



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

NEWSLETTER

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Term 1 Week 8 Wednesday 22nd March 2017

School Board:	Parent Rep:	Marianne Cullen	0411 121 132	marianne.cullen70@gmail.com
	Parent Rep:	Peter Jones	0418 869 925	peterjones736@hotmail.com
	Community Rep:	Colin Rea	0401 395 118	colinrea22@gmail.com
	Principal:	Jenny Loudon	6205 6340	jenny.loudon@ed.act.edu.au
	Staff Rep:	Caroline Doverly	6205 6340	caroline.doverly@ed.act.edu.au
P&C Executive:	President:	Angela Corin	0400 551 334	corins68@optusnet.com.au
	Vice President:	Kathy Moffatt		gkat910@gmail.com
	Secretary:	Peter Jones	0418 869 925	peterjones736@hotmail.com
	Treasurer:	Pip Halloran	0412776403	pjhalloran@bigpond.com
DATES TO REMEMBER			Information recently emailed	
Community Singing Friday 2.30pm in Redgum - All welcome			Fete information	
Thurs 23 Mar	PS and Kinder Bike riding at Sthn Cross ECS		Information recently sent home Cake Making for Fete (Thursday)	
Sat 25 Mar	School Fete 10.00am – 2.00pm			
Tues 28 Mar	Year 1 /2 Bike riding at Southern Cross ECS			
Thurs 30 Mar	PS and Kinder Bike riding at Sthn Cross ECS			
Tues 4 April	Year 1 /2 Bike riding at Southern Cross ECS			
Fri 7 April	Last day term 1			
WED 26 April	First day Term 2			

Long Service Leave

During weeks 9 & 10, I will be taking Long Service Leave travelling in Vietnam and Cambodia. Robyn Strangward, Deputy Principal from Franklin Early Childhood School, will be leading the team here whilst I am on leave. This provides us with another excellent opportunity to share practice and learn about things happening in another Early Childhood School. I'm sure you will make Robyn feel welcome.

Judy will be having some minor surgery and will be away for Week 10.

Congratulations Caroline

Over the past 18 months Caroline has been studying Gifted and Talented Education through the University of NSW. During this time Caroline has shared her knowledge with staff and has been instrumental in formalising our G&T procedure. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Caroline on the completion her studies.

Congratulations Melissa - Service Award 10 Years

During assembly today it was my privilege to present a certificate to Melissa in recognition of 10 Years of Service to the Education Directorate and the ACT public school community.

Thanks Melissa for your ongoing contribution to public education and our school.



Harmony Day 21 March 2017

On Tuesday we shared the latest book by Mem Fox - *I'm Australian Too*. We talked with the children about celebrating Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. We also looked at photos of our hands and talked about how our hands help create harmony.

We will be 'switching off' for **EARTH HOUR** at school on Friday. Have a chat as a family about how this will impact on our Earth and what you are doing at home to be a Power Ranger.



Chief Ministers Reading Challenge

Once again our school is registered for the 2017 Chief Minister's Reading Challenge. To successfully complete the challenge each child in the school is asked to record **15 books** they have read (or had read to them). Students can make their own book choices, including novels, non-fiction, poetry, or books in a language other than English. Students can record the books they read throughout the Challenge in their school Reading Log or *Student Reading Record*. Our preschool class will be keeping a record of books shared in the classroom.

Further information about the Challenge can be accessed via the website

www.education.act.gov.au/teaching_and_learning/chief_ministers_reading_challenge

including:

- reading tips for students, and parents and carers
- information about our Challenge Ambassadors, including a new Ambassador for 2017
- links to the online Challenge forms.

Admin From Judy - Voluntary Contributions and Stationery payments



Thank you to those families who have reimbursed the school for stationery supplies purchased for your child (\$90) and made a Voluntary Contribution to the school as suggested by the School Board (\$110). If you are yet to do so and would like your donation (any amount) to be tax deductible, please advise Judy that you would like your contribution to be donated to our library fund.

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

School Board

Congratulations to our representatives elected on the School Board. Marianne Cullen (mum of Alexander – Kindergarten) in continuing for her second year and Peter Jones (dad of Eleanor – Year 1) has been elected as your other parent representative on the Board. Rose Patrick has been elected as the staff member, taking up positions from 1st April 2017. Colin Rae will continue as our Community member and thanks to Rebecca Jackson (mum of James - Preschool) who is our Returning Officer. Our next scheduled School Board meeting to take place on Tuesday 23rd May at 7.45am.

From the Directorate

Do not touch, pick or eat any wild mushrooms!

Death Cap mushrooms are one of the world's deadliest mushrooms and can be found across the Canberra region, usually in late summer and autumn. There have been four deaths and many poisonings in the ACT in the past 15 years due to Death Cap mushrooms.

In Canberra, Death Cap mushrooms often grow near established oak trees in mild, moist weather. Death Cap mushrooms have been found growing on school grounds in the ACT. Parents and teachers are asked to remind children **not to touch, pick or eat any wild mushrooms**. As the Death Cap mushroom can easily be confused with edible varieties, adults are also strongly advised not to touch, pick or eat any wild mushrooms. It is difficult, even for experienced collectors, to tell the difference between the Death Cap mushroom and edible wild mushrooms.

All parts of the Death Cap mushroom are poisonous and eating even a small amount of the mushroom can be fatal. Cooking the Death Cap mushroom does not make it safe.

If you suspect that you or one of your family members might have eaten Death Cap mushrooms, you should seek urgent medical attention at a hospital emergency department. If you believe you have spotted a Death Cap mushroom, do not touch the mushroom with your bare skin. If it is in your own yard, the best option is to leave it be and make sure others stay away from the area. The mushroom will die in a few days.

If you believe you have spotted a Death Cap mushroom growing in a public area, please contact Access Canberra on 13 22 81.

For further information on Death Cap mushrooms, download the fact sheet online from ACT Health: [http://www.health.act.gov.au/datapublications/fact-sheets/environmental-health#Death Cap Mushrooms](http://www.health.act.gov.au/datapublications/fact-sheets/environmental-health#Death%20Cap%20Mushrooms)

FREE workshop for parents and carers of young people on the autism spectrum

Join Autism Spectrum Australia for a day of learning with other parents and carers of school aged children on the autism spectrum, designed to help foster productive school, family and community relationships to provide the best kind of support for children. Workshops are for parents, carers and grandparents wanting to understand more about autism and learn practical strategies using evidence based resources to help maximise their young person's learning.

Date: 2 May 2017 Where: Manuka Oval, Manuka Circle GRIFFITH ACT

Register Online - www.positivepartnerships.com.au . Registrations open on Tuesday 7

March 2017 and close one business day prior to the workshop. Register early as places are limited!

Cranberry and Apricot Muesli Bars



Ingredients

100g ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup) light canola or olive oil spread	Canola or olive oil cooking spray
2 tbs honey	1 cup quick oats
$\frac{1}{3}$ cup unsweetened apple juice	1 cup sunflower and pepita seed mix
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup dried cranberries	$\frac{2}{3}$ cup plain flour
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup diced dried apricots	2 tbs raw sugar

Method

1. Combine spread, honey, apple juice, cranberries and apricots in a small saucepan. Place over a medium heat until spread is melted, stirring occasionally.
2. Bring to the boil, then reduce heat to low and simmer uncovered for 5 minutes. Remove from heat, cool 15 minutes.
3. Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced). Grease an 18cm x 28cm slice pan with cooking spray and line with baking paper to cover base and extend up sides of pan.
4. Combine oats, seed mix, flour and sugar in a large bowl, add dried fruit mixture and mix thoroughly.
5. Press mixture firmly into prepared pan.
6. Bake in preheated oven for about 25 minutes or until slice is light golden. Remove from oven and cool completely.
7. Lift slice from pan using lining paper and cut into bars to serve.

Nutrients per Serve

Energy	744kJ
Total Fat	7.9g
Saturated Fat	1.4g
Monounsaturated Fat	2.6g
Polyunsaturated Fat	2.9g
Protein	3.6g
Carbohydrate	22.4g

If you'd like more information or recipe ideas please see the website:

www.goodhabitsforlife.act.gov.au/freshtastes/

Preschool Classroom News

Wow...What a term it has been so far! Ro-Berta and I have shown great pride in our new group of preschoolers over the past eight weeks as they have settled and grown both socially and emotionally. We have witnessed many blossoming friendships, along with the development of a genuine sense of respect among the children.



One of the highlights that we have shared this term has definitely been our weekly journeys to Southern Cross Early Childhood School (SCECS) where we have been participating in the bike riding and safety sessions. These sessions have provided an excellent opportunity for the children to demonstrate a sense of care, responsibility and a growing awareness of how to manage personal safety. So far we have been focusing on: finding a bike that is a good fit for you; fitting helmets; following the flow of bike traffic; and stopping and waiting for three seconds at stop signs. This week we will consider hand signals as a means of indicating direction.

The program has also provided a springboard for children to draw upon their personal experiences with bike riding and safety with classroom investigations through the generosity of community members sharing interesting bikes with our class. As you may have seen, Josie (Noah's mum) came along and shared lots of useful information about her bike that she rides to work each day; and Ro-Berta shared her son's drift trike. This generated great excitement as it was a type of bike that many children (and adults) had not seen before. In the coming weeks we have invited a member of our community to come along with their unicycle which we expect will promote great discussion! If there are any families that would like to share information about an interesting type of bike that you have taken a ride on, or own, we would love to hear from you.



While this program grows children's awareness of bike safety and responsible ways of riding, it also grows children in their sense of independence and connection to community beyond our school fence. The bus ride up to SCECS is an experience in itself with many children eagerly sharing stories that focus on journeys they have taken through O'Connor and up Belconnen Way with their families. We have heard about bushwalks along Bruce Ridge; weekend adventures to Bunnings; visits to the mushroom playground at Belconnen Markets; and many children sharing directions about how they travel to their home from school. Such discussions invite children to demonstrate a sense of connection to place and belonging within their community.

We would like to say a very big thank you to our parent helpers who have been contributing to this program and the P&C who have supported it with payment of buses to and from SCECS.



School fete Saturday 25th March

As my children gleefully reminded me this morning there are "only three more sleeps until the fete!". As such the time has come to roll up your sleeves and get involved, to spread the word around the community and to start baking, cooking sorting and generally preparing. Whilst we are largely on track (provided the weather upholds its end of the bargain - right Pete?) there are still many opportunities to get involved on the day. If you would like to volunteer and have not yet done so, please add your name to the signup sheets or feel free to accost any the fete committee who will gladly point you in the right direction. Now is also a good time to start turning your minds to how the P&C can best serve the school community with the revenue raised - all ideas welcome!

Any goods for sale can be dropped off from 1pm on Thursday to the preschool room and White Elephant goods to Redgum anytime on Friday.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiasm and assistance and we look forward to seeing you on the big day.

Angela and your P&C

P&C Second Hand Clothing

Now that we have a school uniform, the P&C has started a second hand clothing pool this year. The Coop School prides itself on its culture of environmental sustainability and supporting families in our community and, to that end, we would like to encourage families to pass on uniforms they no longer require so they can be re-used.

For the nominal sum of a gold coin donation, you can get yourself a school t-shirt (and delay that mid-week washing day just a little more). And a school polar fleece jacket will set you back a mere \$5. They do have a tendency to go walkabout in winter, so a spare may very well be a worthwhile investment. Your donations go straight back into the P&C coffers to be spent on the school and your child's education. It's a win-win!

We would welcome any donations of school t-shirts and jackets that your child has grown out of or that your family no longer requires. We can accept most items - holes can be mended - so bring it in even if you think its a little worse for wear and we'll see what we can do.

Donations can be left with any of your P&C Executive, Angela Corin (President - Edward, Yr 2 & Harriet, K), Kathy Moffatt (Vice President - Lucy, Yr 2), Pip Halloran (Treasurer - Hannah, K) or Peter Jones (Secretary - Eleanor, Yr 1). If you aren't sure who these people are, ask a group of parents or a staff member and someone will be able to point you in the right direction. If you would like to purchase something from the clothing pool, please see Kathy Moffatt (or contact her via the contact details on the front of the newsletter) and she will let you know whether we have what you are after.

Community Events

The park adjacent to the school is to undergo an upgrade funded by the ACT government in coming months. For your interest, a copy of the Nature Play Master plan developed in consultation with Space Lab and the community is on display on our notice boards.

We would like to give students the opportunity to register for our upcoming School Holiday Tennis Camps at Tennis World Canberra Tennis Centre.

Please use the link below to register online

<http://www.tennisworld.net.au/play/tennis-camps/canberra-tennis-centre-camps/>



JUNIOR HOLIDAY CAMP

A FUN WAY FOR YOUR CHILD TO SPEND THEIR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WITH LOTS OF EXCITING AND DIVERSE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING:

- ANZ TENNIS HOT SHOTS LESSONS
- ON AND OFF-COURT ACTIVITIES AND GAMES
- MOVIE SESSIONS

DATES:

TIME:

CALL 1300 TENNIS TO ENROL YOUR CHILD
TENNISWORLD.NET.AU

During wet weather conditions, sessions will be moved indoors.

 tennis world