



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



ACT
Government
Education

NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 1 Wednesday 6 February 2019

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Principal: Jenny Loudon

Board Chair: Angela Corin

Business Manager: Natalie Lalor

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon 4 Feb School Board nominations open
Fri 8 Feb FETE MEETING 3:15pm in Redgum
EVERY FRIDAY Community Singing 2.30pm
Wed 13 Feb Parent Information Sessions (5.30 K; 6.00 Yr 1&2)
Week 3 Getting to Know You Interviews - Please book a time
Mon 18 Feb School Board nominations close
Fri 22 Feb P&C AGM and General Meeting 3.15pm (new date)

THIS FRIDAY Fete meeting 3.15pm in redgum

From Jenny

Welcome to the 2019 school year. It has been delightful to see so many excited faces and hear the buzz of students rekindling friendships and engaging in learning. Our preschoolers are settling into their class and are already making friends within the group and with the older children at school.

Welcome back to **Natalie** as our Business Manager, **Phil** as our Building Services Officer and to **Michelle Daly (Mish)** who is teaching Kindergarten. We also welcome back Leena, Nathan and Liz as our Learning Support Assistants.

A reminder that our school phone number is **6241 0345**.

Our 2019 School team

Principal	SLA	Jenny Loudon
Executive teachers	SLC	Sarah Hornby (Mon - Wed); Sharron Wynn (Th- Fri)
Business Manager		Natalie Lalor
Building Services Officer		Phil Pattinson
Preschool		Yasmine O'Brien
Kindergarten		Michelle Daly Sarah Hornby (Tuesdays)
Year 1 Lizards		Rose Patrick Sharron Wynn (Thursdays)
Year 2 Geckos		Christie Rankine Yasmine O'Brien (Fridays)
Preschool educator		Bree Pardoe
Learning Support Assistants		Nathan, Leena and Liz
School Psychologist		Michelle Wootton-Price (Wednesday mornings)

Special welcome to new families who are joining our Cooperative School community

Information for families

The beginning of the school year is a busy time for everyone and there are some important events which I invite and encourage you to attend.

Classroom Information Session for parents (K-2) Week 2 Wed 13 Feb

During these 30 minute sessions your child's teacher will share with you the learning opportunities and experiences they have planned this year for your child as well as other information including class routines and general school information.

Kindergarten class information sessions will run from **5.30 to 6.00pm** in the kinder classroom.

Year 1 & 2 classroom information session will run from **6.00 to 6.30pm** in the year 1/2rooms.

This will also be your opportunity to book a time slot for the "Getting to Know You Interviews" the following week.

Getting to Know you Interviews Week 3 for K-2 families - various times

This is a short but valuable time where parents and carers meet your child's teacher, to share and discuss your child's strengths and interest as well as your goals and expectations for your child's learning and growing at school this year. The interviews will be in 10 minute time slots from 3.10pm till 5.50pm. Please book your time at the information session or by contacting your child's teacher.

School Board

For 2019 there will be one vacancy for a parent representative on our School Board. Angela Corin will continue in the role as one of our parent representatives. The work of the School Board is related to the strategic directions of the school.

Nominations for position on the School Board are now open
11.00am Monday 4 February 2019 and close 11.00am Mon 18 February 2019
(weeks 1 & 2 in term 1)
Nomination forms are available from the Front Office.

Voting (if required) opens 11.00am Monday 25 February and closes 11.00am Monday 4 March. Appointments will be made approximately 14 days after they are received, and announced approximately 7 days after the appointment is made.

School Clothing

In line with the **ACT School Uniform** policy, endorsed by our School Board in 2016, I would ask students to wear their polo shirt as often as practicable and EVERY Wednesday. A reminder that school hats remain at school, in individual tote trays, in your child's classroom. Additional polo shirts are available for purchase from the Front Office. Please ensure your child wears appropriate footwear for climbing and running each day. **No thongs or crocs please.**

Our P&C have a selection of second hand clothing available for purchase. If any families have school clothing which is no longer required, Pip Halloran (Hannah – Year 2) will be running the second hand clothes this year. Please drop any washed items in at the front office or hand on to Pip. Please contact Pip on 0412776403 or via [email](#) .

A general reminder to send **healthy snacks and lunches**, with minimal packaging, as well as a water bottle with your child each day. Please do not send any milky or fruit drinks to school. We provide opportunities to re-fill water bottles throughout the day.

From time to time we will be promoting some of the great learning and community connections through our Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user please 'like' our page. You can also see what's happening by visiting us online at <http://www.coop.act.edu.au/>



General information for all families

School starts at 9.00 am

Families are asked to make sure children are at school by **9.00am each day**. We appreciate your efforts to ensure that the learning for your child and others in their class can start promptly at 9.00am. Supporting the teachers and valuing the start of the day means every child has access to the outline of the learning to take place.

Across the Education Directorate, we use digital roll marking. The roll is submitted electronically in the classroom as the children enter each morning. All late arrivals and absences are recorded on your child's profile. ***On the rare occasion you may be late, please sign in at the front office (time and reason will be recorded) and collect a late card for your child to hand to their teacher.*** If you need to take your child out of the school during school hours, please advise your child's teacher and the Front Office.

School Gates

Please ensure that gates are closed as you enter and exit the school grounds and encourage any older siblings to remember to close the gates as well. We ask that children do not climb the gates to locate the opener, as this leads to the gates becoming unstable and requiring repair. **Please do not let children out of the gates if they are not in your care.**

Anaphylactic friendly school

In the interests of all children's safety, we ask that all nuts and nut products are kept out of the school grounds: This includes any food containing nuts or nut products. There are also several students in the school with allergies to various foods, including nuts, eggs and certain fruits including kiwi fruit and mango.

- If you are supplying a birthday cake or treat for the class, please check with your child's class teacher to see if there are children with allergies.
- If your child has an allergy you may wish to provide an alternative food which can be kept in the freezer at school for such occasions.

Administration of Prescribed Medication

The Directorate is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students. While school staff have a duty of care to students to provide first aid assistance when required, parents will be aware that schools cannot be responsible for the general management of medical conditions.

In special circumstances, staff may be able to assist with the administration of medication. In these cases, directorate policy requires principals to ensure that a comprehensive written authority is obtained from the student's parents and also seek from them a written statement from the student's doctor authorising a member of staff to administer the prescribed medication. In these cases medications must be clearly marked with the child's name and dosage requirements and handed to the front office. The medication **must** remain in the office, where it will be administered to the child.

Student Injury, Insurance and Ambulance Transport

The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during an approved school organised activity **within the ACT**.

The Education Directorate does not provide any insurance cover for injury, disease or illness to students resulting from school activities or school-organised excursions. Claims for compensation are met where there is a legal liability to do so. Liability is not automatic and depends on the circumstances in which any injury, disease or illness was sustained. As there is no automatic insurance cover for personal injury if your child is injured at school or during a school organised activity/excursion you should consider whether taking out personal insurance cover for your child is warranted.

Being a Volunteer at School - Working With Vulnerable People Act

Volunteers who regularly work with children in classrooms or regularly make contact with children during other school activities need to be registered. This means applying for a Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. This is a fairly simple process involving taking identification and completing a form at any ACT Government Shopfront. There is no cost for volunteers. Becoming registered is a positive action and all parents and carers are encouraged to consider registering so that you are readily available to assist the children of our school. Without registration people are not able to assist children. Some volunteers may choose not to register but to continue supporting the school by reducing the number of days on which they work so as to avoid exceeding statutory limits. If you are unsure whether you need to be registered, please contact the school.

ALL volunteers must sign in and out each day they assist at O'Connor School. We are strengthening protection for children, but we depend on our volunteers in a variety of ways and look forward to your continued support in whatever capacity you choose.

P&C association

Our P&C will meet on Friday 22nd Feb at 3.15pm in Redgum. This will be our AGM followed by our first general meeting for the year. PLEASE come along! All family members are welcome to attend. We look forward to welcoming you and value your input and voice.

Parking

The staff car park has limited spaces as you know, and it is important that parents do not use the staff carpark between 8.00am and 4.00pm. Whilst there may, on rare occasions, be a vacant spot we have many part time staff, visiting staff and Directorate representatives who also need to use our car park. Crossing the footpath during drop off and pick up times can also be dangerous as children are hastily making their way to school.

In the interest of safety for all and especially our children, I would ask you to please park in the street and walk into the school grounds. **When parking in the street, please also be sure not to park in or across the driveways of our neighbours in surrounding streets. We understand there is limited space, but residents always need access to their driveways at all times.**

SunSmart

Our students all wear the O'Connor Cooperative school bucket hat during outdoor time at school. **Please remember that children need to wear clothing which covers and protects their shoulders and backs of their necks during the hotter weather.** Our school polo shirts provide good UV protection. The

Cancer Council recommends the use of sunscreen to protect students (and adults) from any foreseeable harm, and over-exposure to solar UV radiation which may be a cause for skin and eye damage but also skin cancer, including deadly melanoma. This is because UV is a known and proven carcinogenic (something that causes cell damage and cancer). Parents are asked to apply sunscreen to children at home and to provide sunscreen which can be reapplied during the day because lunch time is when daily UV levels peak and the risk of sunburn increases with it!

