Welcome to Our CELC Newsletter.
Welcome back for Term 3.
We would like to welcome some new families to CELC. Demiana, Doree, Danielle and Sehaj Pal, PJ, Marai. We look forward to a long and happy learning journey with you and your family.

Licensed Hours
CELC St Michael’s is open Monday to Friday 8:30 to 3:30pm. Children and families are not to enter the CELC premises until 8:30am.
The CELC clock is set by the National Time register ph: 1194
Our operation hours are not set by individual wrist watches, and or mobile phones.

CELC St Michael’s will be closed from Monday 22nd September to Monday 7th October, 2013
We look forward to welcoming you back to CELC on Tuesday 8th October, 2013.

CELC Photo Viewing
Fotek have returned all of the children’s photographs to the CELC for viewing by families.
They have requested that the photographs do not leave the CELC premises, until photographs have been paid for.
Photos range from $5 (3 X passport sized), $20 (portraits) to $57.00 for the entire package.
There is no obligation to purchase any of the photographs.
All photograph money must be returned to CELC by Monday 16th September, 2013

What to wear to CELC
Just a reminder for families on what children should wear. Educators and children will wear sun safe clothing that covers as much of the skin (especially the shoulders, back and stomach) as possible. This includes wearing:
- Loose fitting shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered neckline.
- Longer style skirts, shorts and trousers.
- Children who are not wearing sun safe clothing can be provided with spare clothing.
(Please note: Midriff, crop or singlet tops do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended).

CELC requires safe footwear, it is important for activities such as climbing and running.

For the safety of children CELC requires that children DO NOT WEAR THONGS, SLIPPERS, or CROCS due to possible hazards.
National Nude Food Day

Nude Food Day is a fantastic opportunity to teach children about how their actions can impact the environment and their health.

This year’s theme is ‘nude food = a healthy body + a healthy planet’, Both the Healthy Body and Healthy Planet message focuses on healthy eating and waste reduction.

When packing morning tea/lunches on Wednesday 16th October. Remember Healthy, Healthy Healthy and NO plastic food wrap.

St Michael’s Primary School

St Michael’s Primary School have a limited number of vacancies for Kindergarten classes in 2014.
If you are considering formal schooling for your child in 2014, application forms are available from CELC and need to be returned to the primary school office within the next two weeks.

Term 3 Fundraising Efforts

Our gold coin donation from Children’s Book Week Celebrations raised a total of $60.00. We are using these funds to purchase new picture books for the children.

Our Dental Awareness Program raised a total of $275.00 – we will be using these funds to purchase dental hygiene learning resources. E.g model teeth and novelty sized toothbrushes

Our Father’s Day Stall raised a total of $470 we will be using these funds to purchase new learning materials for the indoor learning space.

Children In Cars

Please do not leave CELC children in your cars unattended. Did you know that on a typical Australian summer day, the temperature inside a parked car can be as much as 30-40 degrees hotter than the outside temperature, i.e. on a 30-degree day the temperature inside the car could be as high as 70 degrees.

These temperatures can be reached in a matter of minutes. On a 36° day a car will reach 55° in five minutes regardless of the size of the car.


Are You Sun Safe?

It’s hard to believe that it’s the beginning of Spring time with this glorious sun shine and warm weather. Spring time it is and now is the time to ensure that you have packed a sun safe hat in your child’s bag.

A sun safe hat is a:-
Legionnaire hat;
Bucket hat with a deep crown and brim size of at least 5cm (adults 6cm);
Broad brimmed hat with a brim size of at least 6cm (adults 7.5cm). (Please note: Baseball caps or visors do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended).

CELC St Michael’s will be purchasing sun safe hats for Term 4 which you can purchase from the administration area.

Please Note: Children without a sun safe hat will be asked to play in an area protected from the sun (e.g. under shade, or on verandah areas).

International Talk Like A Pirate Day

Thursday 19th September, 2013

Avast ye maties, landlubbers and scallywags! Come aboard for an incredible, swashbuckling adventure at CELC St Michael’s guaranteed to shiver yer timbers.

For the price of gold (gold coin donation), children can dress like and talk like a pirate. All loot raised will go towards learning resources for children

Healthy Snack Options


- 1 slice of grain bread with topping eg 1 slice of low fat cheese OR 100g tin tuna.
- Fruit smoothie made with 1 glass of low fat milk + berries.
- 4 Vita Weats + 2 slices of low fat cheese.
- 10 wafer thins with 2 slices low fat cheese OR low fat dip/ salsa.
- 1/2 baked bean or spaghetti jaffle.
- Slice of low fat banana bread eg Mama Kaz.
- 1 Yogo OR Aero mousse. ONLY – NO OTHER BRANDS
- 1 cup air popped popcorn + 100g low fat or natural yoghurt.
- 1 cup whole grain breakfast cereal and low fat milk.
- 100g tub low fat yoghurt + 1 fruit.
- 1 tub low fat frozen yoghurt.
- 1 piece of chopped fruit with low fat yoghurt dip.
- Packet of pretzels.
- 1 Mountain bread with low fat humous and salad.
- 1 slice raisin/fruit toast spread with low fat margarine + low fat ricotta.
- 1 cup air popped popcorn + 100g low fat or natural yoghurt.
CELC Works
Over the coming school holidays CELC St Michael’s will be going through an outdoor transformation. We will be installing a new shade structure and access control to the front gates. This has been a long project to organize and fund but we have finally gotten there. Yeah! Now all I have to do is organize a release of funds to pay for the prospective works.

So what does this mean or look like:-
- New signage will be posted on the front fence and side paneling of the CELC.
- The CELC children will have an additional shade structure to protect them from the UV rays that are harmful to their skins.
- All families will have confidence that once children have been signed into the CELC – only Authorized nominees/contacts will have access to the CELC.
- Educators will be issued with a new staff uniform.

What do you have to do to help? Absolutely nothing – it has all been organised. The CELC will arrange for each family to lease a swipe fob for a fee, and returned at the end of your child’s enrolment (fully refundable).

If the swipe fob is lost or damaged the cost of replacing the fob will rest entirely on your shoulders. These are expensive little gadgets. Saying guard them with your life may sound extreme – but trust me they are expensive to replace.

The right age for starting school
Children may enter Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year in NSW schools if they are five on or before July 31 of that year. You will be asked to provide proof of your child’s age when starting school (birth certificate/passport/immunisation history statement).

Children must be enrolled in primary school in the year that they turn six.
Please remember that decisions made based on age alone are not always the best decisions. On the other hand, some children show signs of school readiness at an early age, while others benefit from an extra year in preschool. In any given classroom, in any school in NSW, there will be children who are 4 ½ years at the start of the school year, learning within the same room as a child who is 6 years at the beginning of the school year. This 1 ½ year difference in children’s overall development is startling within the learning environment.

Web links
- Holding Them Back Report
- Web links Holding Them Back – Principles Interview

OUR TRANSITION TO SCHOOL PROGRAM AT CELC ST MICHAEL’S
Collaborative Learning Spaces
Our CELC environment is set up to facilitate learning through small group experiences across different learning centres based on individual and group observations of children. Play based learning helps children to discover, explore, experiment, predict, hypothesise and guide the direction of their learning without realising that they are learning. It is interests based. Children are more likely to learn when involved in experiences that are based on their interests while incorporating traditional modes of learning and teaching (numbers, colours shapes etc.). We do not teach via drill and practice exercises, we do not learn the same thing at the same time – not all children are forced to learn something they are not interested in, and we do not sit still or behind a test for any extended length of time.

These are the same types of learning environments that some schools are using and calling open learning spaces or agile learning spaces. It does not mean that children are not learning, and that there is no structure. What it actually means is that children gain a greater understanding of any given topic of study because they are involved in decision making about how they will learn. Some children learn best with computers, some through creative writing, some through experiments with concrete materials. They are still learning according to syllabus outcomes and indicators. What has happened is a shift in the way we think about education. Learning through collaborative learning spaces makes learning fun.

Please contact your school for information regarding the classroom arrangement and curriculum.

Name Writing and Recognition
Children are surrounded by their name in the CELC from the communication pockets, to lockers, in the writing centre, as name tags for their works. We have implemented a children's sign in register in the administration area and children are always encouraged to write their own names on their artwork.

Confidence and Self Esteem
Building a child's confidence is extremely important to their continual success at school in Kindergarten and beyond. At CELC, children are given lots of opportunities to succeed in front of their peers and teachers. Our community gathering times (Group times) are a great opportunity for children to get up in front of their group and talk contribute their thoughts and ideas. We have incorporated other learning experiences to facilitate confidence and self-esteem, such as travelling friends, “pack away” song to signal changes in transition, rotating lunch times as well as munch and move.

Reading and Writing
The children are surrounded by language and literature throughout the day. There is a wealth of storybooks, resource books, signs and labels for the children to learn that letters and words mean something. The children have access to a variety of writing materials that are available to them all day. Children are not forced to write, but when an interest is shown. Children are read to throughout the day and often get an opportunity to ‘read’ to their friends. When children ‘read’ they analyse the pictures of the story and make up the appropriate words – this is a fantastic exercise as it not only shows that children understand that words make meaning (emergent literacy development), but they are thinking flexibly, strengthening skills in creativity, problem solving, predicting sequences of events, applying past knowledge to new situations, taking on challenges and persisting when faced with challenges.

Re-Enrolment for 2014
Every family needs to re-enrol for 2014. Re-enrolment forms must be returned to CELC by Friday 11th October 2013. Please note that the current Preschool Fee Initiative is not guaranteed for 2014. Fees will revert back to $35.00 per day unless CELC is otherwise notified by the CEO or NSW Government Education and Communities, Office of Education.

Childhood Illnesses
It is the CELC policy for a child that is unwell not to attend the CELC to avoid the spread of germs and to assist the child to fully recover. Children who have had a temperature, vomiting or diarrhoea 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. Parents/carers with children taking temporary prescribed medication are required to complete a medication form authorising administration of the medication by CELC educators. A minimum exclusion period of 24 hours applies after the first administration of any medication.

Lost Property
Our lost property basket is on top of the lockers, and is overflowing. Most, if not all of the items have not been labelling. While we encourage children to put their belongings in their lockers, sometimes it doesn’t make it to its destination.

PLEASE LABEL ALL BELONGINGS, and check the lost property basket for missing articles of clothing, containers, spoons and headbands.

All items still in the basket by Friday 20th September will be donated to St Vincent de Paul.