Welcome

Welcome to the fourth edition of the CELC newsletter for 2015.
We wish all of our Mother’s a very Happy Mother’s Day!. Enjoy your breakfast in bed and your many hugs and kisses from your children.

Bunnings BBQ and Cake Stall

We had a fantastic fundraising event at Bunnings on Saturday the 2nd May. The rain did not dampen our spirits or our customers hungry tummies. After expenses were taken from the total amount, we were able to raise a wonder $1400.00 towards learning resources for the CELC.

Our fundraising efforts so far have amounted to $2000.00. More than CELC has ever raised through fundraising before.

A big thank you to all of our families who were able prepare cupcakes, slices, cakes, chocolate crackles and biscuits for the cake stall.

A special thank you to the Cash, Gardoll, Moore, Dabit, Estrada, Allen, Tabone & Myint families for volunteering their time to the fundraiser. My apologise if I have missed any names. A special thanks to our CELC educators and family members who also helped on Saturday. We even received support from the CELC Directors at Stanhope Gardens, Greystanes and the CELC Manager Angela Machado.

We have another opportunity to raise funds at a Bunnings BBQ on Saturday 19th December. Close to Christmas but a wonderful opportunity to prepare for 2016. CELC will once again be asking for volunteers for the BBQ.

Favourite Fruit Week

Believe it or not, pick strawberries day is an actual day of celebration. It encourages people to find their local

Diary Dates To Remember

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/scooters & helmets)

18th - 22nd May Favourite Fruit Week in celebration of Pick Strawberries Day 20/5/15

21st May - Know waste education program. 2pm

8th June Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday - CELC closed

18th June Ramadan begins

22nd - 26th June - CELC Mind Body Spirit Festival (in celebration of International Day of Yoga 21st June)

26th June - End of Term 2

13th July - Start of Term 3

13th - 17th July NAIDOC Week 20th July - Nelson Mandela Day (18/7/15)

21st - 27th July - Space Exploration Week
“pick your own fruit” business and pick their own fruit. To celebrate pick your own fruit week, children are encouraged to bring their favourite piece of fruit for morning tea. We will also be planting some fruits and citrus trees in our fruit and veggie patch. CELC educators see these fun and wacky days as opportunities to embed environmental sustainability and healthy eating into the lives and experiences of young children. Please note strawberries are autumn fruits in Australia and may be difficult to find at a good price. Other options might be mandarins and oranges which are in season.

Tour de St Michael's

Get ready for a grand adventure as we embark on a bicycle tour of St Michael's Primary School. The children and educators will celebrate National Ride to School week from Monday 11th to Friday 15th May 2015.

More than 2,000 schools and 350,000 students across the nation participated in National Ride2School Day and embraced a healthier start to the day by riding, walking, scooting and skating to school. CELC will celebrate National Ride to School week from Monday 11th to Friday 15th May 2015. This healthy initiative connects with our food and nutrition policy, and our Munch n Move curriculum.

Please bring your bicycles or scooters to CELC, as well as a helmet so that we can tour St Michael’s. Bicycles and scooters will need to be taken home at the end of each day. We simply do not have the storage available to house all of the children’s wheels.

A risk minimisation plan has been developed and is available for revision in the administration area for your review.

Food and Nutrition Policy

The following is an extract from the CELC Food and Nutrition policy with regard to policy 4.1 Food Handling at CELC:

“Parents/carers will ensure that:

• Hot food is not to be brought to CELC for either morning tea or lunch following conditions specified in the 4 Hour/ 2 Hour rule.
• They are aware that CELC will not reheat food for children to consume on the CELC premises.”

This includes foods stored in insulated lunch packs or thermos flasks. CELC educators can not maintain the
appropriate temperature of food to ensure it is safe to eat.

Our CELC policies and procedures are available on the celc website for your review.
http://www.celcblacktownsth.catholic.edu.au

Food safety fact sheets can be found on the NSW Food Authority website
http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/industry-sector-requirements/childrens-services/#.VU3K79Onqko

Just scroll to the bottom of the page for fact sheets about transporting, storing and handling food between home and preschool.

If you have any questions about food handling and storage please speak with Miss Donna.

**Transition to School 2016**

Is your child transitioning to school in 2016? Enrolments in NSW Catholic Schools are open now. Please ensure that you visit your local Catholic school for your enrolment package. Many Catholic schools have enrolment forms available on their schools website and available at the school office.

A big thank you to Mr John Laffan and Mrs Katherine McKay for talking to our families about what to expect in Kindergarten. Our families have spoken with educators about how valuable the opportunity to meet our school leaders has been in supporting their decision to send their child to school.

Transition to school packages are being prepared by CELC. Each family will receive a package this week.

Please remember that your educators are available to discuss your child's learning and development and address any questions you may have about your child's preparedness to move to the school environment.

**CELC Term Fees**

CELC term fees are due by Friday 15th May. (Week 4). Payments can be made by Bpay, Postbillpay, or EFTPOS. No cash is accepted at the CELC office.

Families who have arranged payment plans are reminded to honour the agreements made. Fail to commit to the arrangement will result in your child’s position being terminated.

As a not-for-profit preschool, we rely heavily on prompt payment of fees by enrolling families. Thank you to all of our families for your commitment to payment of term fees.
Blacktown Festival, Streets Alive and Parade

Celebrating 40 years of Blacktown City Festival, the 2015 Streets Alive and Parade Day is set to be bigger and better than ever before. Featuring 6 performance stages, 300 stalls, free amusement rides and heaps of attractions, this day will not leave anyone disappointed. Saturday 30th May between 9am and 4pm.

Digital Documentation

Educators at CELC have an assigned group of focus children whom they are responsible for implementing a continuous cycle of observation, planning and evaluation/reflection. To make the educators release from face to face teaching effective and efficient, we have implemented digital documentation over the last two years. This process has changed from documenting in a word format to saving learning stories as a pdf. We have developed one more change that will make parents access to digital documentation as easy as the click of a mouse. While some services implement commercially produced digital documentation formats and pass the cost onto families, CELC leaders have developed a free, CELC specific documentation format. (everybody loves free) To access your child’s eportfolio parents have to set up free gmail accounts. You can set up your own gmail or you can ask Miss Donna for help. The next step will be sharing your child’s eportfolio with you.

1. To set up your own gmail account go to www.gmail.com
2. Click create an account
3. The sign up form will appear
4. Finally review google’s terms of service and privacy, click the check box and then click next step
5. The create your profile page will appear
6. Your account will be created, and the google welcome page will appear.
7. Send Miss Donna an email so we can link you to your child’s eportfolio to your account.

Quality Improvement Plan

We have prepared a quality improvement plan for 2015 that is available for parent revision and comment in the locker area. Please feel free to write on this document any comments or suggestions for improvement. Your comments and suggestions will be used to guide future directions of the preschool curriculum and preparation of the learning environment.

KNow Waste Preschool Education Program - Natures Recyclers

The kNOw waste school education program has been developed and is delivered by Cleanaway, an industry leading environmental waste services company. CELC children will have the opportunity to meet the hungry worms and the clever composters who help nature recycle organic material found in our waste stream. Children will investigate what organic waste is and how to make and maintain compost or a worm farm. Know waste educators will visit CELC on Thursday 21st May 2015 between 2 and 2:30pm. If your child does not attend on this day, and wishes to come to this event, please RSVP to Miss Donna.