Welcome

The new year has arrived and term 1 is well underway. It’s hard to believe that we are already in Week 4. The days are just flying past.

This is the first edition of our newsletter for 2016. Each term we will publish at least two newsletters to inform you of upcoming events, and new and exciting developments and initiatives at CELC. Another great way to keep in contact is by liking our Facebook page “CELC Mary Queen of the Family Parish”.

Starting Preschool

Starting preschool can be exciting, daunting, or scary. The way that adults respond to the topic of preschool will greatly affect your child’s adjustment to the new environment. We encourage all families to respond to children’s questions and concerns with enthusiasm and confidence. Adjustment to preschool can range from a few days, to weeks to a term. The length of time depends on your child’s temperament and the way you respond to your children.

These weblink can provide you with some support around the settling in process. For additional support, please speak with one of our knowledgable and skilled educators.


Community Builders Partnership Grants

CELC welcomed Mr Hugh McDermott MP for Prospect on Tuesday 16th February. We were able to show Mr McDermott what our plans are for the outdoor classroom project as well as the inspiration behind its development. After a special tour of the CELC, we were presented with a huge cheque to the value of $55,200.00 - the entire cost of the project. To say we are excited is an understatement!

This image will appear in Mr McDermott’s community newsletter reaching 75,000 people, as well as being promoted through the CELC website, facebook page and the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta.

No Jab No Pay

From January 1st 2016, all children must have a record of up to date immunisations in order for families to receive Child Care Benefit payments. The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register has dictated that a immunisation history statement, a medical contraindications form or a temporary immunisation history form are the only valid forms to be used as proof of immunisation. We can no longer accept the immunisation from your blue books (baby health books).

A conscientious objection to immunisation on non medical
grounds is accepted as documentation for your child's immunisation status, BUT, families will not receive any Family Tax benefits or child care benefit payments. If your child enrols on with a conscientious objection form, they will be excluded in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable illness. Fees are payable during this absence. Please refer to the CELC Immunisation Policy 5.4 available at the office and on the CELC website.

www.celcblacktownst.catholic.edu.au


CELC is required to have a copy of your child's current immunisation on file. Please ensure that any changes to your immunisation status is communicated to CELC and a copy of the immunisation history statement is provided.

**Spice Awards**

The CELC Spice Award is an initiative developed by the Catholic Education Office and acknowledges and celebrates an outstanding achievement, idea or creative contribution by an individual. (ie. for adding zing, zest and flavour to the life and work of the CELC community).

Recipients will be awarded for demonstrated leadership, creativity, innovation, commitment to the 'team' or for an improvement to work practices and processes.

Parents and community members are encouraged to nominate a CELC employee for a spice award. The award will be presented twice per term (during week 5 and 10). Nominations can be received online, via facebook, via telephone or note to the CELC administration. Award winners will be acknowledged and announced to our CELC community.

CELC has created a Facebook page. Please search for CELC Mary Queen of the Family Parish, like and follow us.

Last year we operated a CELC closed group where people needed to befriend and be assigned to the group. While this was a fantastic way to ensure peoples confidentiality, we have been unable to link our closed group friends to our new CELC Mary Queen of the Family Parish page. If you were previously a member of our closed group, can you please send a new friend request to CELC Blacktown South and then search for, like and follow our new page CELC Mary Queen of the Family Parish.

For our 2015 graduates will be added to a new closed group “CELC Graduates 2015”. This group is intended for members to keep in contact with each other, as well as for CELC to see our preschoolers continue in their learning journey.

**Security Gates**

Please be advised that there are children and families enrolled at our CELC for whom security is extremely important. We must be strict with the entry and exit of all families, children and visitors. While the fobs will let authorised people into and out of the CELC security gate, we know that
people will hold gates open if others are coming through. Please, please, please close the gate! even if someone is coming through the other gates.

This year the CELC have families enrolled with court orders in place, where access is a key issue. CELC must also act to ensure the safety of all children, families and educators. Please help us by closing the gate in their face!!! (Lol!)

**Term Fees**

Families should have received their term 1 invoice and fee covering letter by email on the 2nd February 2016.

Term 1 fees are due to be paid in full before next Friday 25th February, with exception to those families who commenced enrolment at CELC after week 3, or those with approved payment plans. Please refer to your invoice covering letter or payment plan for final date for payment.

**Easter Raffle**

Our Easter raffle is a huge success and a major contributor to our fundraising efforts for the year. This year the CELC will purchase one major prize for the Easter raffle. We ask that families sell a booklet of 20 tickets, $1 per ticket to assist us with purchase of resources for children. Drawn 18th March, 2016.

Given that we will be achieving our outdoor classroom project, this years Easter raffle will assist in the purchase of balance bikes (6) and helmets (6). For all those who are wondering about the cost of a balance bike….. Strider Balance Bike $109.00 (online). Helmets ..... Rose bank helmet $19.00 (Big W).

**Don't forget your water ......or your bedsheets!**

Sometimes it's easy to forget things. We've all done it. It the morning rush to get children to school, and preschool and ourselves to work we forget a water bottle or bedsheets. While CELC has previously supplied these to families, our educators are tired and weary of washing bedsheets and trudging to the kitchen to find a water bottle for the children.

From Week 6 (29th February 2016) any families who have forgotten water bottles or bedsheets will have a miscellaneous charge of $5.00 placed on their account. This is to cover the cost of replacing water bottles, and/or laundry detergent etc. It is also to act as a deterrent. We take no pleasure in charging additional money to our families, but we are finding our day is interrupted by domestic duties as opposed to educational experiences.

**Ash Wednesday Mass at St Michael's Primary School**

CELC attended the Ash Wednesday Mass at St Michael’s Primary School on Wednesday 10th February. Father Lucas presented the children with
ashes applied to their foreheads in the sign of the cross. Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the Lent and the beginning of penitence. Lent is a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual connection to prepare us to celebrate Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

For young children, Lent is a time for generosity of spirit, and connection to God. There is no expectation that young children would participate in fasting, but they may wish to “give up” something during Lent, e.g. special toy, eating lollies etc.

CELC Hats

As part of the CELC enrolment process, we have provided children with an approved unsafe hat under the guidance of the NSW Cancer Council, and acknowledgment we are a unsafe service. Children will need to leave these hats at CELC in the pockets provided.

At the end of the day children will be reminded to place the hats in the hat pockets and wash their hands before leaving in the afternoon. Please assist CELC educators by leaving the CELC hats on the premises, or returning them if they accidentally go home.

Healthy Lunch box ideas.

Morning tea and Lunch can be difficult to plan, so we have some ideas for you. Why not try:

* Yoghurt  * Cheese and crackers
* Cut up fresh fruit, e.g. apple, banana, mandarin, pear, watermelon, strawberry, grapes, kiwi fruit, oranges, pineapple, mango
* Canned or stewed fruit in natural juices
* Vegetable sticks, e.g. celery, carrots, cucumber, snow peas, capsicum served with a healthy dip.
* Salad vegetables and vegetable pieces e.g. halved cherry tomatoes, cauliflower, and broccoli florets, mushrooms

* High fibres: sandwich, bread sticks, crumpets, english muffins, pickles, rice crackers, wholegrain crisp bread

For more ideas, head to:

**World Day of Prayer**

This year Mary, Queen of the Family Parish is hosting the World Day of Prayer at St Michael's church on Friday 4th March at 10.00am. The theme for this year is "Jesus said: Receive Children, Receive Me" and the worship celebration has been prepared by the people of Cuba. It is an opportunity to gather with the members of the other Christian Churches in Blacktown to pray for the needs of the world. ALL WELCOME

**CELC Illness Policies**

Please be familiar with expectations around children's illness and medication. Below is an excerpt from Section 5 of the policy manual.

5.1 PARENTS/CARERS RESPONSIBILITY - PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

- 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.

5.2 PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES TO ATTEND TO A CHILD THAT IS UNWELL DURING ATTENDANCE AT THE CELC

- Staff will contact the parent/carer to arrange for the child to be collected. Whilst awaiting parent/carer arrival, CELC staff will comfort the child and monitor their condition. Parents/carers must collect their child within thirty minutes of receiving notification that their child is unwell.

- In the event of serious deterioration of a child's condition, staff will contact the relevant health practitioner/s to seek medical advice and act accordingly.

- If the child's temperature rises above 38°C to 39.5°C and/or the parent/carer is unable to collect the child within thirty minutes, an ambulance will be called for immediate treatment. Refer to 5.5.3 Managing a High Temperature at CELC.

While all of our policies and procedures are important, please be aware that our health and safety policies are developed in accordance with the Education and Care Services Regulation (2011), Public Health Act (2010), Safe Work Australia, Children’s Care and Protection Act and many more. Please refer to the policy manual for further information.

Should you wish to discuss these policies, please contact Donna 88148406.
Parent Information Session - Play as the basis for learning (CELC Curriculum)

Each year we provide the opportunity for parents to attend an information event at the CELC regarding the CELC curriculum and how children learn at CELC. Every parent wants to know why early years is a play based curriculum. What we hope to show you is the value of play as a learning tool and it’s connection to foundational skills in mathematics, science, religion, creative arts, human societies and it’s environments. Education in the 21st Century is so much more than learning ABC, 1,2,3 and square, circle, and triangle.

When: Week 7 Catholic Schools Week

Wednesday 9th March, 4-5pm

Congratulations Miss Kaylee

Miss Kaylee has completed her certificate III traineeship and is now a cert III qualified early years educator. We endeavour to have Miss Kaylee return to CELC in a casual role and continue to mentor her through her career.

Miss Kaylee is not only an educator in the early years but also in the field of dance. She juggled her commitments to dancing and her studies with elegance and enthusiasm. Her tireless efforts to maintain a high standard in both of her passions has seen Miss Kaylee achieve another milestone. Miss Kaylee is now a 2016 Penrith Panthers Cheerleader (Pantherette). If your a Penrith Panthers supporter and you go to home games, keep a look out for Miss Kaylee. She might even sign autographs!

CELC Reunion,

Our 2015 schoolers are invited to CELC on Friday 1st April at 3:30pm for a CELC reunion. Parents/guardians must be present with their child on this day. We would love to see all of the children dressed in their school uniform and reveal in their stories of big school. A light afternoon tea will be provided.

2015 Term 4 Friday 4th December - this invitation is intended for you to visit the new CELC outdoor classroom (under construction Autumn school holidays). Also an opportunity to connect with our 2016 schoolers to promote primary school as a great place to be.

2014 Schoolers will be invited back to CELC on Friday 5th August 2016. These children and families have been patiently waiting to see if we could achieve our masterplan. We would like to show you that our persistence has paid off. (Parents/guardians must be present)

2013 Schoolers will be invited back to CELC on Friday 17th June 2016. This invitation is extended to introduce the children to the new CELC outdoor classroom. These children and families have been involved in the continued application for grant funding. We would like to show the children and families that we have achieved our dream. (Parents/guardians must be present)

2012 Schoolers will be invited back to CELC on Friday 20th May 2016. This invitation is extended to the children to introduce the new CELC outdoor classroom. These children and families have been involved in the entire process, from investigating the value of nature play, to children and parents input in design, to grant application to draft planning. We would like to show the children and families that we have achieved our dream. (Parents/guardians must be present)

Please help me get back in contact with our families by sending CELC Blacktown South a friend request or by tagging friends into posts.