Welcome to the second edition of our CELC newsletter for 2014. As we settle into the new term, we hope that this issue will provide you with an opportunity to pause and reflect on some of the broader issues of teaching and learning within a preschool environment.

**Children’s Health**

Children’s health is of utmost importance at CELC. To ensure all children’s health, safety and wellbeing we ask that families adhere to the procedures outlined in our CELC Health Policy.

Policy 5.1 includes a statement of responsibilities of parents. These are -

- Look for and be aware of signs of illness, which include raised temperatures, as well as subtle changes in mood, behaviour, activity and appetite.
- Children who have had a temperature, vomiting or diarrhea in the 24 hours prior to their due attendance at the CELC will not be allowed to attend, nor will children who have been given Paracetamol and or Ibuprofen. Administering either or a combination of Paracetamol and Ibuprofen acts as a masking agent to symptoms of illness.
- In addition, children who have been prescribed antibiotics are required to remain away from CELC for 24 hours from commencement of the antibiotic. Antibiotics differ in the amount of time it takes for them to act on the body in curing an illness and have been known to trigger allergic reactions in children. Therefore a minimum exclusion period of 24 hours after first administration is enforced by the CELC.

The entire Health Policy is attached with this newsletter. The responsibility is on parents to ensure that you honor the terms of the Health Policy and Procedures. Without such commitment we are unable to minimise the risk of exposure to illness.

**Children’s Medical Conditions**

Families who have identified their child as having a diagnosed medical condition have been meeting with CELC to develop a risk minimisation plan. The risk minimisation plan is in addition to medical management plans written by Doctors. The risk minimisation plan ensures that we as educators are fully aware of your child’s medical condition, triggers and ways to minimise the risk of exposure to triggers in our environment.

Please speak to Miss Donna if you have not had an opportunity to develop a risk minimisation plan with CELC.

**Easter Raffle**

A friendly reminder to donate your Easter related items to CELC by Friday 14th March. We appreciate the families who have gone the extra mile to sell more raffle tickets and make generous donate of Easter related items as prizes in the draw. Without a commitment from every family our Easter prize draw will be very disappointing.

All tickets and money will be due at CELC Friday 21st March 2014 for the draw of prizes.
CELC Outdoor Environment
We have hit a little snag in our outdoor environment plans. Mainly the cost associated with our grand plans. Instead of completing the entire project over the April school holidays we will be breaking it down into stages. Hopefully only three stages – but the process could be at least twelve months before the project is completed. We are waiting on final confirmation to proceed with our stage 1 plan from CEO. Once approval is given works will commence over the April holidays. On your return to CELC you will find a wonderful surprise.
Our Plans will be displayed on our verandah wall. As the process gets under way – before and after images will form a picture of the development that takes place.

DID YOU KNOW?
- If a child has a ‘lazy eye’ it may lead to severe vision loss or blindness in that eye if not treated
- If a child has a vision problem, the earlier the problem is detected and treated the better the vision outcome
- If parents wear glasses or had vision problems as a child their children are more likely to have vision problems too
- After eight years of age some childhood vision problems cannot be treated and the child will have poor vision for the rest of their life – glasses won’t help
- Low birth weight babies and children with neurological problems are at a greater risk of developing eye problems

**Free Vision Screening for 4 year old children at CELC St Michaels**
**Tuesday 25th March & Wednesday 26th March**
Appointments will be made for 4 year old children whom don’t attend on these days.

CELC Curriculum
Ever wondered what the children learn at CELC? Have you given any thought to how our program prepares your children for school without rote teaching? What about this Our Child Our Learner Profile – what is it going to do for my child?
Well wonder no more! We will be holding a parent **information session here at CELC Wednesday 26th April**
**RSVP Monday 24th March**

The Feast of St Patrick (St Patrick’s Day)
Over the years the colour green and its association with Saint Patrick’s Day grew. Green ribbons and **shamrocks** were worn in celebration of St Patrick’s Day as early as the 17th century. Saint Patrick is said to have used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the **Holy Trinity** to the people.
On Monday 17th March 2014 come dressed in green to celebrate **The Feast of St Patrick**.

Harmony Day Celebration
Friday 21st March 2014 is Harmony Day. A day of cultural respect for anyone whom calls Australia home. It’s a day where we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it. All children are asked to come to CELC dressed in traditional dress of their home cultures. We will have a parade in our garden and celebrate with the St Michael’s School Community.
The colour **orange** is generally associated with Harmony Day, many Australians will dress in orange to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australian society.
**On Friday 21st March 2013 children will come to CELC wearing traditional dress or the colour orange to celebrate Harmony Day.**

Excursion permission forms
A permission form will be sent home with all families to authorise permission for the CELC educators to take children on regular outings. Our regular outings include walks to St Michael’s Primary School, Nano’s cottage and Nagle farm. Outings occur as part of our morning exploration and discovery session and consist of the same method of transport (walking).
CELC Parking
Please be advised that all families must display a CELC parking permit in the front window of their cars when parking in the spaces provided. Under the Early Childhood National Regulations we must provide parking spaces for our families, not for families of the primary or high school.

The first space is strictly reserved as disabled parking and deliveries. It is NOT a space for two cars to park.
If you are collecting children from the school and from CELC, there is a strict 15 minute maximum in the parking lot.

Car Seat Safety
I have recently observed children travelling in cars without being secured using the correct restraint.
Mandatory car seat laws mean that:

- Children younger than six months must be secured in a rearward facing restraint
- Children aged six months to less than four years must be secured in either a rear or forward facing restraint
- Children aged four years to less than seven years must be secured in forward facing child restraint or booster seat
- Children younger than four years cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows
- Children aged four years to less than seven years cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows, unless all other back seats are occupied by children younger than seven years in a child restraint or booster seat.


National Ride To School Day – Wednesday 19th March
National Ride2School Day is about celebrating active travel within the school day and encouraging those who haven't started to give it a go. Commit to a healthier 2014 and create an active travel culture within your school community by registering* for National Ride2School Day 2014.

On Wednesday 19th March, children will be able to bring one bike, or scooter to CELC
CHILDREN MUST HAVE A HELMET
NO SKATEBOARDS
We aim to teach children about road safety as well as promote healthy and active lifestyles.

Priority of Access Guidelines
Under the changes to Government funding which came into effect 1st January 2014, funding will target children in their year prior to school entry – children must be 4 years by the 31st July to be eligible for funded placement in the CELC. Funding is also allocated to families of low income or who are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.
This has a flow on effect to our priority of access / enrolment priority for allocating positions to children on our waiting list.
Children whom are 4 or 5 years or families whom identify as low income have priority (regardless of age) and will be allocated positions before 3 year old children.
4 and 5 year old children are encouraged to enroll in a minimum of 2 days per week under the governments Universal Access Program.
All enrolments are restricted to a maximum of two days per week. The option of a third day is available once all waiting list positions have been offered. Four and five day enrolments are considered but will not be guaranteed.