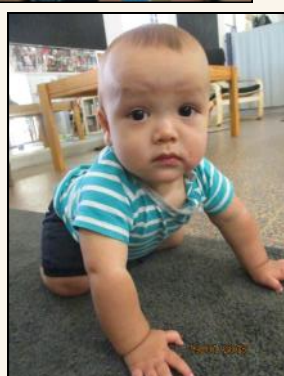
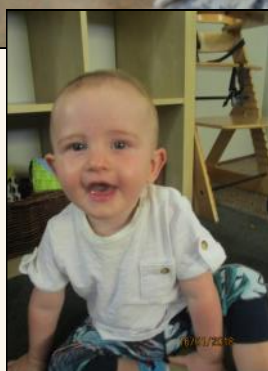


# Elder St. Herald

ELDER STREET EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

## Welcome to Elder St. to all our new friends!



It is an Elder St tradition that all our new friends receive a big welcome in our first newsletter of the year...

You may have noticed it has been all hands on deck with cuddles, dancing, stories and lots of reassurance shared for friends new and old. We have lots of new friends and also parents who are new to the world of early childhood education and care. We welcome everyone very warmly and hope you are all finding the transition to care and work and the family juggle not too overwhelming.

### We welcome to the Nursery Possums:

Penny and mum and dad Sarah and Matt;

Harper and mum and dad Louise and Jayson;

Alex and mum and dad Nicola and Adrian;

Elliot and mum and dad Heidi and Tully;

Harriet and mum and dad Deb and Daniel;

Max and mum and dad Janine and Blake;

Oscar and mum and dad Ginny and Michel.

### New siblings to the Possums rooms are:

Hamish, Jonathon, Cedar and Harry. We love having the beautiful baby siblings join us to play :)

### We welcome to the 2-3 years Joeys:

Mikey and mum and dad Nichole and Peter;

Ming-ai and mum and dad Carol and Keith;

Sebastian and mum and dad Jean and Jessie;

Zoe and mum and dad Lauren and Ryan;

Ruby and mum and dad Rochelle and Dean;

Elijah and mum and dad Sonia and Liam;

Sid and mum and dad Maree and Murray;

Meredith and mum and dad Maree and Robin; cont pg 6



## Settling in at Elder St—tips for transitions....

Here are some tips for any families who may be now or in the future facing a little bit of a relapse with the settling in process. This tends to happen sometimes when the toys and excitement of a new place wear off and the morning tears or comments like "I don't

want to go to school" start surfacing. For children under 3 yrs, it may be a little while before the tears totally disappear, but there are some ideas for getting into a routine if you are having problems and just don't know what to do. Here is a sample routine that may

help your morning transition when preparing to say goodbye for the day:

- On the way to the centre talk about the fun things that may happen that day
- Use the carer's names in your conversations in a

Continued on back page...

## Important things to remember.....

### HAND WASHING

Everyone is fairly healthy at the moment and to try our best to keep things this way it is really important that **children wash their hands on arrival each morning and before they leave each afternoon.** There is hand sanitizer available for adults on the sign in desk and we also ask that siblings wash their hands if they are going to play with equipment/toys each morning. It may seem like hard work, but being sick is much harder.

### FEE SET UP

Making sure that fees are up to date is really important. If you are ever confused about your account, please give Mel a call between Tues-Fri. Direct deposit payments should be set up by Wednesday as it takes a few days to come into our account and otherwise we just ask that accounts not be in arrears and ideally be paid in full by the end of your child's attendance week. We bill monthly so this is why at the beginning of the

month you will see a large balance owing on your account.

### DRINK BOTTLES, BEDDING AND BELONGINGS

Please ensure your child has a clean, full drink bottle of water each day and that bottles go home for a clean each day. Sleep bags need to also come and go each day unless your child is attending *consecutive* days and then they can stay in the basket but must go home at the end of their attendance

week. Finally belongings of all shapes and sizes need to be clearly labeled. This really helps us when matching socks/shoes/singlets etc to little owners.

### SUN SAFETY

Please ensure your child has clothing that covers the shoulders and midriff and that they have had sunscreen applied either at home or on arrival at the centre. We will reapply sunscreen before afternoon outside play.

*"The survey covers all 7 quality areas of the National Quality Standard and helps us work towards meeting, understanding and setting goals for continued quality care and improvement"*

## Partnership with Parents Questionnaire

Whilst on the subject of partnership, I would like to remind our families that we have an annual survey that we ask families to complete for us. The survey covers all 7 quality areas of the National Quality Standard and helps us work towards meeting, understanding and setting goals for continued quality care and improvement. It is an opportunity to either immediately address any con-

cerns or questions and also gives us scope as a team of professional educators to set new goals and keep on improving and growing. There is usually a time frame in which we like to have the surveys returned, but would also like to encourage new families that may not be fully aware of some of the practices of the centre yet, that they are welcome to hold on to the survey or seek further

clarification if they need to in order to give a response to any area. Sometimes the surveys are also a good way to highlight certain areas or programming information that new families may not be aware of.

We aim to have the survey emailed to families via Survey Monkey in March.

## Equipment Levy 2017

Each year an equipment levy is charged to family accounts to help with the cost of buying or replacing resources for the centre. Other services often run fundraisers for this, we have a one off levy instead. Over the years we have sourced and purchased some amazing equipment with these funds. We always like to include our families in the pur-

chasing process and will shortly put a sheet out the front where parents can contribute ideas. We are trying really hard to purchase sustainable and mostly natural products as much as we can. We also like to purchase products that are multi purpose, educational and that will stand the test of time and many hands each day. No easy brief! If you know of any amazing

equipment/game/construction set that you have seen or heard about, we would love to know about them. We will be looking through our supplier catalogues and discussing ideas and also know of some local toy makers that we will be using too. The equipment levy will appear on accounts in late March 2018.



We used some of our equipment levy funds to purchase our awesome natural climbing structure after parents requested more things to climb on.

## Our Educational Program

The teachers have been planning, observing, collaborating and documenting with and about the children since the beginning of the year. We are now formulating goals for each child and for the group and began to deliver our educational program as of 5 February until the end of the year. Parents will have received their log in details for their child's online program by now. We have the programs and daily reflections for reading online available from 6 Feb also. We are still waiting on

some of the very important parent input goals for the children so we can ensure that we are covering a holistic approach to the children's development. So please email them in or if you are having trouble, just ask one of the teachers to give you a hand. By the end of May the teachers will also be posting each child's individual program report online for parents to read. In this report we include the parent and teacher's goals set for the child a short summary of the children's interests and a compre-

hensive report on how their learning has progressed against the goals over time. We also upload photos to the children's photo folders every month and of course will still have our daily slideshow for families to view each afternoon. Our aim is to always provide families with as much information as possible about their child's learning and development. Any further information or assistance needed, please ask :)



## Teaching children to read....

Who would like to make sure their child will be ready to read and write, especially around the year before school?? What if you were told that the children are learning to read and write in the babies room every day, would you believe that and what would you imagine it would look like in practice?

Well, it is true and what it looks like is what we are all doing every day. It may be a little more concentrated in practice at times in an education and care setting such as

ours, but generally it is happening all the time. Ways to increase this concentration of literacy skills can start from a very early age. Believe it or not, parents and their own daily literacy practices are the biggest indicators of whether or not children will learn to love to read, which of course is what will assist them to become successful learners. I need to highlight here that this is not about a race to read early. There is little evidence to show that children who read early will necessarily continue to achieve academically

at the same speed. What is known is that building a love of reading, seeing family members reading, having stories read to them by their family, pointing out literacy in their environment (signs, words in the home—magazines, newspapers etc), making lists together, attempting letter recognition in everyday practice, encouraging writing and invented spelling (first attempts at words) are all what are THE most valuable preparation for reading and writing. When these type of literacy experiences happen naturally

as part of a child's daily routines, when they are enjoyable and pressure free, when they are fun and involve people they love and trust, the more embedded that learning and practice will become. Buy your children books, borrow books from the local library, share books between friends, talk about books you are reading and discuss what the story means. All of this builds comprehension and critical thinking skills which are so important for success in reading and writing for life.



## ROOM NEWS...what's been going on in our rooms for January and February???

**BABY POSSUMS....** Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships is what it has been all about in the Possum room for the last 6 weeks. Building a place where the children and parents feel like they belong, are respected and listened to is very important to us as teachers and carers. Our role is highly relational especially when working with very young children and this is why you will see lots and lots of cuddles, small group experiences with educators where there may be only 2 children reading a story or another small group participating in painting. You will see and hear lots of talking, explaining and singing. This helps the children feel secure and know what is coming next in their routine. You have probably also seen lots of tears too. This is all part of the transition and the children's way of communicating that they need support and help during this time. All the children and the parents are doing beautifully! We have far more smiles than sad faces and feel very connected with all the children. We have noticed a growing interest in construction with the whole group of children across the week, from the youngest to the oldest. The children are fascinated with creating with objects. We see towers, piles, lines and stacks with blocks and items from our room. We wonder what theory the children are testing in this play? What are they interested in learning about with these materials and ideas? We will use these questions to form our first educational goal for February and see where the learning takes us. We are also focusing on more creatively based concepts with the children, in particular inspiring the children to enjoy the joy and excitement that comes with creation. Creativity encompasses many areas, however we are going to begin with mark making through art experiences and see where the learning takes us. We are really excited about engaging with the children with these group goals and also working with them on a longer term basis on their individual learning goals. Please don't forget to email through to us your goals for learning for your child. Till next news Paula, Roxi and Lauren..... :)



### TODDLER JOEYS...

Welcome to another wonderful year in the Joeys room! We have 21 very special friends that we are getting to know more and more each day. The children are beginning to settle really well throughout the day, and even though we still have some tears from some friends in the mornings, they are becoming much less intense and showing us that they are taking in, engaging and trusting the teachers more and more. We are very committed to honouring the children's feelings and empathising with them about how hard it is to leave mum and dad. Building relationships with all involved in education and care is at the core of our job and we understand that if a child does not have a sense of belonging and self within the environment, then learning will be interrupted. For this reason, we have planned some great educational goals for February and possibly beyond regarding the concepts of belonging and self. We will be engaging with the children in learning about themselves and where they fit into their worlds. We will be using our atelier space to facilitate a lot of the learning for this goal. We will be beginning with the physical self and measuring and weighing the children which will also provide the opportunity to introduce mathematical concepts and language with the children. We will be capturing images of the children and creating persona people with these images of the children to display in the atelier. This experience will really help the children connect with themselves and each other. We also will be working on our Belonging Family Tree (don't forget to send in those family photos) and our other goals which is learning all about diversity of culture. Lots of learning and interesting experiences ahead. We have received quite a few emails sharing individual goals from families for our long term learning goals. Please send them in via email or come and have a chat if you feel you need a bit of help with those from the teaching team. **Reminders to make your time with us run smoothly.....**remember each day to take home your child's drink bottle and sleep bedding...a great idea for morning transition is to create a little routine of the same jobs in the same order and then finding a great experience to engage them in so your child knows what is to expect and finds separating a little more easy. There are some great tips included in this newsletter on the front page. If you have any concerns questions, issues or worries, please don't hesitate to come and talk with us. Your child is much more likely to feel connected with us if they see that you are feeling confident and connected with us. Talk soon Mykala, Kirilly and Lauren.

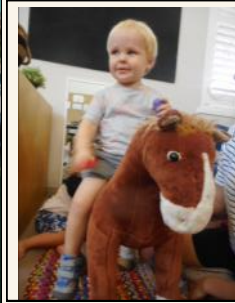


**PRESCHOOL WALLABIES** ..... Welcome to another fabulous year in the amazing wonder that is the Preschool Wallaby room! I sat down with the teachers from the Wallaby room and asked them to share with me what has been happening over the last 5 weeks. It of course turned into a long conversation about the children's individual interests, personalities, friendships and funny stories. We chatted about plans for future learning and areas to improve in and strategies they are trying on different days of the week. These kinds of critical reflection moments are what makes teaching young children so wonderful, it is such an exciting and fulfilling job in so many ways. This is what the Wallaby room has been up to: **Construction**...innovation, multi medium usage, theory testing and surveying have all been evident with the children in their construction play. It is wonderful to see them thinking laterally, problem solving and collaborating as they plan and construct and then explain their work. **Belonging**...a concept that we touch on in many different ways. We have been sharing our family photos when children bring them in and then add them to our Belonging Family Tree. The children have also been sharing items from home or weekend adventures with their peers. Interests such as natural elements like Cicada shells, questions about different components of helicopters. All of these moments help us connect with each other's home life and individual interests within one community of learners. To encourage broader friendship groups across our week, we have been sharing lots of fun games and transition activities together. Remembering each other's names, choosing friends to do jobs with and discussing special information and qualities about each other. From this we can see lots of fast friendships and lovely connections forming. **Inquiry based learning projects**....we listen, observe and record the ideas and learning concepts emerging from the children's play, interactions, questions and discussions. From there we use these to co construct learning projects with the children. These are happening all the time and the progress of the inquiries are sometimes displayed around the centre in our documentation boxes or posters or photos and very often in our daily slideshows. Of late we have been investigating about different components of helicopters after William was unsure what part of his toy helicopter was designed for. The group researched different types of helicopters on the internet and discussed what they could be. Possible further learning on this may involve speaking to a helicopter specialist from the RAAF or Westpac Helicopter group. Making our learning meaningful, visible and connected to the community gives a great sense of validity to the children's sense of self as learners and contributors. Our Educational Goals for the coming month include units of work including further understandings of Aboriginal perspectives; including customs, ways of living traditionally and connection to country and land. Also connecting to this is our project on sustainability and recycling. We are still collecting lids to add to our proposed centre sculpture. We have an out of service excursion planned for our senior Wallabies (4 -5 yr olds) that will be taking place in March. Finally we have been providing lots of fine motor experiences to foster strength and dexterity with our hands and small muscles. We do this via the use of playdough, cutting with scissors, sand play, painting with small and large brushes, collage and intricate construction such as lego and loose parts play. Lots of practice at big muscle play also helps small muscle control and development too. So we encourage lots of climbing, yoga, sandpit digging, dancing and movement.

Our roles as active citizens within our Elder St community are very important too. Jobs with meaningful consequences and outcomes form a big part of this understanding. This is why we involve the children in caring for our chickens and tending to our community garden and also looking after our recycling and reusing responsibilities. We of course also head down to the Elder St shops once a week to buy our Wallaby fruit snacks. We now have some dedicated child sized basket trolleys that allow the children to feel really involved and capable whilst purchasing the fruit for the group. The children are always keen to participate in all these roles and approach their tasks with great earnest. We are really looking forward to receiving your learning goals for your children so we can begin working on these over the coming months and also adding EVERYONE's family photo to our Belonging Tree. If you have any questions on any of our Wallaby information, please come and chat with us. Till next time, thanks for reading, Kate, Carley, Donna, Kirrily and Jena :)



From front cover...Isla and mum and dad Melissa and Joshua. **We welcome to the Preschool Wallaby group:** Eleanor and mum and dad Maree and Robin; Annabelle and mum and dad Angela and Craig; Emile and mum and dad Amanda and Mathew; Natalie and mum and dad Joanne and Tom; Charlie and mum and dad Chantelle and Aaron, Darcy and mum and dad Emma and Tony; Amelia and mum and dad Nicole and Trevor. We are so impressed with how well the children and families are settling into life in our Elder St community. Please let us know if there is anything more we can do to help your family feel welcomed and that they belong. We truly value all family input and feedback and encourage families to be as involved in the service as possible. Once again, welcome and we hope you all enjoy your time with us at Elder St :)



### Educational Record Dates

The dates below are when your child's program will be uploaded to your individual online program folder.

\* 28 May 2018 \* 24 September 2018 \*21 December 2018

### HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!!!

**JANUARY**— Cedar turned 1, Axl turned 2, Lola turned 3 Daniel, Zeke, Charlie F all turned 4

**FEBRUARY**— Meredith, Zoe & Elijah turned 2, Alice turned 3, Nicholas turned 4, Olive turned 4, Bailey & Noah turned 5!!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE!

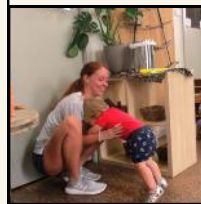


Welcome also to baby Olive who is Frankie's (Joey's) new little sister. Congrats to Sally & Shane xx

### MEET OUR NEW TRAINEES!

We have three new faces at the centre in 2018. You would probably already have met the girls over the last couple of weeks, but we thought we should introduce them formally.

We have Jena who has joined the Wallaby Preschool team as the third member most days. Lucy and Keely work with the entire team in very important supporting roles that allow us to have breaks, do programming and have collaboration meetings. All of these young girls are highly dedicated and committed to starting their career in the early childhood care and education profession. They have signed up with TAFE to complete their Cert III and being mentored daily by our teaching team. The children have already given them a thorough seal of approval and we are so very thrilled to have them as part of our team.



Jena



Lucy and Keely



## Settling in tips for transition—continued from front page

positive way ie, “we can tell Mykala about the funny book we read last night”

- When you come into the centre greet the staff and encourage your child to do the same
- Either carry or lead your child to their locker and involve them in the morning jobs of putting away bed bags, washing hands and then lead them to a carer
- If carers are busy (which is often the case during

morning drop off) stay with your child and point out some interesting things in the room or playground. When available, a teacher will approach you for your morning welcome.

### • This is the crucial part!

If you plan to stay for a while, please let us know and we will come back to you when you are ready to go. When this time arrives we suggest that you have a phrase to use each day ie, “okay bye honey, mum/dad will see you this after-

noon, have a great day, I love you” and leave without hesitation.

- **Your child will more than likely cry—this is very normal.** It is not advisable at this stage to take your child back or decide to stay longer as this will only prolong the agony for both of you and make it more difficult for your child to settle.

This is all normal separation anxiety which will settle down with time and nurturing. Of course all children are different, some don't look back

from the first day. However others react differently and may take more time. We assure you that the tears do tend to disappear when you walk out the door.

As we advise all families on enrolment and throughout your time at the centre, please feel free to ring and check how your little one is going whenever you feel the need.

Please feel free to talk to us about any concerns you have at any time.

You are all doing a great job!!