



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



## NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 6 Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 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 6 June	Assembly hosted by Preschool
Mon 11 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Wed 13 June	Year One excursion to Dinosaur museum
Tues 19 June	Year Two excursion to Megalo and NGA
Wed 20 June	Assembly hosted by Year 2

### NOTES SENT HOME

Year 2 Megalo and NGA Gallery excursion
Year 1 Dinosaur Museum excursion
All - Book Club Issue 4 Catalogue
Girls - Australian Girls' Choir

**Community Singing Friday 2.30pm in Redgum - All welcome**

### Welcome to the Deputy Director General

On Thursday this week we will welcome **Deb Efthymiades, Deputy Director-General System Policy and Reform** as part of the Education Directorate's commitment for the Senior Executive Team members to build and maintain close contact with schools. Deb will be meeting with staff and walking through classrooms to see some of the amazing learning and teaching which takes place everyday here in our school.

### Renovations

You will notice this week the works commencing on the upgrade of the verandah outside the Front Office. Please take some time to talk with your child about the importance of staying away from areas which have been sectioned off as 'out of bounds'. This is for obvious safety reasons. They may be some time in the coming fortnight that the Front Office entry, as well as the Preschool/Kindergarten toilets, will be out of action as the overhead section is put into place. We will discuss this with the children at the appropriate time and they will be able to use the toilets outside the year 1 and 2 rooms.

If families need to access the Front Office you will have to come via the Preschool rooms. Please make every effort to be at school on time to minimise the need for late notes from the front office.

### Congratulations to Year 2

On Friday of Week 4, our Year 2 class participated in the Lyneham Primary School Athletics carnival at Dickson Oval. Our students took part in 800m, Long Jump, 70m and 100m sprints, shot put and attempted discus.

The weather was perfect and once again Rose, Nathan and myself were very proud of the effort and participation demonstrated by all. Thanks again to our parents who assisted with transport, support and encouragement on the day.



### High 5 Award

Congratulations to Phoebe in Year 1 on receiving the High 5 award at assembly today for showing "Respect for each other – Nothing Less" both in the classroom and on the playground.

## Assembly dates for Term 2

Our timetable for assemblies for term 2 is as follows

Week	Date	Host Class
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](mailto:michelle.lorkovic@ed.act.edu.au) by Wednesday 13th June.

## 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.

The Domain 5 focus **An expert teaching team** descriptor in the National School Improvement Tool is

*The school has found ways to build a school-wide, professional team of highly able teachers, including teachers who take an active leadership role beyond the classroom. Strong procedures are in place to encourage a school-wide, shared responsibility for student learning and success, and to encourage the development of a culture of continuous professional improvement that includes classroom-based learning, mentoring and coaching arrangements.*

At O'Connor Cooperative School we achieve this by:

- The leadership team recognising that the development of staff into an expert and coherent school-wide teaching team is central to improving outcomes for all students
- A professional learning plan and associated budget to support the identified priorities links to the Annual Action Plan.
- Principal and school leaders leading and modelling professional learning in the school.
- Staff Performance and Development meetings are held three times each year
- Teachers leading Professional Learning in areas of skills/knowledge.
- Teachers visiting each other's classrooms to observe practice and welcome opportunities to have others observe and discuss their work.
- Providing opportunities for teachers to take on leadership roles outside the classroom
- School leaders participate in professional learning alongside teachers, and the school supports teachers to continue formal study and celebrates professional success
- Attention paid to strengths and weaknesses in the school-wide team
- Providing flexible curriculum delivery to enable staff to address the needs of individual learners;

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

Regards *Jenny*

## Classroom News from Year 1

In acknowledgement of Reconciliation Day, our children have been learning more about Aboriginal culture. Many of the experiences the children participated in aligned with the Reconciliation Week focus this year *Don't Keep History a Mystery*.

Larry Brandy, an Aboriginal storyteller, helped the children understand what life was like for Aboriginal people in the past. He shared with the children the tools used for hunting animals and how the Aboriginal people would hunt them. The children were fascinated to hear how every part of the animals were used for different purposes. The children had many questions to ask Larry and enjoyed recreating the hunt for emus and kangaroos.



After Larry's visit, we had a week of investigations with a focus on Aboriginal culture. We began with a visit to Ngunnawal land next to our school. The children explored the space around them, some pretending to go on a hunt for animals using sticks they found. The children used the resources around them to be creative and play cooperatively. In the classroom they were inspired by the artist Albert Namatjira to paint their own landscapes and some worked with a partner to write an Acknowledgement to Country. The children read books about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, drew Aboriginal symbols, painted bark and participated in many other learning experiences.



The children shared some of these experiences at our Reconciliation assembly last week. Next week we will have a visit from Gwenda Stanley who will help the children gain more knowledge and understanding about Aboriginal culture.

Caroline, Nathan and Leena



## Digital Language

The Australian Literacy Educator's Association (ALEA) held a digital literacy event for early childhood school children at the Canberra Theatre last week. Each school was able to take a teacher with four students to learn about coding and programming robots. Our school took two students from Year 1 and Year 2 to the event.

Professor Chris Walsh from James Cook University presented the event. He made the learning of coding and programming very engaging. It was a hands on, fun experience for the children to use the digital language of coding and program a robot.



The children worked with a partner and coding cards to create a program. The program would tell their teacher how to move across the room. They had to test that their program worked before I acted as a robot and followed the program they created.



Next the children got to use the digital language of coding to program a Bee-Bot. They learnt how to program their Bee-Bot to move across a board to a chosen square. It was great to see our children work with others from different schools exploring what they could program the Bee-Bots to do. There was pushing, pulling, coupling up and kissing with the Bee-Bots. It was a wonderful learning experience that the children will share with all of the children back at school when our own school Bee-Bots arrive ready for next term.

Caroline

## Finance – It's nearly tax time

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 Issue 4 Now open online

Today your child received the Issue 4 catalogue. You may also look online at Issue 4. 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**

**Book Clubs LOOP**  
for Parents

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**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](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)**

Now available for your iPad or iPhone 

## 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](mailto:mhcarers@carersact.org.au)

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

*Cost:* free