**Welcome**

Welcome to the second edition of the CELC newsletter for 2015.

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**Diary Dates to Remember**

- 2015 International Year of light and light based technologies
- 9th March to 14th March Festival of Colour / Coloured Hair - Gold coin donation.
- 8th March International Women’s Day
- 17th March St Patrick’s Day,
- 21st March - World Harmony Day
- 21st March World Poetry Day
- 23rd to 27th March Grandparents Week
- 25th March - Easter Raffle prize donations due
- 27th March - Return of Easter raffle tickets & funds raised.
- 1st April - Easter Raffle drawn - winners announced.
- **2nd April - End of Term 1**
- **2nd April 2014 School Reunion**
- **20th April - Start of Term 2**
- 25th April - ANZAC Day
- 30th April - International Jazz Day
- **2nd May - Bunnings BBQ & Cake Stall Fundraiser**
  - May 4th - Star Wars Day (may the 4th be with you.
  - 4th - 8th May Mother’s Week
  - 11th - 15th May - Tour de St Michael’s (Bring your bikes & helmets)

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**Miss Pinar Is Back**

We would like to welcome Miss Pinar back to CELC. Miss Pinar returns to CELC 3 days per week - Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Miss Frances will return to CELC as a casual educator. We thank Miss Frances for filling in for Miss Pinar, I am sure we will see Miss Frances again soon.

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**Easter Raffle**

Our Easter raffle was a huge success in 2014, and a major contributor to our fundraising efforts for the year. This year we have decided to hold an Easter raffle again.

Families are asked to provide one item to the Easter raffle, this may be a chocolate, or non chocolate item such as a picture book. Families who own their own businesses may wish to donate a gift certificate. These items will be the prizes for the raffle. Prizes must be received by Wednesday 25th March.

Consent to participate in the Easter raffle has been emailed to all families via our Hubworks program. Participant consent form are required for all not for profit organisations who hold raffles under rules and regulations imposed by NSW Government Trading and Investment. All families are required to complete the consent form for 2015.

A booklet of twenty tickets will be sent home with each family. Tickets are $1.00 each. Any unsold tickets, and funds raised must be returned to CELC by Friday 27th March 2015.

Winning tickets will be drawn by a CELC community member and winners announced in the CELC newsletter.

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**All About Me & Exploring Culture**

Families would have received an All about me and an exploring culture form. The information that you provide on these forms about your child and family will assist educators to plan experiences specific to your child and family needs. Parents are asked to complete either or both forms as appropriate.

Spare copies of these forms are available in the CELC admin. please return these forms to the CELC at your earliest convenience.
Bunnings BBQ & Cake Stall

Bunnings Blacktown is open and I can hardly contain my excitement. No more driving to Minchinbury or Seven Hills for supplies.

Some of our CELC community have helped us to secure a fundraising drive at Bunnings on the 2nd May, but we need your help. I am asking for volunteers to donate a portion of their time to assist us to cook and sell sausages and cakes on the day. Some volunteers have already stepped forward but we can't expect them to be there all day. I will set up a volunteer list with time slots for families to indicate when they can help on the day.

In addition we are calling on all families to bake cakes and sweets for the cake stall. Cupcakes, muffins, slices, toffee, and biscuits will be the best item to sell. All cakes and sweets must be at the CELC by Friday 1st May.

As a not for profit preschool we rely heavily on our fundraising activities. Funds raised in the school environment are reserved exclusively for the schools and not shared with the preschool sector. Come on CELC let's get cooking!

St Michael's Primary School will be at Bunnings Blacktown this Sunday raising money for resources for the school. We encourage our CELC community to show their support to our co-located primary school. If you are driving past Bunnings, please stop in for a snack.

CELC Carpark

This is a continuing theme in our CELC newsletters, but it is extremely important for the safety of our children. The Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta will be employing a security guard on a temporary basis to manage the traffic flow on Orwell Street and ensure CELC families can access the CELC carpark.

Please ensure that you are displaying the CELC parking permit on the dashboard of your cars. If you or your authorised pick up do not have a parking permit, please see CELC admin for a parking permit.

Children In Cars

On a typical Australian summer day, the temperature inside a parked car can be 30°C to 40°C hotter than the outside temperature. In NSW it is against the law to leave your child unattended in the car. Unattended means without adult supervision. Children under 16 years can not be responsible for younger siblings in cars. The following link has interesting facts and figures regarding the heat inside cars during warm weather.

http://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/wysiwyg/HotCarsJan2010_1.pdf
Sleep & Rest

CELC recognises the importance of children's sleep and its effects on children's development and learning. Whether a child sleeps during the day is dependant on the quality of their sleep during the night. At CELC we engage in relaxation in the form of yoga, tai chi, meditation stories and cloud watching. However, if you have indicated on your enrolment that your child sleeps, CELC educators must provide the child with a bed to sleep on. This aspect has been incorporated into our daily rhythm (routine) in recognition of family and child needs.

If your child no longer needs a daytime sleep, could you please discuss this with Miss Donna and Miss Raelene. If your child only requires a sleep sometimes, educators will watch children for signs of tiredness and ask them if they would like to sleep. No educator can force a child to sleep. Children have the right to refuse sleep and may wish to participate in relaxation instead.

Families must provide children's bedsheets if they wish their child to sleep. Please leave sheets in the linen basket at the end of the lockers. Just a reminder to label sheets.

Information about sleep patterns across the lifespan can be found at the Sleep Health Foundation


Travelling Friends / Little Explorers Bag

Each week children will bring home either a travelling friend or a little explorers bag. These bags spend one week at your home and must return to CELC. These are not toys to keep. This project is in place of the traditional show and tell, and helps the children create a connection between home and preschool.

Educators have specified time within the daily rhythm (daily routine) to focus on literacy, travelling friends/little explorers and embedding sustainability (CELC Green team). If our travelling friends/little explorers bags do not return to CELC this can cause some disappointment for other children and force educators to reorganise the daily rhythm.

I appreciate your contribution to this project and efforts to return these bags in one week.

Children's Lunch Box Storage

The bugs that cause food poisoning grow quickly between 5 and 60 degrees, so it's important to keep lunch boxes cool. CELC has a fridge for all of the children's morning tea and lunch. Remove lunch box' from insulated packs and place in the fridge.

Foods such as cheese, yoghurt, meat, salad and cut fruit and vegetables must be put in the fridge. This prevents harmful bacteria contaminating food and causing illness.

Lunch box ideas can be found by clicking on the following links


Library Visits

Mrs Buhagiar St Michael's Primary librarian has informed me there has been a change to the library schedule and the library is now unavailable on Thursdays. This term children will visit the library at 10am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Weather permitting. Please ensure the children have arrived at CELC by 9:30am to take part in this valuable experience.

Educators are discussing other ideas for connecting with the school community on Thursdays.

Diary Dates are subject to change.
Quality Improvement Plan

Educators at the CELC Mary Queen of the Family Parish are currently preparing the quality improvement plan (QIP) for 2015 with revision of the 2014 document. This document will be available for parent comment and suggestion. It will be on display above the children's lockers, alongside the children's reflection journal, daily journal, and celc program documents. A parent feedback book is also available for comments against any aspect of the CELC. We value your feedback and use your input to help us improve our practices.

Coloured Hair Week

Holi is an ancient festival of India and was originally known as ‘Holika’. One of the rituals of Holi is known as the play of colours and is the main celebration of the festival. For this reason CELC will be celebrating Holi Mela (Holi Fair) for the week 9th to 13th March. Children will be encouraged to come to CELC with colourful hair. Colour will be infused in the indoor and outdoor classroom, with lots of colourful learning experiences arranged by educators.

Please decorate your child's hair with coloured hairspray, colourful wigs, or colourful ribbons and bows. On arrival at CELC please donate a gold coin as contribution to fundraising for our not for profit preschool. Money raised will be put towards the purchase of play equipment for the children.

Child Protection Training

All educators at CELC have current child protection training. To ensure educators are up to date with current legislation and practices, the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta will be conducting a training session for educators on Monday 23rd March 2015.

If you have a concern for the safety and wellbeing of a child, reports can be made to the Child Protection Hotline 132 111.

Health & Hygiene

CELC is committed to provided a healthy and hygienic environment for children and families. We have a contract cleaner who cleans the CELC daily, educators who are responsible for ensuring learning environments are clean and safe and learning materials are wash and disinfected weekly (or daily if contaminated by body fluids.)

Families can assist CELC in minimising the spread of infection by asking children to wash their hands when arriving and before leaving the CELC. Encouraging children to wash hands on arrival and departure breaks the chain of infection.

“The most effective method of hand hygiene is using soap and water. Washing your hands with soap and running water loosens, dilutes and flushes off dirt and germs. Soap alone cannot remove dirt or kill germs— it is the combination of running water, rubbing your hands and the detergent in the soap that helps loosen the dirt, remove the germs and rinse them off your skin.”

Staying Healthy 5th ed. p11

CELC Policies and Procedures

CELC Directors, and Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, have been reviewing the CELC policies. An annual revision of preschool policies and procedures is imperative due to the changing nature of government legislation, health recommendations and best practice in early childhood.

All sections of the policies and procedures manual will be uploaded onto the CELC website, and are also available in the CELC admin, and parent library. Parents are encouraged to read the CELC policies and procedures. Any comments will be documented to inform future policy amendments.