

# ELC Parent Bulletin

August 2009

## Transition learning & Development Statement

The Australian Government is looking to provide universal access to preschool education for all Australian children. One of the key platforms of the National Early Childhood Reform Agenda is the development of a national **Early Years learning framework** which has been developed in consultation with early childhood experts and educators, with specific emphasis on play based learning, pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills.

To support a positive start to school for all children, a common Victorian approach has been developed to guide families, early childhood services and schools. It will outline what they can expect when participating in local **TRANSITION-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAMS** and provide a shared understanding between early childhood services and schools about what is important for children and their families during this exciting time.

The initiative also introduces 'a tool for families and educators' to share information about a child's learning and development in the form of a **Transition Learning and Development Statement**. All services offering a funded kindergarten program in 2009 will introduce Transition Learning and Development Statements for children commencing school from 2010.

The Transition Learning and Development Statement is designed to be a descriptive document written about a child's individual strengths and achievements. The Statements have been developed to provide valuable information for families and schools, particularly *Prep teachers*, to help them build relationships, identify how children can best be supported as they transition into school, and plan appropriate learning programs.

**did you know** that the children and families in the wattle room participated in the **Bright Side of the Moon** program at the Royal Botanic Gardens, to celebrate the *International Year of Astronomy?*

## Eco Cubby Project Update

**All systems go!** Plans are looking very impressive for the building of our **ELC Eco Cubby**. It is also great to see and hear that many of our programs have included the concept of the **SHELTER / CUBBY** in curriculum planning.

The ELC is preparing to purchase the *final building materials* for the **Eco Cubby**, and invite families to support this process by 'purchasing' a **mud brick**, which will be used in the construction of the Cubby. Purchases will be acknowledged by name, via a plaque on the **ELC website** at the completion of this great project. Bricks can be purchased *'in the name of your child, sibling or family member'*. There is no limit to the number of bricks you may buy. Our aim is to sell **350 bricks** in the coming weeks.

Families and friends are welcome to complete an Order slip, which was supplied in every family's pigeon hole. *Additional order slips can be found at the Administration Office.*

**All orders can be returned to the Administration Office by Friday 28 August.**

## Join the Circle

Jan and a team of ELC staff have been working towards the completion of a submission to the **City of Yarra** for a **collaborative project** with the **InterAct Group** in **2010**. It is hoped that the project can be sculptural with the outcome envisaged being the production of a **TOTEM / MAYPOLE**, that could be located in the Abbotsford Convent Gardens.

## Treasure Chest Project

On Monday 10 August, ELC children and staff welcomed **Dijana Razer** from *Croatia*, who shared a one week art residency, and focused on assisting the children to develop an understanding and greater appreciation of

**TREASURE CHESTS** - beyond the idea of

Pirates.

## Boori Pryor

We welcomed Boori (*Monty*) to the ELC recently to share indigenous stories and dance with children.

Monty is a multi-talented performer, who has worked in numerous industries to promote **indigenous culture**.

Children and staff enjoyed the opportunity to hear both *traditional and contemporary stories of Aboriginal life*, and participated in traditional dance and song, with the accompaniment of a **didgeridoo**.

### Students from the University of Melbourne

#### YEAR 4 BECE STUDENT PLACEMENT

The ELC will welcome **2** University of Melbourne **BECE FINAL YEAR** STUDENTS, for a 20-day placement in the Banksia & Wattle Room programs. While at the Centre, students will have the opportunity to undertake learning experiences, with the guidance and support of our well experienced teaching staff.

#### M-TEACHING (EARLY CHILDHOOD) STUDENT

We welcome the return of our **Master of Teaching (Early Childhood)** student, Payal to the Centre. Payal will undertake a *one-day a week* placement between August - October in the Waratah Room program.

## Baby News

Congratulations to *Natalie* and her partner Mark, on the birth of their first baby, **MAX**. All children, staff and families extend their well wishes.

## QIAS

Thanks to all staff and families for continued support of the **QIAS PROCESS**. The Centre's Self Study Report paperwork is required to be submitted on **16 October**.

A **QIAS Parent Committee Meeting** will be scheduled to take place in the coming weeks. **Please stay tuned for more details.**

## Traffic

A meeting was held on *Friday 24 July* with Abbotsford Convent precinct stakeholders and the *City of Yarra* regarding traffic management in the *Clarke Street and St Hellier Street* areas.

Planning to date indicates the possibility of the laneway, *located on the ELC northern boundary*, as being earmarked for a road to move traffic from the *Convent Car Park* out onto Clarke Street.

The ELC has spoken strongly *against* such a proposal. We seek the support of families in an attempt to *prevent* such an outcome being considered the 'appropriate solution' to the area's traffic problems.

## Congratulations

**Congratulations** to Liza (Eucalypt Room Teacher) and Katrina (Banksia Room Teacher) on recent announcements of intentions to *marry*. All ELC staff, children and families join in wishing you and your partners, much **love**, **happiness** and **success** in the years ahead.

### Open Day

Many **thanks** to all our wonderful staff for their efforts on **Open Day** - Sunday 16 August. The ELC was open between 11am - 1pm and welcomed *visitors* who toured our programs, talked to staff, and admired our recent exhibition of children's treasure chests in our **Boorai - Children's Art Gallery**.

### Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange

*Marissa* - ELC Program Manager, recently represented the University of Melbourne at the *Landscapes of Rights - Rights for Living, Learning and building democracy for children, families and communities* conference in *Adelaide*.

Attending this conference was a richly rewarding opportunity for continued learning, inspiration and dialogue. The constantly evolving project in *Reggio Emilia* continues to be an inspiration, a challenge and a catalyst for thinking and advocacy in educational settings.

Attending the conference in *Adelaide* was a unique opportunity to *rekindle* and deepen existing relationships, and to create new ones. The conference provided opportunities to become immersed in ideas, and allowed for stories to unfold. We shared amazing diversity of experiences, knowledge and perspectives about our *Australian* contexts.

## Dates for the Diary

Saturday 29 August

### **AGEC Workshop**

at the Early Learning Centre

**Junk Art** with Dominic

10am - 12pm

Friday 11 September

### **Visitors from NZ**

Provocations Group

10am - 12pm

### Science Week

Saturday 16 -  
Sunday 24  
August

### BOOK WEEK

Saturday 16 -  
Friday 22  
August

### Next **Working Bee**

**Saturday 12 September 2009**

**9.30am - 12pm**

Monday 14 September

### **Centre Assembly**

at the Early Learning Centre

9.30am - 10am

Thursday 17 September

### **Centre Assembly**

at the Early Learning Centre

9.30am - 10am

Friday 18 September

### **End of Term 3**

Friday 18 September

### **Children's Annual Art Exhibition**

Opening to be held at the  
Early Learning Centre

5.30pm - 7.00pm

Mon 21 Sept - 2 Oct

### **Holiday Program**

at the Early Learning Centre

### National Literacy & Numeracy Week

Monday 1 -

Sunday 7 Sept

### National Asthma Week

Monday 1 -

Sunday 7

Sept

### Ed Psych Students

The ELC will welcome twelve **University of Melbourne M-Ed Psych students** for a two week period in September, who will undertake two sets of observations in their second year subject - **476648 Differences**. Their task will be to observe a child in terms of what can be interpreted as **cognitive and temperament behaviours** and **interpret** these within particular theoretical frameworks.