Welcome

Welcome to the fifth edition of the CELC newsletter for 2016. Our newsletter is coming home in hardcopy this week so that you can take advantage of the sweet smelling mint that the children have grown. Enjoy!

Labelling

Please label all water bottles, lunch box’, containers, clothing etc. It is very difficult to return items that have no labels.

You might like to look through the lost property in the basket on the lockers. It is overflowing with jumpers, socks, containers and other odds and ends.

Contact details

It is a regulatory requirement that children and families enrolled in the preschool have up to date contact details on their enrolment records. This includes home, mobile and work telephone numbers. If you have changed telephone numbers please provide your new details to the CELC on your child’s next attendance. Families who fail to provide current contact details will place their child’s enrolment in jeopardy.

Messages from the Green team.

We love growing vegies, herbs and fruits in our garden. Sometimes our herbs take over - just like our mint. So the children are sharing some of our mint with you. You might like to make a cup of mint flavoured water or tea. Mint can also be dried to make a potpourri, added to your salad, or even dipped in melted chocolate. Yum!

Shortly we will be selling lettuce and cauliflower, as well as tomato and snow peas. The CELC veggie market sells produce at reduced prices. We are looking to use the money from our veggie and herb garden to purchase new seedlings and soil.
Green Team Volunteers - Thank you Grills Family

A big thank you to the Grills family for volunteering to care for our guinea pigs and outdoor space during the winter school holidays. The guinea pigs are happy and healthy and our garden thriving due to your care and attention. Our teachers, children and families are thankful for your generosity and your time.

Take home your Water bottles - Please!

The beauty of a drink bottle is that it is reusable. The down side is that it is a haven for germs and bacteria. The moisture that sits in the bottle, straw and cap creates a breeding ground for bacteria. All drink bottles need to be taken home at the end of the day.

Here are some tips for cleaning

Throw it in the dishwasher: Check the bottom of your bottle before putting in the dishwasher to make sure it is dishwasher safe.

Wash it with warm soapy water: Pour out any leftover liquid, add a few drops of dishwashing soap and some warm water, screw on the top, and shake for a minute or so. Thoroughly clean the cap and straw as well and allow to air-dry overnight.

Use Vinegar: after washing with soapy water, rinse well, and fill your bottle one fifth of the way with white vinegar. Fill the rest with water, let it stand overnight, and in the morning thoroughly rinse it out.

ABSOLUTELY NO PEANUT BUTTER

CELC has a one child enrolling in Term 3 who has a known anaphylactic reaction to peanuts. We have always been a nut aware service and discouraged peanuts and peanut butter as a risk minimisation strategy. Hazelnut spreads and Nutella are included as restricted/excluded foods as their main ingredient is nuts and could potentially cause an anaphylactic reaction in a child.

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sometimes sudden allergic reaction. It can occur when a susceptible person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food or an insect sting).

Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure. Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response.

Please assist us by packing a nut free morning tea and lunch for your child.

CELC Spice Awards

Nominations are open for CELC Spice for Term 3. Awards are based on educational program and practice, connection with children and families and for outstanding contribution to the indoor and outdoor learning environments. Parents are encouraged to make their nominations via email or to Miss Donna, ASAP.
**Assessment & Ratings**

We received an excellent rating during our assessment and rating visit at the end of term 2. Our service achieved exceeding in all seven quality areas and an **exceeding rating overall**. An absolutely wonderful acknowledgement of the learning environment created by the teachers and educators at CELC Mary Queen of the Family Parish.

We are the only service within 5km to achieve an **exceeding rating** across all seven quality areas. The teachers, educators, administration, CELC network and Catholic Education Office are ecstatic with the result.

Our rating and the ratings of all early years services in NSW are published on the national registers Starting Blocks and MyChild websites. You can access these sites via the links below.

Overall summary report:

“Your service is commended on its achievements in providing quality outcomes for children. In particular, careful planning, reflective practice and willingness to collaborate with families and other community organisations to enhance children’s learning and wellbeing demonstrated by the commitment to quality by educators at your service. It is recommended that management and educators continue to reflect on current practice to maintain the quality outcomes evident during this assessment and rating process.”

The rating outcome summary is available for you to read in the CELC admin.

A copy of our assessment notice has been displayed in our administration and on the CELC website

http://www.celcblacktownsth.catholic.edu.au/home

Eportfolio - How do you want your documentation?

Portfolios are the CELC’s electronic folders of children’s learning experiences. The CELC has three options for accessing your child's portfolio.

Option 1: Gmail access. (anytime access - parents must have a gmail account)

Option 2: Files burnt to CD as requested.

Option 3: Paper copies of your child's portfolio.

Options 1 & 2 are the more environmentally friendly options than option 3 but all are available choices depending on your preference. Your educators will be asking families for their preferences, alternatively you can tell the educators how you would like to access your child's documentation.

CELC Car Park for CELC children ONLY

Or enrolment have grown rapidly to full capacity, which is fantastic for a not for profit service, but it also means that we have 40 families per day using the CELC. Many of these families have children at the CELC, St Michael’s Primary and Nagle College. We have been alerted to the fact that many people are parking in the CELC then walking to the schools to do the school collection. Parents have also been observed parking on the nature strip and in no standing zones on Orwell Street.

The CELC carpark is off street parking to collect preschool children only. If you need to collect your other children from the school or high school you will need to find alternative parking in the street or join the kiss and drop line. CELC educators will not continue to be put in awkward positions by families who selfishly abuse the CELC car parking creating hostility between families.

By occupying the CELC parking during peak drop and collection times you are putting other preschool children at a road safety risk. Please consider the safety of others.

Police patrol Orwell St frequently. You will be fined and lose demerit points for parking illegally.

http://www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/People_and_Community/Community_and_Road_Safety/Road_Safety_-_Safer_Travel/Fact_Sheets

School Children on the Premises

School children must be with an adult/guardian at all times. Children can not leave school and wait at the CELC for their parent. We are not licensed to have school aged children on the premises who are not supervised by their parent/guardian.
Please be aware that when school aged children are on the premises they are expected to stay with their parent/guardian or sit in the wait and watch zone. School aged children are not permitted to play on the equipment outdoors, educators have a responsibility to minimise the risk of injury and potential threats to safety of the children enrolled at CELC. When school aged children begin to play on the equipment our responsibilities are compromised as educators are unable to maintain clear lines of supervision over enrolled children.

**Children who are unwell**

Please be aware that the CELC has been notified of illnesses relating to fever and sore throat. It seems that we are experiencing an extension of cold and flu season.

In Term 2 I added an excerpt from our health policies around procedures for dealing with children who are unwell. I would like to reinforce, children who have had non-prescribed medication in the 24 hours before attending CELC are required to stay away from preschool. This includes cold and flu medications like Dimetapp, Demazin, Dymadon, Codral, Nurofen and Panadol.

Should a child become unwell during the day, they will be removed from the classroom and parents contacted. You will be required to collect your child within 30 minutes of receiving the telephone call. In the event that a child is still on the premises after 30 minutes, the NSW ambulance will transport your child to the nearest hospital. Either Blacktown or Mt Druitt hospital. An educator will be with them.

CELC will not administer any Panadol (Paracetamol) or Nurofen (Ibuprofen) to children as advised by Safe Work Australia.

The only medication CELC will administer is for children with medical conditions like Asthma, Allergy and Anaphylaxis where a medical action plan is in place. CELC educators have received formal training on administration of medications associated with these medical conditions and are also certified First Aid providers.

If your child requires antibiotics, they must be absent for 24 hours from the start of taking the antibiotic to ensure medication takes effect. If your child requires antibiotics during their preschool day, parents must provide a letter from the doctor instructing CELC to administer the medication. The letter must include the date, child’s name, name of the medication, and dosage requirements.

If you have any comments or questions with CELC policies and procedures for dealing with children who are unwell, please feel free to speak with Miss Donna. Our policies and procedures are available in our parent library, as well as on the CELC website.

**Upcoming events**

**Children's Book Week.**

Everybody loves book week. It’s a time to dress up as your favourite book characters and parade through CELC for your peers and friends from St Michael’s. The theme for 2016 Children’s Book Week is Australia: Story country. Your child might like to dress as a favourite character from an Australian author like Pamela Allen, Mem Fox, Alison Lester or Graeme Base. Or, you may choose to come as a character from your own favourite picture book.

We will be awarding certificates for the best character dress, audience favourite, creative flare and best Australian character. Please bring your book with you (labelled with your name) our friends from St Michael’s will read with your child.
Father’s Week

CELC is celebrating Father’s Week between Monday 29th and Friday 2nd September between 9:30 and 11:00am. It is a great opportunity to revive that child at heart and come and experience play at preschool with your child. CELC will provide a light morning tea for our Dad’s on their special visit. Please RSVP to Miss Donna.

CELC Re-enrolment 2017

It’s that time again re-enrolment time. Could you please return your re-enrolment form by Wednesday Friday 2nd September, 2016. Re-enrolment is needed for all children, even the children going to school in 2017.

We have a large waiting list for 2017 and many returning children. Positions vacant will be allocated using the NSW Department of Education and Training, priority of access guidelines for preschool services. Our re-enrolment process begins with currently enrolled children continuing their pattern of attendance, then any increase in attendance for returning children before offering positions to those on the waiting list.

A Morning Group Song: People All Around the World - Gary & Carol Crees

People all around the world just like me and you
Laugh and sing and play all day and greet each other to,
They all have their own way their very special own way,
To say hello, h-e-l-l-o,
Repeat above: X 3. after h-e-l-l-o add greeting in another language. e.g.. konichiwa, namaste, bulla,