Welcome

Welcome to the fifth edition of the CELC newsletter for 2015. Grab a coffee/tea and check out the exciting events that have happened since week 4.

Queens Birthday Long Weekend.

CELC will be closed on Monday 8th June, 2015. We will reopen Tuesday 9th June a 8:30am. There is no fee charged to families on public holidays or during school holiday periods. Enjoy your long weekend!

KNOw Waste Education Program

CELC had a visit from Cleanaway The kNOw waste education program is designed to improve children’s knowledge in relation to waste issues, develop environmental values and encourage positive long-term environmental behaviours. Our visit concentrated on Natures recyclers lots of hungry worms and the clever composters who help nature recycle organic material found in our waste stream. Here are some images of our visit from kNow waste. We will investigate the possibility of another visit from the program investigating bins and how we can further contribute to waste reduction.

Diary Dates To Remember

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

3rd - 7th August Favourite Fruit Week in celebration of Watermelon Day 3/8/15

6th August - Set your Piggies free for Wiggle your toes day.
Tour de St Michael’s / Children’s Bike Week

We had some wonderful feedback from parents about the Tour de St Michael’s program run earlier this term. The children developed their knowledge of pedestrian safety, increased visual literacy skills through recognition and response to road signs and developed their coordination and balance while riding bikes and scooters. Not to mention reinforcing road safety messages. We intend to revisit this program later in the year. Here are some happy snaps of our adventures. This program will also feature as documentation on children’s portfolios.

Digital portfolio/eportfolio.

Your children’s eportfolios are available and can be shared with families. It is a simple and effective way to minimise the CELC’s carbon footprint and reduce the amount of paper and printing required in maintaining all of our enrolled children’s portfolios.

Over the last two newsletters I have encouraged families to create a gmail account on Google. This is a free email account. If you are having difficulty creating your gmail account please see Miss Donna and she will help you set one up. We can then share your child’s eportfolio with you. You can access eportfolios through gmail and google drive on any computer, tablet and smartphone. What can you expect to see in your child’s eportfolio? At a minimum you can expect to see two observations and follow up experiences per term. This is an industry standard. You will also find their all about me, exploring culture forms and parent goal sheets. In addition, you may also find additional observations taken by educators to assist in building a picture of your child’s individual development and interests. By the end of Term 2 you will notice an assessment report describing your child’s progress towards the goals of the Our Child Our Learner curriculum specific to the CELC environment.

CELC Vacancies

CELC currently has vacancies for children across the week. If you are thinking about increasing your child’s attendance please see Miss Donna.

If your family or friends are looking for a designated preschool for their child, I am happy to show them around the CELC and introduce them to our program.
Meet the Teacher

Each of the children has a focus educator responsible for a continuous cycle of observation, planning, implementing and reflecting on learning. We are inviting families to organise to meet the teacher, where you can discuss your child’s learning and development. During the week of 15th to 19th June, families can make an appointment to speak with the educator between 8:30am and 4pm. Please see Miss Raelene for an appointment.

Relaxation Week

21st June is the International day of Yoga. CELC will be celebrating this event across the week implementing yoga experiences for children. As children start to move away from a midday sleep we need to encourage children to relax their mind and recharge for the afternoon session of investigation and exploration. Yoga helps develop children’s concentration, helps them manage their emotions and regulate their behaviour as well as strengthen their physical co-ordination. Experiences children will participate in will be driven by the children’s interest and could include an introduction to breathing exercises, a focus on specific child poses and/or a “simon says” type game. This celebration will be documented as a group observation in your child’s eportfolio.

Are You Interested?

Western Hearing are offering families of CELC the opportunity to have a hearing screening performed on their child at the CELC. This is a free service – as long as you have a referral from your child’s doctor. Without a doctors referral there is a substantial fee. If families are interested in a hearing screen for their child please tell Miss Donna so we can build a list for the service. A minimum of ten interested families is required for the screening to be conducted on the premises.

Food at CELC

Just a reminder that CELC promotes healthy eating during morning tea and lunch. Although it is very tempting to pack tiny teddies, chocolate biscuits, packets of chips, deep fried and processed foods these are not the healthiest options for children to eat. Whether food is brought from home or prepared on site (as in long day care services), we have a responsibility for the nutrition of children in our care. Children’s nutrition at CELC is assessed under Quality Area 2 Health and Safety of the ACECQA assessment and ratings process. We cannot accept vegie chips as to other children these still look like chips. Home made muffins, because once again these look like cake. Food in thermos’ – because the temperature cannot be maintained at 60°C and presents a food contamination risk. Cut fruit and vegetables must be put in the fridge to maintain their nutritional value. A CELC educator will help you with your child’s lunchbox in the mornings.

Walking Together Project

CELC Mary Queen of the Family Parish and the network of CELC’s, will be joining in partnership with Ngroo Education in the Walking Together Project. The Ngroo model of inclusive practice has been developed over five years and began in Western Sydney to address the need to improve educational outcomes for local Aboriginal families and increase enrolments in preschool. We know that Blacktown has the largest number of Aboriginal families, and we want to extend the opportunity to high quality education for Aboriginal students in the early years prior to transition to school. This is an exciting venture for CELC and will begin with a cultural awareness professional development for educators on Saturday 25th July. If you have any questions about the project please see Miss Donna.
Blacktown Community Events

**Pop Up Garden 11 June**
Calling all green thumbs and creative types. We are looking for volunteers who want to get involved in creating an amazing new waste-to-art pop-up garden and outdoor learning space at the Blacktown Arts Centre this month.
The pop-up garden will be constructed entirely from recycled materials that have been diverted from landfill. It will be open to visitors during the day each week from Monday to Saturday. The space will also be the venue for a bunch of upcoming sustainable living workshops and events.
Thursday at 3pm, or email ourenvironment@blacktown.nsw.gov.au to find out more.

**Westlink M7 Fun Run or Walk. 26 July, 2015 Start time: 07.00AM**
Grab your running shoes and register now for the 2015 Westlink M7 Blacktown Running Festival!
The 2015 Westlink M7 Blacktown Running Festival is scheduled for Sunday 26th July.
The event will start and finish at Blacktown International Sports Park Athletics Facility, Eastern Road, Rooty Hill.
There are 4 distances to choose from: 4km Run/Walk, 10km Run/Walk, 21.1km Half Marathon & the 42.195km Marathon.
For more information and to register online, please visit www.wm7citiesmarathon.com.au

**Blacktown Knit In 11 June, 2015**
Novice or experienced knitters meet each week to knit squares for Wrap With Love.
Wrap With Love distributes colourful wraps to communities in need around the world.
Novice or experienced knitters are welcome. The group will meet every Thursday at the Lounge Area, Ground Floor, Max Webber Library, Blacktown.

**Support Playgroup - All Saints of Africa Centre**
This playgroup is held each Thursday morning at the African Centre.
All parents and pre school children are welcome to attend. There are lots of toys, playdough, painting, songs, music, stories and much more.
Come along with your child/children and enjoy the morning together. It gives mums and carers a chance to have a chat and enjoy playing with their children and gives the children lots of opportunities to learn and socialise with other children.
It is great fun.

**2015 Schedule**
**2nd Term :** 30th April - 15th June 2015
**3rd Term :** 23rd July - 17th September 2015
**4th Term :** 15th October - 17th December 2015
**Time:** 12:00noon – 2:00pm
**Location :** All Saints of Africa, 63 Allawah Street, Blacktown
**Fee:** Free  Contact Rafa for information regarding this group. Ph: 0428 847 007
**Email:** blacktown@ccss.org.au