

# 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:**

**Maddox** and mum and dad Ariella and Ryan

**Sam** and mum and dad Clare and Trent

**Winifred** and mum and dad Irini and Mark

**Florence** and mum and dad Amy and Lyall

**Willow** and mum and dad Kelly and Mark

**Amia** and mum and dad Cherie and Sam

**Bonnie** and mum and dad Marni and Jay

**Hunter** & mum and dad Jenny & Daniel.

**New siblings to the Possums rooms are:**

Eve, Indy, Theo, Olive, Luca, Claire and Samuel.

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

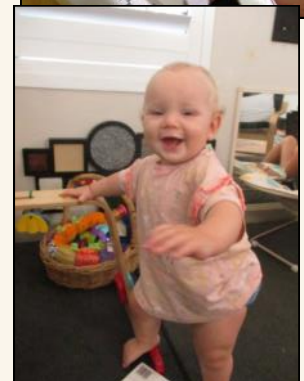
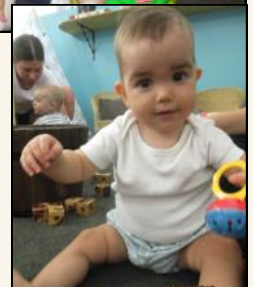
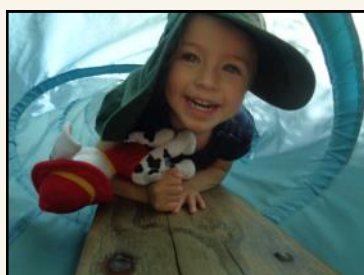
**Lucinda** who is Annabelle's little sister

**We welcome to the Pre-school Wallaby group:**

**Flynn** and mum and dad Amanda and Lee

**Sam** and mum and dad Lisa and Robert

**Anders** and mum and dad Diem and Andrew



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## Partnership with Parents Questionnaire

*“The questionnaire 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”*

In May each year we generate an online survey known as our ‘Partnerships with Parents Questionnaire’. The questionnaire 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 concerns or ques-

tions 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 questionnaire returned, but we also like to encourage new families that may not be fully aware of some of the practices of the centre yet, to take their time and are welcome to hold on to the ques-

tionnaire or seek further clarification if they need to in order to give a response to any area. Sometimes the questionnaires 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 questionnaire emailed to families via Survey Monkey in May.

## Equipment Levy 2019



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

Each year an equipment levy is charged to family accounts to support the cost of buying or replacing resources for the centre. Other Centres often run fundraisers for this purpose, 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 purchasing 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 April 2019.



## Digital technologies and young children

We understand that all families will have different perspectives on the use of technology with young children. We also understand that young children today are growing up in digital contexts. The many types of digital technologies used by people in daily life includes computers, tablets, smart televisions, smartphones and smart watches. Many young children now regularly access the internet via touchscreen technologies and the Internet of Toys (toys that exchange information with the internet). Young children and their families engage in digital experiences based on their access to digital technologies and the internet and their views and values on the role of digital technologies in their lives. The experience of growing up in a digi-

tal context is not the same for every child and family. Not everyone uses, values or understands digital technologies in the same way. For this reason it is important as educators of young children to be guided by practices and advice of research in this area. Early Childhood Australia has released a *Statement on young children and digital technologies* to serve as guidance for practical advice in this area. We believe this to be a sound document with a balanced approach. The statement outlines the following four principles that are relevant to the context of an early childhood education and care service. Within these principles is practical advice on how educators can best approach and implement the use of digital technolo-

gies. The areas are:

1. **Relationships**—using technology as a way to build relationships and promote social interaction, modeling self regulated use of technology, supporting co-learning etc
2. **Health & Wellbeing**—ensuring healthy body and mind usage of technology including thinking about screen time and movement, vision, sleep & emotions.
3. **Citizenship**—for educators to be mindful and aware of children's and parents rights with regard to technology including photography, digital privacy.
4. **Play and Pedagogy**—to focus on continued opportunities for play us-

ing a range of digital devices for exploration, meaning making and problem solving and to provide a well balanced approach to the use of digital and non digital technologies for learning.

We have families who we know do not use any technology or screens with their children and we know others fully embrace digital technology. This statement enhances our ability to partner with families on this topic and reflect and understand all perspectives. If you have any questions or comments about how digital technology is used at Elder Street, please don't hesitate to ask.

[http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ECA-Digital-Policy-Statement\\_A-Summary](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ECA-Digital-Policy-Statement_A-Summary)



"Technology: A tool for knowledge construction"

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

**BABY POSSUMS..** Welcome everyone! We are all settling in so well. Our focus for the last few months has been on wellbeing and security which hopefully brings feelings of belonging for the children and families. We have begun to display photos demonstrating the children's growing sense of belonging in the Possum room. These show images of confidence in exploring and making connections with educators and peers. Our child centred learning has begun by the inclusion of resources that we have discovered the children are interested in. So far this has been musical instruments and animals. These resources have been helpful with transitions during morning drop offs. Our educators have been very focused on respectful interactions with our youngest citizens by incorporating positive communication such as "can I change your nappy now?" ; "I'm just going to push your chair in". This promotes positive interactions with peers and promotes the children's growing sense of respect for themselves, others and improves self regulation. We reflect often how much is 'done to' young babies instead of being 'done with' them whenever possible. We hope the children feel very respected and listened to at this tender age. We have recently started to explore our outdoor playground with the children enjoying water and sand sensory experiences too. These experiences also provide opportunities for further conversations and connections to be made. Thanks for reading—Lauren, Carley, Bec and the team.



**TODDLER JOEYS...** welcome to the Joeys room where we have been experiencing wonderfully calm and engaged children for many weeks now. They are engrossed in their learning and developing beautiful bonds with educators and peers. We have been practising our social and emotional skills through different dramatic play experiences including dress ups, kitchen play and a shop. Educators added loose open ended parts to these areas and the children responded well by using the wool and rocks as different foods and drinks. Including cans, jars, containers in place of structured items also encouraged the children to communicate what they were imagining their loose parts to be. Lots of great learning! The Atelier has provided opportunities for agency and quiet reflective creative time. The children are enjoying choosing the materials they would like to use which gives more meaning to their creations and also sustains there time engaged in the experience. We have been concentrating on patterns, marks, colour and shadow. A real surprise and delight has been the children's positive responses to transition time such as packing away, washing our hands, collecting belongings to move from outside to inside. This proves to us the potential of the 'toddler' as a capable, competent and intentional learner. We use strategies such as songs, tapping, respectful communication, meaningful encouragement to inspire the children to make good choices. We are very proud of each and every one of the Joeys. Thanks for reading Kate, Roxi, Bec and team.



**PRESCHOOL WALLABIES** ..... Welcome to the Preschool Wallaby room. It is always interesting to see how the dynamics of a preschool room will change when the 'big' kids go off to primary school, then the little kids of the group become the 'big kids' and a new lots of friends join us from the Joeys. We have found this transition to be really smooth, cohesive and gentle. Our older children are relishing in leadership roles and demonstrating citizenship with our younger children of the group. The younger Wallaby children are also responding well to new routines and experiences and showing lots of resilience and problem solving skills. Well done to everyone on embracing this wonderful new adventure so well! A lovely first cultural celebration of the year has been experienced through learning about Chinese New Year. We have several families at the centre who have a Chinese heritage and Mae's mum Mary once again generously shared their family culture with the children. We extended on this through the different learning languages including cooking, music, painting, role play and experiencing some Chinese history relating to the origins of the Chinese zodiac. We did this by learning about the Great Race and acting out the story of how the Emperor chose what order the 12 animals would be throughout the years. This was a fun and interesting way to learn about the stories of another culture. There has been a great deal of child led construction and drawing taking place in the group. The drawing and construction are both very social as there is lots of discussion about both of these experiences. We have worked on extending the children's thinking by encouraging the children to think reflectively about what they are drawing and to share their understandings and intentions with others. The connection to drawing and construction has been made through design. We have encouraged small groups who are working and negotiating constructions to help share their ideas further by also sketching and mapping out their constructions through drawing. This provides another way for children to make sense of their ideas. There has been quite an intense interest in name writing within the group. The children are interested in locating their name cards to use alongside their art work so they can write their own name with support. Our younger children are most commonly prompting educators for this new and exciting experience as they are becoming competent and motivated to test out their early literacy skills. Other areas of exploration have involved the magic of water; particularly coloured water. We planned to add colour to the water trough area this month to see what the children did differently. We noticed a real difference in the children's thinking, concentration and engagement with this simple change. Measuring and exactness become the goal when pouring, the usual tipping, dumping and splashing was replaced by up close careful pouring for the colour to meet a line, discussion and sustained shared thinking. We understand that the best learning outcomes occur when children feel safe, supported and have agency but also clear and consistent boundaries in their decision making. We have been learning about this through exploring our emotions. We have started a Happiness Book with drawings by the children of concepts/ideas/experiences that makes them happy. They are very excited to share with with everyone. Chat soon Paula, Bec, Donna, Bree &

Jena.

**LET US KNOW WHAT GOALS YOU WOULD LIKE FOR US TO WORK ON FOR YOUR CHILD'S**





Anders and Flynn both enjoying new experiences & friends in the Wallaby room



**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**SUNDAY 26 MAY, 2019**

**Elder St ECEC 15 year birthday Alumni and Family Day Celebration**

We have formed an event committee and will be meeting soon to start planning a wonderful day of activities, entertainment and time together with old and new friends.

Stay tuned.....

**Educational Record Dates**

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

**\* 27 May 2018 \* 23 September 2018 \*20 December 2019**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!!!**

**JANUARY**— Olive turned 1, Cedar turned 2, Axl turned 3, Ruby turned 3 Daniel, Zeke, Charlie F all turned 5

**FEBRUARY**— Woody turned 2, Meredith & Zoe turned 3, Alice turned 4!!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE!**



Welcome also to baby Finn who is Chloe's (Joeys) new little brother. Congrats to Angela & Luke xx

**MEET OUR NEW TRAINEES!**

We have three new faces at the centre in 2019. You would probably already have met the girls over the last couple of weeks, but we thought we should introduce them formally. Jess, Molly and Ellie have already impressed us all so much with their dedication, professionalism and caring engagements with all at the service. Welcome girls— here's to a great year of learning :)



Molly



Jess



Ellie

**TEAM HOLIDAYS AND ABSENCES COMING UP**

**Team members on holidays or attending professional learning in March to May:**

Donna (Preschool) - 1 March—14 March

Cath— (Kitchen) 4 March—7 March

Paula (Preschool) 15 March—22 March

Roxi (2-3 yrs Joeys) 4—5 April

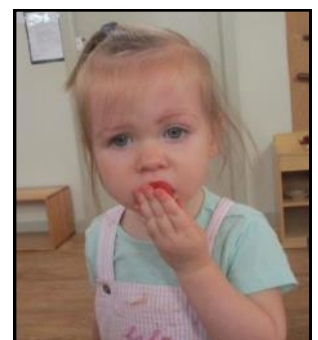
Kate (2-3 years Joeys) 8 April—26 April

Kim (office) Wed—17 April

Bec and Roxi Professional learning—1 April & 9-10 May (Aboriginal

Bree (Preschool) - 16-17 May

**Staffing Arrangements**—as we have over the number of staff needed to meet our regulatory requirements we do not have the need to engage casual staffing. We will at times move some educators to cover certain leave if there is a need to support a less experienced team member during the holiday period. Our staff planning and continuation training supports this to happen by having our team familiar with all the children in each room.



Willow enjoying some tomato from our community garden