



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



NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 8 Wednesday 29th November 2017

35a Macpherson St, O'Connor ACT 2602 PO Box 6231, O'Connor ACT 2602

W coop.act.edu.au T 02 6142 0345 E info_COOP@ed.act.edu.au

Principal: Jenny Loudon
Business Manager: Natalie Lalor

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri 1 Dec Preschool 2018 Stay and Play
Governor General's Sports Day (Year 2)
Mon 4 Dec K-2 Swimming (10days)
Wed 6 Dec PJ day Giving tree Donation
Fri 8 Dec Year 2 Graduation 9.00am
Family Bush Dance 5.30 – 7.30pm
Wed 13 Dec Christmas Assembly 9.00am All Welcome
Thurs 14 Dec Last day for Preschool
Fri 15 Dec Last day of term 4

Community Singing Friday 2.30pm in Redgum - All welcome

NOTES SENT HOME

Swimming Permission (email and paper)
Governor General's Sport Day Permission
Family Bush Dance Flyer

From Jenny

Week 9 Flexible Learning

During the morning session next week we will be operating flexible learning opportunities for all classes. Each day will commence with a dance session on the front lawn to try some of our dances in preparation for our Family Bush dance on the evening of Friday 8th Dec. All children will then have the choice to participate in any (or all) of the following each morning.

- Bandana making
- Construction
- Creative craft
- Writing and card making
- Habitats and plants
- Morshead Outreach Christmas carols (K-2)
- Dance
- Outdoor play

We look forward to observing the children having choice in their learning during the week.

New telephone number reminder

We have had our school telephone system updated to VOIP. Our new contact number for the Front Office is 02 **6142 0345**. Please update our contact information in your phones.

Chief Minister's Reading challenge



Once again this year we have successfully completed the Chief Minister's Reading challenge, thanks to your support, with Home Reading and recording in your child's reading log (K-2), I PICK reading in classrooms, library borrowing and class novels and stories. Last Wednesday, Sumi and Tully accompanied me to the National Library to receive our award for 100% participation in the Early Childhood Section. Congratulations to all our students (and families) for supporting and promoting reading. All children will receive a certificate for their participation.



Congratulations - 250 nights reading

The following students have recorded 250 nights reading and shared their reading logs with me. Congratulations on achieving this milestone.

Year 2 Caitlin

I look forward to sharing this success with more students in the final weeks of term.

School Board

For 2018 there will be one vacancy for parent representatives on our School Board. Peter Jones 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 will be open from 11.00am Monday 5 February 2018 and close 11.00am Mon 19 February 2018 (weeks 1 & 2 in term 1) and forms will be available from the Front Office.

Voting (if required) opens 11.00am Monday 26 February and closes 11.00am Monday 5 March. Appointments will be made approximately 14 days after they are received, and announced approximately 7 days after the appointment is made.

2018 classes and staffing

Our classes will be year level based for 2018 with the following anticipated enrolment

Preschool 21 students	Yamsine O'Brien and Bree Pardoe
Kindergarten 20 students	New staff member
Year One 21 students	Caroline Doverty
Year Two 19 students	Rose Patrick

Staffing for the classes is still to be confirmed however I can inform you of the following changes

- **Natalie Lalor** will be taking maternity leave. Our Acting Business Manager will be **Michelle Lorkovic**
- **Ro-Berta Mende** is taking up a temporary transfer to Amaroo School for 2018. **Nathan Young** will be an assistant educator in the Year 1 and 2 classrooms
- **Denise Thompson** has accepted a position at Miles Franklin school .

End of Year Family Bush Dance

On Friday 8 December the P&C will be hosting our end of year family function at school. This year it will be a Family Bush Dance featuring the Paverty Bush Band. All children will be learning some of the dances at school prior to the evening and will be asking YOU to dance with them on the evening. It is shaping up to be a fun filled event for families.

Please note the date in your calendar - Friday 8th December 5.30 – 7.30pm

A hard copy of the flyer was sent home with your child, and an electronic copy attached to this newsletter.

Giving Tree

During conversations in class and 'Lunches with Jenny' the children have requested a fun dress up Pyjama Day. **We would like to invite the children to wear their PJ's to school next Wednesday 6th Dec and donate a gold coin on the day.**

This year we are supporting Marymead who support many local families and children in Canberra. Their highest need is for gifts for young teens and vouchers for families to purchase food, especially for the Christmas season.

We will have our Giving Tree in the Front Foyer for the remainder of the term. Marymead would be grateful for an unwrapped gift for a child, Christmas food items, store gift cards or store vouchers. We look forward to making a generous donation to this worthwhile community support group.

Regards *Jenny*



Transforming the lives of children, young people and their families

Since 1967, Marymead, a well-respected community based not-for-profit organisation has been providing a range of high quality, innovative support services to Canberra's children, young people and their families and is now delivering a range of programs throughout the ACT and regional NSW, with offices in Canberra, Goulburn, Moruya, Wagga Wagga and Young.

Marymead's array of programs and services now include:

- Autism Centre / Child and Family Counselling / Family Support Programs
- Disability Support Programs / Early Intervention Programs
- Foster Care and Respite Care
- Grandparent's Support Network / Kid's Companions
- Mental Health Family Support
- Parent Education Groups / Post Separation Support
- Residential Care
- Supervised Contact and Changeover

How to contact us:

- Address: Corner of Weston and Loch Streets Yarralumla ACT 2600
- Postal: PO Box 4260 Kingston ACT 2604 / Telephone: 1800 427 920
- Website: marymead.org.au

MARYMEAD IS A CATHOLIC AGENCY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN ABN 90 677 510 841

From the Classrooms

Science with Mariana and Sharron

Watch it grow

This term the children in year 1 and 2 have been learning about living things.

As part of this unit, children shared some of their baby photos with the group. They had fun examining the features present in the photos and trying to work out who they belonged to. As a result of this learning experience children noticed that some features change over time and others remain similar.

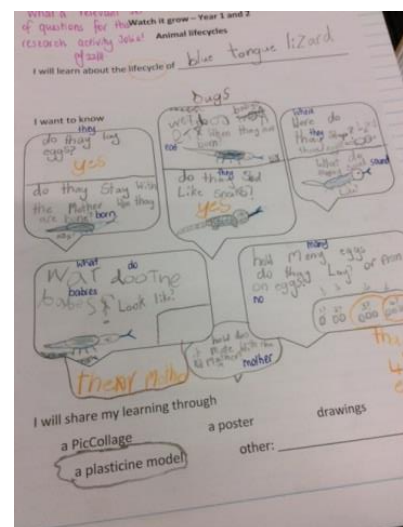
The children were amazed by comparisons made between their head circumference, weight and length at birth and now that they are older.

Integral to our unit has been the Frog Watch program. The children have been documenting the growth of tadpoles over the term. They have made careful observations and recorded these each week. Earlier this term, Anke Maria from ACT Frog Watch visited the school and shared information with the children. She has kept in touch with us over the term, emailing additional information which has added to our knowledge of frogs. Our partnership with Frog Watch yields some interesting and new learning every year.



Over the past few weeks a dedicated team of 1/2 snail enthusiasts have found, made homes for and taken care of snails discovered in the school garden. Some interesting conversations about their needs have taken place as we observed them in viewers recently.

To culminate the term's learning, the groups have begun researching an animal of their choosing. We were impressed by the children's ability to create questions on the life stages of animals which they have used to focus their research. After finding out more about their animal, the children will create a visual representation of the life stages which they will then share with their younger peers.



Mariana

What's it made of?



In science this term the kindergarten children have been investigating the everyday objects that surround them and the materials they are made out of. We have been exploring the schoolyard; observing the properties of the things in our playground such as the playground equipment, the tyres, the chicken coop and the boat. We have explored our wonderings to find out why and how some of these materials were used.



We were fortunate enough to go on our excursion to Calthorpes' House. We went back in time to observe materials from another era observing what the materials looked like, wondering how they might feel and why those materials were used.



We explored different houses and shelters and observed the houses that people from around the world live in, the materials used and why.



We discovered there is a reason why certain materials are used to build things such as for strength, to last in the weather, to recycle, to keep things in (such as the chickens) and to keep things out (like foxes!!) even our clothes can be made out of materials to keep us cool or warm!



Sharron



Preschool



It has been a busy term. During Children's week in week 3, the preschool children enjoyed a variety of Aboriginal cultural activities and as a result some of the children wanted to continue rock painting at our painting table. Though visual arts were an inspiration, the children also created their own designs. This activity lead to the designing an Aboriginal meeting place mural.

The children used the colours of the mainland flag for the background and then children decided where the rocks should go.



Our tadpoles are thriving with all children having a turn of feeding them and observing the changes. Some tadpoles have begun to grow legs! We are excited to see if they will become baby frogs (froglets) before the end of the school term. We have been enjoying many frog activities such as frog memory and counting games, frog paintings and life cycle drawings, frog dancing and yoga, frog songs and documentaries and stories.

Some children became interested in other animals that go through metamorphosis such as butterflies, moths, bees and beetles.

The children have been interested in caring for the chooks and collecting the eggs, so we have tried to make this project an everyday occurrence. The children are invited to scatter food, pat the chooks and collect the eggs. They have also been invited to write the date on the eggs on occasions.



We have been learning about life cycles and the common needs of all living things being nutrients, water and sun during our whole group discussions. As plants are living things we decided to grow a picking garden with pea seedlings. The children helped plant them and have been caring for them since. We hope the pea plants will climb our tepee that Phil designed and built for us. Linking our frog watch project, caring for our gardens and chooks and learning about the interconnection between all living things reinforces the concept of the importance of living healthy and caring for our natural environment.



Recently, Riley wondered about where the rain comes from and other wonderings have lately related to water. This has led to discussions about the water cycle. We have begun to learn a new song called, "The Water Cycle."



Earlier in the term the year 1 and 2 children buddied with the preschool children and read books to them. The preschool children had such a positive learning experience, listening to stories as the older children role modelled the love of reading. This experience was also empowering for year 1 and 2.

Our word wall continues to be a great inspiration and resource for literacy learning. Lately many of the children have been using the word wall to find out how to write letters and spell words. Book creating has always been popular in the preschool room and now the children's illustrations are starting to be supported by words with our word wall and educators scaffolding their learning.

The children have been transitioning in the kindergarten room once a fortnight . They have enjoyed sharing their new experiences with us back in the preschool room. Restaurant Mondays are also popular and the children look forward to the restaurant set up and smooth Jazz music.

Thank you to all the parents who have come in and cut fruit or shared their knowledge with us this year.

Thank you to Ryan’s parents, Kimberley and Hamish, Maria, Jack’s mother and Chloe’s mother Lillian for sharing aspects of culture and heritage with us this term. It was great learning from you and seeing your children glow with excitement and empowerment.



Yasmine, Ro-Berta and Laura

Community News

Community End of Year Party

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE PARK

**WHERE: IN THE PARK, NEAR THE PLAYGROUND,
OFF FINN STREET, O'CONNOR**

FROM 4 TO 7 PM:

ENJOY MUSIC BY LOCAL BAND "THE GYPSYJAZZ PROJECT"

GRAB A SAUSAGE OR VEGAN BURGER SIZZLE *

'DESSERT QUARTETS BY MINI OR TART' (CATERS FOR FOOD ALLERGIES
AND DIETARY REQUIREMENTS)

GAMES: TUG-OF-WAR, SACK RACES, THONG THROWING

SANTA APPEARANCE AROUND 5:30PM

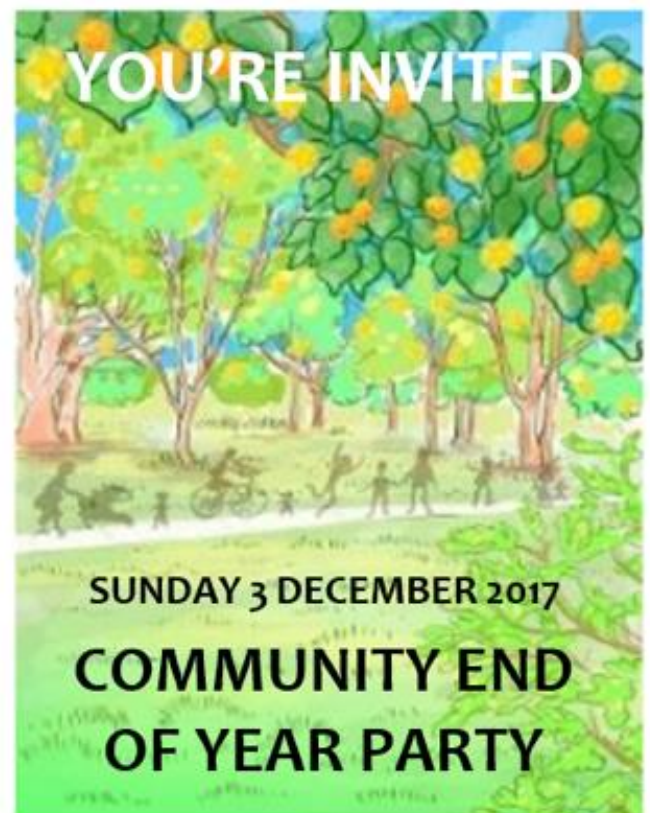
FACE/NAIL PAINTING, JUMPING CASTLE

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North Canberra Community Council



www.northcanberra.org.au



 Andante Andante
'ABBA Choir'

Christmas Fundraiser



Come and enjoy the ABBA Choir
sing ABBA songs and Christmas Carols
with light supper and raffle

8pm, Monday 4th Dec 2017



Tickets: \$10 each

**Saint Columba's Uniting Church hall
cnr Fawkner & Farrer Sts, Braddon
(entrance off Farrer Street)**



**Bookings can be made by emailing daineresrainbow@gmail.com
or calling Dainere's Rainbow on 8412 324 105**

All proceeds to Dainere's Rainbow Brain Tumour Research Fund