Welcome to 2015! What an amazing start to the Early Learning Centre. I would like to thank our wonderful team of Educators that have worked so hard over the past four weeks to help your child settle in and create a safe, respectful and inviting environment for all children.

We are currently settling 103 children into the ELC. Transition into care is extremely important for children’s sense of security and belonging. Educator’s relationships with children is central to supporting their learning and development. All the educators are working with your children using many different strategies to build connections and relationships. They are also supporting children to build and maintain sensitive and responsive relationships with other children and adults.

Children need time to build connections and make friendships just like adults. The educators are supporting all children to make friends and provide an environment that allows opportunities for connections to build on. This does not take one day or one week, it is something that takes time, for some children months.

Our educators are working with the children to help them feel safe and secure, which frees them to explore, play and grow. They are offering opportunities for children to learn to interact with each other, respect others by being aware of space, personalities, sharing a laugh and supporting a child who is upset, supporting children to be appropriately assertive, show caring, build negotiation skills and resolve conflicts. They are also modelling friendships and supporting children, teaching children each other’s names, discussing interests and likes, setting up small and large group experiences, placing children at meal times to build connections and doing transitions in pairs.

Pressure to develop relationships or complete a certain task can build anxiety in some children. You can support your child by spending some time in the environment and helping your child connect. Parents are encouraged to talk to their child about their day, look at the photo boards and read the daily journal in your child’s room to keep updated with the experiences and learning for the day, discuss what you have seen, encourage them to use their recall skills and share experiences and activities that they have participated in. Allow time, it is important.

CCB Number
We have received our much awaited CCB number (4-ZNL075) from the Family Assistance Office. We are currently working through all accounts to register your accounts and link your CRN numbers. Accounts have been sent out and if no benefit is on your statement can you please email me your CRN number and your child’s CRN number and I will compare and work through each individual account. Thank you for your patience in this matter and in the delay of getting accounts set up.

Photo Day
Class photos are next Monday 9 February. Please dress your child in their Kindy shirt for photo day. Photos are to be prepaid. All children should have received an envelope with their name on it. Please contact the ELC if you have not been given one in your child’s bag. Envelopes need to be returned prior to photo day.

Uniforms
If your child has not received their complementary shirt please let the ELC know this week. We have ordered more of the larger hats which are due to arrive mid-February. Children may wear another hat until they arrive.

Official Opening
Opening ceremony for the ELC will take place on Monday 16 February 10am. Invitations are being emailed this week. Please RSVP by the 8 February.

Food
Please ensure that you supply your child with sufficient food to last throughout the day.

Morning Tea - piece of fruit to be shared
Lunch - sandwich or wrap, and at least 2 other items
Afternoon Tea - fruit, cheese and crackers, carrot/celery sticks, vegemite cruskits, sao’s etc

Bronwyn Waters
ELC Director
What a wonderful start to 2015, welcoming all of our children and families into the Junior Kindy Room. Our team of Miss Steph, Miss Alison, Miss Stacey and Miss Ali have been very excited to get to know all of you, working with your children and assisting them to grow and develop into confident and curious individuals.

Throughout the month we have been working on establishing close bonds with the children and getting to know them. We have noticed lots of friendships are starting to form along the way, which is creating a sense of belonging within the classroom. Establishing these types of relationships with each educator will provide the back bone to the children’s learning as they feel safe and supported.

We have been providing opportunities for the children to gain independence throughout the daily routine and ownership of their belongings. We have started by encouraging children to put their shoes in their bags, lunch boxes in the fridge, drink bottles in the basket and ensuring hat’s are worn outside and brought inside to be hung up. Long term, this will provide an understanding of responsibility and respect for their things and one another.

Our class has been focusing on learning about where we live and gaining knowledge about Australia. Each day we are finding out a little more about one another and the interests we all have. During the next few weeks we hope to explore all about families, discovering a range of cultures and traditions. We would like to invite our families to share any ideas, to come in and cook, sing or share an art experience with us. Please come and see us to organize a day and time.

We are all so excited to see what the year brings for Junior Kindy. We can’t wait to see all the new skills and knowledge the children will gain throughout the year developing a love of learning as we provide exciting new experiences daily.

Miss Steph, Miss Alison, Miss Stacey and Miss Ali

Please remember to bring a piece of fruit to share each day for morning tea.

Benefits:

- Promotes sharing
- Encourages turn taking and waiting
- Assists with fine motor skill when children use tongs to pick up fruit
- Full of vitamins and minerals
- Encourages children to try a variety of fruit
Hello Parents,
Firstly thank you so much for the last four weeks. Jana and I are having a ball, and it has been great to see how much progress the children are making in such a short time. Over the last few weeks we have been fostering and developing independence and perseverance by encouraging the children to help themselves as much as possible. We have set up a self-help table in the room next to the lockers. Please encourage your child to find their name tag and place it on the Velcro tab in their locker for the day. The afternoon tea basket is in the fridge and it would be helpful if the children choose an item of food and place it in there before they come outside. We have a communication book for parent to educator communication located on top of the lockers. If you have any short messages for Jana and I please write them down and we will address them. In Pre Prep 1 we have been working on building relationships and connections between the children through non-threatening games. One example is sitting in a circle, rolling the ball to each other, catching the ball and saying our name. This gives the children a chance to remember each other’s names which will help them in play situations. Children at this age are moving through the various stages of play. Parallel play is described as a child sitting next to another without engaging in conversation. Associative play is the next stage where children play together and engage in conversation about the play. We do not expect all of the children to be engaging in associative play straight away as it will take time for this process to happen. I hope every family has enjoyed the first month in our brand new centre. Let’s continue to make some amazing memories whilst fostering the development of your children.

Miss Jaime-Lee and Miss Jana

Things to remember:
1. Please ensure your child has sunscreen applied on arrival or apply prior to arriving.
2. Take some time to read notes in your child’s room.
3. Sign in and out everyday.
4. Phone the Centre if your child is absent and sign the sign in sheet on the next day to verify your child’s absence.
5. Place a piece of fruit in the basket each day in your child’s room.
6. Say goodbye to your child and reassure them that you will return.
7. Pack a set of spare clothes.

First family to attend ELC 5.1.15
What a great first 4 weeks we have had! Miss Mardi and Miss Jess have thoroughly enjoyed building relationships with your children. It has been a pleasure to meet you all. The first month’s theme is ‘Marvellous Me’. This involved learning about the children’s interests so we can create purposefully learning opportunities in the future. We also wanted to ensure the children felt safe and secure in the ELC. Discussing their interest and creating natural portraits that are on display ensures the children feel like they belong. We want to build up strong and confident children and the theme ‘Marvellous Me’ has allowed us to talk positive words about them, making them feel special. Last week, we brought in a present. I explained this is the most precious gift and that it was better than any toy in the world. Inside the present was a mirror and when they looked into the mirror, I explained that they are the most precious gift in the world. We discussed that everyone is special with different abilities and interests. God created each of them in His image.

Our goals for Pre Prep 2 is to create a learning environment that is relevant and engaging; challenging; safe and secure; in which capable and competent learners are developed. We ultimately believe relationships is the key to each child succeeding. That is relationships with the children and you - the carers. You know your children the best and we want to know your children. We are thrilled to have your children in our class!

Miss Mardi and Miss Jess

Prep interviews for 2016 have commenced and you will be contacted shortly if you have completed an application form. If you have not completed an application to attend the College in 2016 or later please contact the College Registrar Janette Jestrimski on 5568 5900 urgently. Any enquires relating the College, Janette will be happy to discuss with you.

Corina Sills - College Nurse

IMPORTANT REMINDER:
Please do not send any nut products or eggs (boiled eggs, egg sandwiches) to the College with your child. We ask that any products such as peanut butter, nut bars, etc. be left at home in the our best efforts to protect students with severe allergies to these products.

Corina Sills - College Nurse