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Introducing Kaylee Burns

Kaylee Burns has joined the CELC team as part of a school based traineeship arrangement between the CELC’s and Loyola Trade School. She will be with us until the 12th December and then return in Term 2 of 2015. Kaylee is currently training for a certificate III qualification in early childhood. Please be aware that due to the terms of the traineeship Kaylee is not counted as part of our educator ratios and will not be able to provide you with specific feedback about your child’s progress at CELC. Please speak with your teachers Miss Donna, Miss Lyndall, Miss Catherine for these conversations.

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish

CELC St Michael’s will undergo a name change in 2015. As parishioners will be aware, St Michael’s and St Patrick’s Parishes have been amalgamated to form one, unified Catholic community under the name of Mary, Queen of the Family Parish. Our name will transition to Catholic Early Learning Centre Mary Queen of the Family Parish.

Farewell Mr Enrico

Mr Enrico will complete his traineeship with CELC at the end of Term 4 2014. We wish him every success in his future career. The completion of his traineeship has led him to enrol in a university teaching degree while maintaining his commitment to martial arts. (Mr Enrico is an amateur Muay Thai boxer). We are hoping to maintain a relationship with Mr Enrico as a casual employee. Best wishes and God bless.

Diary Dates to Remember

- Wednesday 10th December, 2014 - Life education visit 10am & 11am
- Tuesday 16th December - Graduation ceremony St Michael's Church 5pm.
- 18th December - Christmas Party - Wren Picnic Area Narrangingy Reserve 4pm - 6:30pm
- 18th December - Last day of 2014 for children
- 19th December - Last day of 2014 for educators

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Sunsmart Hats

The NSW Cancer Council has awarded CELC St Michael’s a Sunsmart service with recognition of sunsmart practices. This means that CELC has a commitment to ensure children and educators are living sunsmart. The most obvious sunsmart choices are broad brimmed, bucket or Legionnaire hats. Baseball caps do not protect the face, head, ears or neck and are NOT SUNSMART. To assist you in making a sunsmart choice visit http://www.sunsmart.com.au/uv-sun-protection/slap-on-a-hat

Lunch Box 1 or Lunch Box 2

Compare the pictures of the lunch boxes. Which will fill a hungry child best? Which will give a child the most goodness and nutrition to get them through the day? Ask me and I’ll tell you why.

Portion Control

I have stumbled across this great resource called This= That Child Size. (Trudy Williams) It is a life sized photo guide of children’s food serves. There are over 340 life-sized photos of different foods that clearly show the appropriate food serving sizes across seven food categories. We have three copies of the book that can be lent to you to assist in packing a healthy lunchbox.

Just a little note, at CELC we do not allow any of the red extra/alert foods. These foods will be sent home with your child. (Red extra/alert foods are biscuits, cakes, chocolates, lollies, sweets & desserts, chocolate spreads, pastries, fried foods and sweet drinks.)


NSW Transition To School Statements

The NSW transition to school statements are ready to be sent to your child's school in preparation for their first day at big school in 2015.

If you happen to have your transition statement at home, can you please return it as soon as possible. We will be scanning the statements into the children’s individual portfolio’s before sending them to the Kindergarten teachers.

Families and children new to CELC in Term 4 will receive their transition statements shortly.
**Return your USB/Thumb drive**

CELC St Michael’s uses an electronic system for documentation of children’s learning. The reason for the shift from paper to USB/Thumb drives, is due to the time efficiency of preparation, sustainability and the parents ability to control where their child’s documentation goes. Does it stay on the thumb drive?, downloaded and saved to your desktop?, or emailed to family and friends around the world?

Each of the university qualified teachers has a focus group of 30 children, while other educators have less due to their training and experience. They have developed a planning cycle to ensure that each child is being observed, and play based learning experiences are planned for and implemented. All of this takes time. We have found that electronic portfolios are the quickest and most efficient use of educators planning time. You will not find your portfolio bedazzled or capable of blinding you with glitter and sparkle. Our focus is on what the children are doing and learning, and these are the things you will find documented.

We are chasing some thumb drives that were sent out in June. Please return your thumb drive/USB to the CELC by Friday 4th December, so that educators can prepare for the end of year.

**Calling All Volunteers**

CELC is expecting a delivery of 2.25 tonne of sand to replenish our CELC sandpit. Our bark will also be getting a top up too. The delivery is expected for Friday 4th December.

I am calling on volunteers to help us transfer the sand and bark at 3:30pm Friday 4th December. Drinks will be provided. BYO wheelbarrow and spade/shovel.

For ease of access the delivery will be made next door and the green fence panel removed.

Remember many hands, shovels, wheelbarrows make light work. Without your help the poor teachers have to do it all by themselves.

**Orwell St Traffic & CELC Parking**

An independent traffic consultation has occurred on Orwell St following continued issues with access to the preschool, access to residents homes and general traffic congestion. I will keep you informed of the developments around this issue.

Please note parking in the CELC parking is restricted to CELC PARENTS ONLY. ON DAYS YOUR CHILD ATTENDS. A maximum PARKING LIMIT OF 10 MINUTES will be enforced during peak times.

**Life Education - Healthy Harold**

Healthy Harold will be visiting CELC on Wednesday 10th December for two sessions 10am and 11am. The session runs for 45 minutes each and will focus on children’s health and wellbeing. The cost is $8.00 per child. Permission notes will be emailed to families. Paper copies of the form are available at the CELC. If your child does not attend on Wednesday but would like to participate in the Healthy Harold visit, please speak to Miss Donna. www.lifeeducation.org.au/what-we-do/life-education-in-schools/preschool

**Child Care Benefit Statements.**

Your child care benefit statements will be issued during the last week of CELC. All account balances must show a $0.00 to be entitled to claim out of pocket expenses through the Family Assistance Office. Details of ways to pay are at the bottom of your invoice. (Bpay, PostBillpay or via eftpos at the CELC).