How time is flying in the ELC this year. Once again it has been a very successful and busy month. Thank you to everyone who supported the Service with the Woolworths Earn and Learn program. We collected 10,358 points and were able to purchase 12 items with these points.

Book Fair was a great success with sales reaching above the target of $1700. The Centre also has $431 in reward points to spend on resources from Scholastic Australia. Thank you very much for this support and to Kerrie for running this event.

2016 will see a reduction in the number of children that we provide care for, due to changes being implemented by The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) that guides the implementation of the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care throughout Australia. From the beginning of the year, all Early Childhood Services in Australia will be following the new national guidelines around the number of staff who work in each room. For children aged 3-6 years the ratio changes from 1:12 to 1:11. This reduces the amount of children that we can have in care by two children a day across both rooms. This has impacted on the number of positions that were available to be filled by 20 spots. This year we were already running the new ratio's for 2-3 years of 1:5.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to talk to me. Due to these changes in ratios, 2016 will see a slight fee increase so we can continue to provide high quality care for your children. Junior Kindy will be $85.00 and Pre Prep $88.00 a day.

Immunisation Schedule
From 1 January 2016 it is the parents responsibility to ensure that your child's immunisation schedule is up to date. Any child whose immunisation schedule is not up to date is at risk of having all child care rebates and benefits cut off. We recommend that you review your child's immunisation record and discuss any concerns or queries with your doctor. We will require all families to provide a print out of your child's immunisation record, as we can no longer accept a photocopy of your child's health book.

More information can be found at: http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/news/proposed-changes-to-immunisation-requirements

We hope that you can join us in the CRC (Cecile Ryan Centre) 6.30pm-8:00pm on the following dates: 10 November and 1 December. RSVP online: http://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/qld-uchen/get-help/find-a-triple-p-session/

Last week a number of staff attended some professional development on PLAY by Marc Armitage. This professional development allowed us to reflect on the practices that we are implementing and the importance on how the environment is set up promotes opportunity for play. One of the main focus points was the use of materials known as loose parts, that is items that have been manufactured for a purpose but used for another purpose. I am encouraging families to look at the loose parts that you have available to your children at home, also reflect on when you were a child where your favourite place to play was. Look at the materials in this environment and do you offer your child a similar environment. We would love to hear about your favourite place and how you can help to recreate this space for your child.

Please have a look around your home or workplace for loose parts and feel free to bring some in: eg: wheels, cotton reels, corks, old tools eg: spanners to allow children to extend play opportunities. I know that we will be observing your children's play and continuing to provide play cues to extend your children's learning and exploration.

We hope that you have had a chance to look at the new rock zone in the playground. This area has been providing opportunity for lots of social interaction, role play, exploration and fine and gross motor skill development for your children.

Parents, stay positive!

Triple P Parenting Program
The ELC are proud to be hosting three workshops for families. Raising a family is challenging and rewarding. These workshops are being provided by the QLD Government for free to families.

“The Triple P Positive Parenting Program is one of the most effective evidence-based parenting programs in the world, backed up by more than 30 years of ongoing research. Triple P gives parents simple and practical strategies to help them confidently manage their children’s behaviour, prevent problems developing and build strong, healthy relationships. Triple P is currently used in 25 countries and has been shown to work across cultures, socio-economic groups and in many different kinds of family structures.”

We hope that you can join us in the CRC (Cecile Ryan Centre) 6.30pm-8:00pm on the following dates: 10 November and 1 December. RSVP online: http://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/qld-uchen/get-help/find-a-triple-p-session/
It is a fabulous zone where children can be children. Thank you to the support of the College Grounds Staff in this construction.

**Upcoming Events**

- **Monday 9 November**
  Henny Penny Hatching Program – week commencing 9 November for two weeks.

- **Tuesday 10 November**
  Parenting Program Session 2: Raising Confident, Competent Children

- **Tuesday 1 December**
  Parenting Program Session 3: Raising Resilient Children

- **Friday 4 December**
  Christmas Concert 3.30pm
  Multi Purpose Hall

We have been operating for almost a year and there are staff that have Annual Leave days booked. For planned leave you will find a sign on your child’s door with the staff member who will be away, dates and relief person so you can discuss with your child. We do aim to provide consistent and regular relief staff for consistency of care.

Recently I have been attending some PD and have a few days also coming up that I will be away from the Service. In my absence please speak to Stephanie or Mardi and they will be able to assist you. Any further concerns can be addressed to our Children Services manager Anne-Marie or Darrin Schumacher, Head of Junior School.

We would like to wish Kim all the best for her upcoming wedding in November. She will be away for three weeks at the start of November. Kim works Thursday, Friday and relief on the other days.

Thursday 20 October was Community Helpers day in the ELC. The children and staff came dressed as a member of the community who helps others. Lots of discussions were held on the importance of service to others and the role that people play. We had nursing staff, doctors, vet’s, teachers, fire fighters and paramedics, lots of great outfits and positive PLAY with these key figures helping others. We raised $66.80 for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

Bronwyn Waters
ELC Director

**Hello Families,**

QLECS would like to invite the families with children beginning school in 2016 the opportunity to enrol into the St Andrews Lutheran College Outside School Hours Care program. The OSHC is open every afternoon during the school term from 3.00-6.00pm. For all Prep children we offer a pick up service from your child’s classroom each afternoon. This provides peace of mind to families with little ones and helps them to get into a routine so by the time they reach Year 1 they know how the process works.

We offer afternoon tea each day after roll call (during afterschool care and vacation care) which includes a selection of fruit and veggies plus a light snack. Like the College and Early Learning Centre we are an allergy friendly service.

Children enrolled in Prep in 2016 may start at OSHC during the January school holidays if required. In order to begin this process please contact the OSHC Service Leader, Lucya Pierce on 5522 5762 or 0407 597 843. On contact Lucya will email you an enrolment form which needs to be completed and emailed back. All new children wishing to start in January, would benefit from spending some time at the OSHC before their first day to help them settle in easier. Please contact Lucya to arrange a time to do this.

Costs are below:
- Enrolment fee = $27.50 (annually)
- After School Care (permanent) = $20.50
- After School Care (casual) = $24.75
- Vacation Care (permanent) = $49.00
- Vacation Care (casual) = $57.00

Lucya Pierce
OSHC Service Leader

Bronwyn Waters
ELC Director
Hello to our Families,

The warmer weather has certainly arrived, and we have really loved making the most of our outdoor space. The children have engaged in lots of various types of water play, including the creek bed.

This has promoted an interest in pretend play as the children moved all the sea animals around in the water, filling up buckets and connecting pipes and creating water slides. The water trough has been set up with coloured water and the children have loved splashing around and experimenting with measuring cups, tubes and spoons exposing the group to new math concepts.

We have been learning all about eggs and who lays eggs. This interest was supported as one of the children’s peers had brought in an egg shell, fallen from a nest. Through the learning we were also lucky enough to get our hands on a real nest too. The children became inquisitive and continued to ask questions. We used technology to share with the children about what animals hatch from eggs, and we went on to share books to discover more desired information. The children created nests by using a range of natural materials including sticks, feathers, leaves and bark. We had fluffy material and clay for the children to drive their imagination and creativity. This type of experience has really taken off, allowing the children to create their own direction in play. Playdough, and branches were arranged with plastic eggs to recreate the scenario. With such excitement occurring within our Junior Kindy we have arranged a special addition to our classroom.

The children will be participating in a chicken hatching program starting 9 November. This will really provide support for the children to gain facts, explore the life cycle of a chicken and learn about respecting and caring for animals.

With the interest throughout the month exploring natural materials and constructing, we have given the children opportunities to choose from a range of recycled boxes, and containers. They selected the tools needed including, sticky tape, scissors, string and wool. Lots of problem solving was developed and the children worked together to assist one another, gaining skills to be independent and make decisions.

The children have certainly improved their self-help skills and have started helping one another. If you could please send your child in shoes, that they can practice putting on and taking off to help develop these skills further.

Cooking: Thank you to Silva for sharing your delicious coconut scone recipe with us. We all enjoyed cooking together. Families if you have any recipes we would love you to share them with us. Please do not send in recipes that include eggs and nuts as we are an allergy friendly centre.

Miss Stephanie, Miss Alison, Miss Stacey and Miss Ali
Dear Families,

The educators are very impressed with the curiosity and wonder the children have shown this month. This has been evident in their questions about the scientific concepts in the water cycle. To extend on this interest the children learnt many songs about the water cycle and carried out a variety of experiments to explore evaporation, condensation and precipitation. This learning journey has allowed the children to develop their investigation skills further.

The last few weeks have also seen the children very interested in dramatic and imaginative play within the fish and chip shop in the home corner area. Pre Prep 1 showed great independence and perseverance with this learning environment through organising the resources for their play themselves. The children were able to write the words for their own menu and draw the numbers for their money independently allowing them to explore literacy and numeracy throughout their play.

The educators within the Pre Prep 1 room have noticed that a few families have begun to sign their child out at the beginning of the day. Please only sign your child out on collection. The rolls are in use during fire drills and emergencies and they need to be correct for the emergency procedures to take place effectively.

Please ensure that when you arrive and collect your child each day, you inform a staff member of their arrival or departure so we can ensure the proper supervision of children in the environment. This also ensures that only nominated people are collecting your child.

Miss Jaime-lee, Miss Jana and Miss Sarah

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Japanese News

This term we are learning about all things TRANSPORT in Japan.

Our new words are:
- Let's go - Ikimashoo
- Car - Kuruma
- Bus - Basu
- Plane - Hikooki
- Bike - Jitensha
- Train - Densha
- Bullet Train - Shinkansen

Sharon Taki
ELC Japanese Teacher/Junior School Japanese Coordinator
Hello Families!
We have finally moved away from cities and we are now looking at farms. Earlier this month, Olivia visited a farm and brought in photos of her experience. Olivia’s farm visit opened up much discussion and interest for farms. We discovered lots of our friends have visited a farm too. Together as a group we brainstormed what we already know about farms to ensure that our future planning will challenge and extend the children in this area.

Chloe had noted that Pre Prep 2 already has a farm. We have a worm farm. From this conversation the children have been engrossed in worms. We have learnt the benefits of a worm farm as it helps our gardens grow. We are currently doing a science experiment to see if this is true. We have planted grass seeds in two strawberry containers. One we pour diluted worm juice and the other with just water.

Through learning about worms we have provided the children with many opportunities to learn. We have incorporated a mathematical activity by sorting the worms from the worm farm according to their attributes. This also involved counting the worms. The children have received literacy opportunities through worm readers and a poem about a worm. We have been encouraging some of the children to start sounding out letters in words. The poem also sparked interest in rhyming words. There have been many transitions to washing hands with the children telling us rhyming words. Furthermore, we have included many art and fine motor activities. The children have made clay worms, the giant Gippsland earthworm made from stockings and rubber bands and drawn a detail image of the earthworm.

We have also examined other types of farms such as fish farms and chicken farms. We are learning that our produce comes from farms. After learning about different farms, the children have incorporated these understandings in the play. For example, in their drawings, fish farms in the water trough, with play dough etc.

This month we have started our visits to the school oval. This will support the children’s transition to formal schooling next year. We have also noticed that our outdoor environment is not large enough for the children’s well-developed kicking skills. We would like to provide children with proper soccer or footballs. Please if you have any balls, bring them on the days we will be visiting the oval with the child’s name labelled on them.

Just a reminder to continue bringing in the shared fruit for morning tea. Summer is approaching and we have noticed the children are eating more fruit. Please also ensure there is a spare set of summer clothes in the children’s bags. The hot weather means more water play and as an effect, wet clothes!

Thank you families and Pre Prep 2 for a great month. We look forward to seeing what November brings us.

Miss Jess, Miss Mardi and Miss Shelley