areas for further improvement.

This term we will be providing information about the process and in particular highlighting aspects of our practice so that families know and understand elements of our work. The Domain 4 focus is **Targeted Use of School Resources**. The descriptor in the National School Improvement Tool is

The school applies its resources (staff time, expertise, funds, facilities, materials) in a targeted manner to meet the learning and wellbeing needs of all students. It has school-wide policies, practices and programs in place to assist in identifying and addressing student needs. Flexible structures and processes enable the school to respond appropriately to the needs of individual learners.

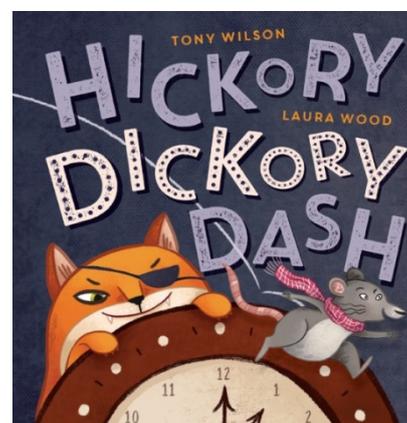
At O'Connor Cooperative School we achieve this by:

- Implementing processes to identify and respond to student needs through the allocation of staff and resources;
- Deploying staff in ways that best address the learning needs of all students in the school and that make best use of available staff expertise and interests;
- Maintaining school-wide programs and approaches for students requiring additional or specialist support;
- Using discretionary school funds, giving priority to initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for students;
- Providing flexible curriculum delivery to enable staff to address the needs of individual learners;
- Effectively using our physical environment and available facilities to maximise student learning;
- Ensuring our school budget aligns local and system priorities

If you have any comments about this please see your child's teacher or school executive.

National Simultaneous Story Time

During assembly today we listened to Caroline read Hickory Dickory Dash. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read in many places around the country. Now in its 18th successful year, it is a colourful, vibrant, fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy.



End of May is 'Hats Off Day' for Canberra schools

In Canberra, May is when we start to witness daily UV levels take a nose dive, to what is considered "low" levels (under 3). This generally occurs during the morning and afternoon periods. However by the end of May UV levels drop and remain low (under 3) all day for a few months and so **end of May is 'Hats Off Day'** for Canberra schools. Sun hats will be washed and kept at school. All children have school beanies to wear when outdoors at school during the colder months. These also remain at school.

Cancer Council ACT does not generally recommend sun protection behaviour (ie hat wearing and sunscreen application) when UV levels are under 3 due to the low risk of potential UV skin damage.

Winter Sun Exposure

In winter, by exposing some skin most days of the week during the middle of the day (when UVB will be present), students and workers should be able to maintain the bulk of their summer vitamin D. Of course there will be groups in the population that are at higher risk of having vitamin D deficiency.

Research also suggests that maintaining daily physical activity throughout the winter period, i.e. at lunch time, will also assist the body with its efforts to produce and maintain vitamin D.

Lost Property

Every day we have clothing left around the school in various places. Please talk with your child about taking care of their personal belongings. Could you please check your child's jumpers. If you have a jumper with another name on the label please return it to school. On that note - please remember to label EVERYTHING your child brings to school.

Regards *Jenny*

Preschool Term 2 Learning Overview 2018
Teacher: Yasmine O'Brien Educator: Bree Pardoe
Learning Support: Nathan Young

In preschool this term we will continue to focus on building strong, secure and trusting relationships with the children and their families. Through meaningful conversations, drama, play and social games we aim to build social and emotional confidence. We encourage the children to manage their own belongings, help themselves and ask for assistance if required. Your support is greatly appreciated and we encourage you to let your child carry their own bag, place their own water bottle and fruit in the respective places and understand that they are responsible for their lunch box and jumpers. Remember to label everything your child brings to school and check the Lost Property box outside Redgum regularly. Giving your child responsibility empowers them with the belief that you trust they can do it - and they can.

This term we will continue to focus on healthy living, caring for the environment and each other. The children will be learning key words such as **peace, respect, private, caring** and **cooperation**. We will also continue to encourage all children to use words when engaging with others. If any child is in a situation where they do not feel comfortable we encourage them to say **'Stop It - I Don't Like It'**. It is helpful if you can encourage your child to use these words and to remind them that if someone says that to them - **They need to stop what they are doing**, because the other child does not feel comfortable.

We will continue to engage the children in discussions and learning experiences that promote and celebrate diversity, build social and emotional skills and also emphasise the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and making healthy choices. The children will also be invited to engage in discussions that promote living peacefully, being caring and respectful and cooperating with each other.

Every morning we acknowledge the Ngunnawal people, their country and discuss the importance of caring for our immediate environment including our planet through caring for our plants and gardens, each other, ourselves and the animals. This term we are learning the days of the week and months of the year through song each morning.

The children will continue to engage in visual arts through families sharing aspects of their culture, Aboriginal culture and our environment. There will continue to be opportunities to dance and engage in song, movement and drama, language and number games every day. There will be particular focus on counting, number recognition, grouping number of objects up to 10, and addition up to 10. The children are encouraged to use their fingers or counters to solve the problems. We will also be making repeating patterns together as a whole group.

Reading and writing materials are available to use as the children's desires arise. They all have the opportunity to write their name each day. The children will be learning about the importance of **cooperation, tidying up, packing away and respecting our things**. We will explore how other schools do this in Japan, Scotland, Bali.

A major focus of our learning this term will be continuing to expand our knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture

Other aspects of our cultural learning this term will include

- Anzac Commemoration
- Scottish Culture shared by Ella's Mum
- Creating Japanese Sushi rolls
- Reconciliation in our community
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture
- Music Engagement Program: Alphabet songs, plus familiar and new songs and dance with Susan
- Classical music for pleasure, Jonathan's dad Matthew plays familiar children's songs and classics for our enjoyment the violin.

Cultural incursions taking place this term include

- Week 3 **Larry Brandy**, a Wiradjuri man to share aspects of his Wiradjuri culture as well as Aboriginal history in Australia.
- Week 4 **Jade, Sam's mum** will teach us about some aspects of Sam's culture, heritage and country
- Week 5 **Catrina and Buzzy Bee's Flower Adventure.** The program is about flowers and culture from around the world. Some examples are the Japanese Cherry Blossom, the English rose the Australian Wattle. The children will learn about the scents, healing properties and symbolic meaning of a variety of flowers around the world. The children will be invited to join in on story, song and dance.
- Week 7 **'Sharing culture.'** Gwenda, an Aboriginal woman will use dance, story, artefacts and language to share her unique and rich culture. The children will be invited to join in on story, song and dance.

Reconciliation Week. During weeks 4 and 5 we will investigate a wider range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander related activities. The children will be engaged in visual arts, exploring identity, culture and difference (Aboriginal perspective of the Australian map is different) and develop a deeper understanding of the symbolic meaning behind the colours and symbols that make up the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.

On Wednesday May 30 at 9.00am we have a whole school **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation Assembly**. Children from across the school will be sharing their knowledge and / or art works with the whole school. One of the preschool children will also acknowledge country.

On Wednesday June 6 the **preschool children will run assembly from 9.00 – 9.30am**. Please keep this date free. We look forward to seeing all our families.

The Wondering Bag will begin this term. It will replace the Museum of me but will be in the same bag. So next time you get this bag it will be different inside with different instructions! Your child will take **The Wondering Bag** home over night on Monday night and bring it back the very next day. There will be a book in the bag called, 'I Wonder'. After you read this story your child can become an inquirer and is invited to think about and discuss with you what they are wondering about. Once they have a 'wondering' you can write it on the wondering stone. More detailed instructions are in the bag. We look forward to sharing the wonderings of others and learning new things in the coming weeks

Dates for your Diary

Day	Date	Event
Every Tuesday		Library
Mon	28 th May	Reconciliation Day Public holiday
Wed	30 th May	9.00am Reconciliation assembly
Wed	6 th June	9.00am Preschool hosting assembly
Thur	28 th June	Semester One reports home
Week 10		Parent teacher interviews

Year 2

Turner School Cross Country Carnival

Two weeks ago we participated in the Turner School Athletics Carnival. Leading up to the event we had a number of practise runs around the park behind our school. We discussed the importance of pacing our running for long distance and decided it was best to try and stick to a gentle but steady jog.

On the day of the carnival, we walked over to Turner School in the beautiful autumn sun, but unfortunately as the events began so did the cold wind and rain! We were so pleased that, despite the weather, all the children who attended the carnival participated in their age group event and did an amazing job! We were so proud of the perseverance and commitment that the children demonstrated as they ran their races. Thank you to the parents who were able to join us and cheer from the sidelines and thank you Nathan for running with the children and as always, providing endless encouragement and energy to the day! We are also very grateful to our colleagues at Turner for inviting us to their carnival and making us feel very welcome 😊. We are looking forward to our final sports event with Lyneham Primary this Friday.



History Investigations Morning

Year 1 and 2 really enjoyed the History Investigations Learning Fair morning. It was lovely to have so many visitors join us on the day. There was certainly a buzz in the air as the children carried out their interviews, listened to stories and played games. Your contribution to our learning is greatly appreciated.

The children have now begun drafting an historical narrative using the information they collected. We look forward to sharing this work with you in the coming weeks. Here is a little teaser of what is to come!

Reid – This story of the past is about my mum. She went in a car and then a bus to get to school. She was only 5 years old when sis did it. Sometimes she had to wait for her mum at the bus stop for three hours. Her favourite toy was a cabbage patch doll. She liked to dress it up.

Allegra – I'm going to tell you about what life was like for my grandma when she was little. I asked my grandma about when she met her best friend and what they did together. She met her friend Judith at East Brisbane State School in 1951. They like swapping Enid Blyton books. My grandma liked "The Famous Five".



Chromebooks (Laptops)

This term we have been using the Chromebooks to carry out our work in a number of learning areas, expanding our digital technology knowledge. We have been working to familiarise the children with processes such as logging on, assigning (and remembering) passwords and keeping this information private, navigating Google Apps such as Google Classroom, Google Docs and Google Slides. The children have published a few pieces of writing, followed links to given sites to carry out research and engaged in mathematical games and challenges.

Finance

Thank you to those families who have made a voluntary contribution to our school. If you are yet to do so and would like your donation to be tax deductible, please advise Michelle that you would like your contribution to be donated to our library fund. Voluntary contributions for 2018 have been set at \$110.



Thank you to those families who have also paid the bulk book pack contribution of \$90. Our stationery is purchased in bulk at the beginning of the year to ensure all students are able to access stationery supplies as they need them throughout the year.

Preferred method of payment is electronic funds transfer and details are as follows:

BSB: 032-777

Account number: 001172

Account name: O'Connor Cooperative School

If you have collected a school jumper or T shirt and are yet to pay, these bank details should be used. Please note the purchase type in the reference section eg. Billy B Vol Con; or Lalor Jacket. Receipts will be issued on payment. If you are unsure if you have paid for the voluntary contributions, the book pack contribution or for school clothing, please contact Michelle.

Bookclub Loop will close on Thursday for Issue 3

Look online at Issue 3. All orders should be made electronically and books will be delivered to school and sent home with your child.

If you wish for your order not to be seen by your child, please advise [Michelle](#) and you can pick your order up from the front office.

Introducing

 **SCHOLASTIC**

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for Parents

LOOP is the **NEW** Scholastic Book Clubs
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Clubs by credit card visit:
www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP

Now available for your iPad or iPhone 

School Fete - How should we spend the money YOU helped us raise?

Come along to our P&C meeting on Friday afternoon
3.15 - 4.00pm to share your thoughts
on how we should spend the money raised.

**ALEA ACT and Canberra Theatre
Centre present**

Sunday 3 June 2018 9am or 11am

Bot Workshop – Coding As The New Literacy



Children are never too young to be introduced to coding and robotics! This interactive and hands-on workshop will provide young children with a unique opportunity to learn how to code through purposeful play. Coding is a new type of literacy for the 21st century that is logical and creative and it is important to teach this new literacy our youngest learners.

During this workshop children will be actively involved in programming Bots. On especially designed mats, children will see the Bots navigate their way based on the instructions they have created and programmed.

This amazing educational opportunity is presented by Chris Walsh. Chris is a Professor at James Cook University. He is passionate about working with teachers to co-design teaching and learning to prepare all students for the future. Chris understands that for all students to be successful participants in an economy being transformed by new technologies, they need a sound understanding of digital literacies including coding, gaming and robotics.

PARTICIPANTS ARE LIMITED TO 24 CHILDREN PER SESSION

DURATION: Approximately 60 minutes.

SUITABILITY: This workshop is designed for children aged from **3 - 5 years**. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

DATE: Sunday 3rd June

VENUE: Courtyard Studio

[ACCESS INFORMATION](#)

COST: \$15.00 per child. One adult free with every ticket purchased

BOOKINGS:

https://tickets.canberratheatrecentre.com.au/event_dates/ctc_bot_workshop_18.aspx



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Mental Health Issues and Young People: FREE Parenting Forum

Carers ACT is hosting a unique opportunity for parents, carers and friends to learn how to recognise the warning signs and better understand depression, suicide, eating disorders, deliberate self-harm and other mental health problems in young people. Mental illness in our youth – often known as the ‘invisible disease’ - is growing at an alarming rate with many parents at a loss on how to deal with it. The speaker will be Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, one of Australia’s leading experts in parenting and child and adolescent mental health and founder of CanTeen for teenagers with cancer. *Bookings essential.*

When: Tues 19 June 2018, 7-9pm, Hellenic Club, Woden

More info: Ph 6296 9900 or email mhcarers@carersact.org.au

Register : through Eventbrite <http://bit.ly/2HlqSiy>

Cost: free