

Nov/Dec 2019

Elder Street Herald

End of Year Celebration



Thank you to all the families who joined us to celebrate Christmas and the end of another great year at Elder Street.

We had a lovely, busy and hot afternoon of the usual fun stuff, like face painting, sausage sandwiches, JD the Magician (who was missing for a little while—disappearing act??!!), ice blocks, Santa, presents and catching up. It is so wonderful to see our community have the chance to chat, share and enjoy each other. Thank you also to all the families who passed on their thanks and appreciation for our Xmas celebration—it is our pleasure!

All the staff at Elder St wish the families a very safe and happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2020!

Love.... Mel, Donna, Kate, Kim, Catherine, Carley, Bec, Paula, Roxi, Jena, Bree, Jess, Molly, Lauren and Ellie.



ELDER ST TEAM 2020

Here is our team line up for 2020

Nursery Possums—8 children

Lauren Berwick: M, W, Th, F

Carley Chippington: M-Th

Jena Talbott: T, F

Toddler Joeys—10 children

Kate Hewat: T, W, Th, F till March

Roxi Heywood Hayes: M, T, Th, F

Jena Talbott: M, W

Bree Creighton: Support and full time from March



Preschool Wallabies—21 children:

Paula Rosenkranc: M, T, W, F

Bec Saville: M-F

Ellie Austin: M-Th

Donna McRae: Th, F

New trainees 2020: Keely Buck and Olivia Hancock will be working full time from January 2020. We will have a further trainee begin in March 2020 when Kate takes a break for maternity leave for 12 months, her name is Lara Withers. Our trainees will change rooms that they are working in throughout the year; this is so they develop a holistic understanding of working with children in all age groups.

Roxi who will complete her Diploma in December 2019 (yay!!!) will be stepping in as team leader in Kate's absence in the Joeys room. Bree will also be moving into the Joeys room completing the Joeys team of Roxi, Jena and Bree from March 2020 onwards. Exciting times for everyone!

We will continue with our governance and leadership of Mel and Kim into 2020. Kim and myself continue to cover a great deal by working together in the office. It allows us to examine, plan and implement lots of ideas, resources and programs for the team of educators. Mel's working hours will be 8.30-4.30 Tuesday through to Friday and Wednesday to Friday alternate weeks. Kim will continue to work Monday to Wednesday. Her work hours are Mon 8am-6pm, Tues 7am-5pm and Wed 7am-6pm.

Molly, Jess and Ellie have almost completed their traineeships with Elder Street. Molly has secured a Certificate III position at a long day care service in Warner's Bay beginning in January and Jess has secured a Certificate III position at a Centre in Medowie. Ellie has accepted a 12 month contract to remain working at Elder Street. We would like to congratulate them all on their hard work this year and thank them for all that they have contributed to our team. They are three truly gifted, generous and remarkable young educators who we are profoundly proud of.

Finally, as our 15th year of operation draws to a close I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for the support and collaboration we receive from our Elder St community for the work we do. It has been another big year for our team with many big achievements and projects undertaken successfully. We feel confident that with our team's strong growth mindset and commitment to all being leaders we will continue to successfully provide contemporary, equitable and holistic teaching approaches and a dedicated warm ethic of care to each other, the children and families of our Centre. I personally feel hugely privileged to be sharing part of everyone's lives every week and to all at our Centre, families and team members—thank you for choosing us!

Merry Christmas and see you in the New Year

Mel xx

2020 ENROLMENTS AND END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

We have all enrolments finalised for new families beginning in 2020.

If families would like to change their attendance this can be organised by letting us know any other days you would prefer so that we can make a note on our internal waiting list. To reduce days we require 2 weeks' notice from 7 Jan 2020. Most of our families who have children leaving the centre have had their bonds allocated to final fee balances. Anyone who indicated they would prefer their bond refunded needs to ensure that they have a nil balance on their account by Wednes

Day 18 December and then we will refund bond monies into directed accounts.

END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

All families have been emailed an Invoice showing fee weeks from the end of November 2019 to the end of our first week of operation in January 2020.

Balances owing for 2019 are **due by WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER, 2019.**

If you are still unsure of your balance due by the end of this year, please contact office staff for clarification.

From the week starting 13/1/20 we will advise families of their new 2020 weekly fees via email.

We recommend that families then adjust their direct deposit payments to reflect their new fee amounts as per that invoice.

Families with siblings starting in 2020 will be advised of their new fees for that child in the new year.

Please feel free to contact Mel or Kim to discuss plans to finalise your account if you are predicting that you may need more time to finalise.

We are happy to work with families experiencing difficulties especially at this time of year as long as we have open communication and a plan of action in place. 😊



School Leavers 2019 Graduation Day

We had a lovely afternoon in the Wallabies on Thursday 12 December, celebrating 17 beautiful and clever little people who are ready for the important transition to school next year. We would like to farewell...

Farewell to.....

The Leung family (with us for 12 years!), the Rodgers family, the Fitzsimmons family, the Farrow family, the Hitchcock family, the Rice family, the Wood family, the Clarke family, the Nixon family, the Fuljahn family and the Robson family.

Please keep in touch—all the best xxx

Charlie, Daniel, Zeke, Natalie, Annabelle, Abbey, Patrick, Oxley, Ethan, Evelyn, Ellie, Alex, William, Austin, Mae, Alice and Emile

We will miss all of these children more than you probably understand but wish everyone the best of luck and happiness and hope to see you soon for a visit xx

Team Development Day Monday — 6 January, 2020 — facilitated by the Melbourne based MentorMore team.

MentorMore
Designed Experience

Our first day we are back for our team will be on Monday 6 January. We use this day to come together as professionals to think, reflect, plan and collaborate. This year we have a half day program designed for us called 'Celebration—the art of not being Governed'.

The program will involve sessions of recognising strengths in ourselves and others, immersing ourselves in courageous conversations around professional identity through the medium of clay and expressive arts, exploring multiple ways of seeing and working together and small group discussions with room teams that focus on critical pausing and moving into a new year with new and old team members. We share a special lunch together and organise the play rooms ready for children and families the next day.



A very special morning at an Urban Organic farm — On

Wednesday 11 December nine of our 2-3 year Joeys went on an excursion to Cardiff Heights to visit an urban farm. They have been learning a lot about growing food, composting and worm farms so to build on this learning we decided to visit David and Matthew from Feedback Organic at their wonderful farm in Cardiff Heights. We were able to see lots of crops growing, we tasted edible flowers, herbs and lots of greens. We learnt all about their huge big stinky compost and how all the scraps from Cafes and restaurants all around Newcastle are collected by David and brought back to the farm to help enrich the soil to grow more food. The children were then able to do some planting in a newspaper cylinder and bring back to the centre some planted bean seeds and a silverbeet seedling. This was so very exciting and lots of fun! We had a wonderful morning

at the farm and we were so proud of the children. They were so engaged, focused and eager to learn and participate. We hope they remember it forever :) Thanks to our Joeys team and families for their support Mel, Kate, Roxi, Bec and Molly



ARE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE ON OUR SYSTEM?



CONTACT US

Please let us know if your email, mobile phone numbers, work details, home addresses or emergency contact details have changed. This is really important for us to keep up to date so we can always

Final words for 2019.....

Please ensure that all belongings are taken home on your last day of attendance for the year, ie, drink bottles, sleep bags, spare clothes, art work, medication etc.

This will help us have the centre lovely and tidy for when we reopen in January.

Our first staff on bright and early on TUESDAY 7 January 2020 will be Kim and Paula and Kate and Ellie will see you off on the late shift.

Once again, have a lovely and safe Christmas & New Year xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx