

# “The Elder Street Herald”

## March & April 07 Edition

In this edition we will be talking about:

**\*PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS - CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT PLAN \*PARENT POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE - SOCIAL JUSTICE POLICY \*BIG BROTHERS AND SISTERS VISITING AT THE CENTRE \*SLEEP BAGS \*CRAZY WEEK IN REVIEW \*STORAGE OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS WITHIN THE HOME \*SCHOOL PREPARATION PROGRAM INFORMATION \*IGA NEW LAMBTON REWARDS PROGRAM \*ELDER STREET WEBSITE \*RECIPE FROM CATHERINE'S KITCHEN**

### **WELCOME TO ELDER STREET**

We would like to offer a warm welcome to our newest family, the Wildschut's. Olivia joined the Possum's last week and is charming all she meets. We hope that Leigh and Andrew are feeling like part of the family.

### **PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**

Thanks to our parents who took the time to complete and return the above mentioned questionnaire. It is difficult to express just how important your feedback is and how much it inspires us to keep doing our best. There is no time limit on when the questionnaire needs to be returned, but the sooner is always the better. The following comments are the areas which have been highlighted as areas for attention by parent's of the centre.

#### **FEEDBACK 1**

More end of the day feedback eg, "I would love to know more about their day..."

#### **SOLUTION 1**

The staff have discussed this issue many times and feel that this is very important for parents to have this information, but find it very difficult at times to implement. As you can imagine with so many children to observe all day, it is not always possible for staff to recall more than a basic review of their day. To combat this, staff write a summary of the day's events which is then displayed on the Information Board found in each room (the babies is kept on the nappy change bench). During a brainstorming session at our latest staff meeting the staff came up with some new ideas of how we could build on our partnerships with parents and also meet their needs at the same time.

- We would like to ask for help with this issue by requesting that parents read the information charts and program for the day and then come to staff with specific questions about the activities or events. This way staff can think back to the specific event and find it much easier to share with parents how their child interacted within the experience.
- The Preschool Wallabies will be creating a quarterly newsletter about what they have been focusing on in their program. We think this would be useful for the parents who do not get a chance to read the daily information.

#### **FEEDBACK 2**

More feedback on programming and reaching of milestones.

#### **SOLUTION 2**

We will continue to hand out programming information during and at the end of each round and encourage parents to make appointments as suggested to discuss if needed.

### FEEDBACK 3

More natural environment in the playground with living trees and veggie gardens as suggestions by parents.

### SOLUTION 3

This was very exciting feedback to receive as we have plans to begin work on the back playground by the end of May. We have ordered some new poles & shade sails (as the existing ones do not provide adequate shade) and we are planning to have the back section of the rubber soft fall (approx. 3 metres from back fence) replaced with grass and two trees. We as a team feel strongly about the importance of children in care being able to enjoy having living plants and surfaces other than synthetic ones available to them. We are also working towards planting our veggie garden in the retained garden beds near our storage shed. We have secured two large boards above the area so we can display the children's pictures, photos and learning documentation about the progress of our garden.

### FEEDBACK 4

To see more focus on the use of the emergent curriculum within the program. This translates to the program reflecting the use of the children's incidental interests and building on these interests with teaching strategies and follow on experiences.

### SOLUTION 4

To provide more evidence of our use of the emergent curriculum we will be preparing documentations of some of the experiences that are initiated through the children's interests and questions. This will include photographs of experiences with background information to support. A few of our staff have enrolled with training services on this topic and will be attending this training in the coming months.

Thanks once again for your thoughtful input and also for the wonderful comments that our parents offer to us in support of the job we do. We feel our partnerships are growing stronger all the time and sincerely appreciate hearing that you do also.

### CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT PLAN

From your questionnaires and also the feedback from NCAC, this information can now be transferred into our Continuing Improvement Plan. Again we will be asking for your input on this plan. The plan will be displayed on the notice board in the foyer. If you wish to add an area for improvement at any time, please complete a suggestion form and place in fee/suggestion box, it will then be added to our plan.

### PARENT POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

This month our Policy Review committee will be looking at our Social Justice Policy. This policy was reviewed by staff at our last staff meeting and as per our process will now be sent out to the committee and a copy will also be posted on the notice board in the foyer for any other parents who may wish to make comment or suggestion.

**BIG BROTHERS AND SISTERS VISITING THE CENTRE** - A friendly reminder to all our parents and particularly big brothers and sisters who come to the centre to pick up their little siblings. **Please make sure to wash your hands before you begin to play with the toys.** The other important rule is to make sure you **do not open any of the gates throughout the centre.** Both of these rules are very important and in place to help protect and care for the wellbeing of our precious little ones of Elder Street. We thank parents for their support with these rules.

**SLEEP BAGS** - Staff have requested that parents ensure all bedding materials including bed bags themselves are labeled. We recently had a short term mix up in the Joey's room with some sheets. We are really at a loss as to who belongs to what if sheets happen to be packed away in the wrong bag. The simple step of grabbing a marker and writing your family name on the sheets etc is extremely helpful to us and can help solve any little mix ups very quickly.

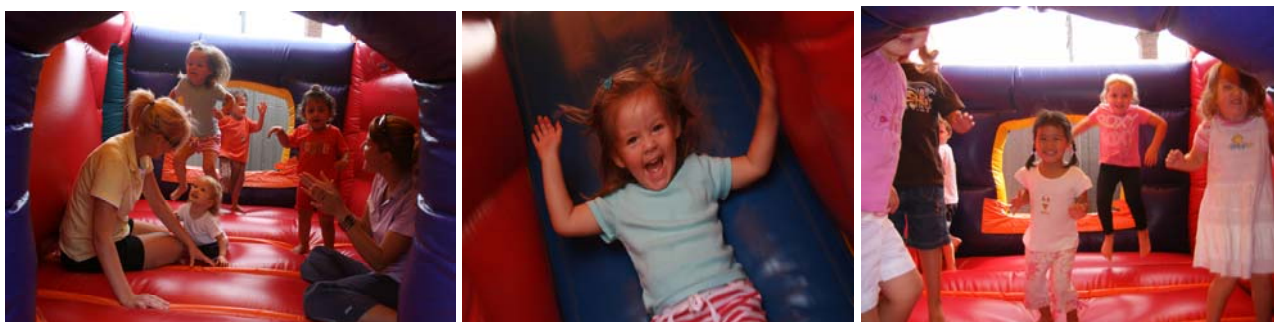
**CRAZY WEEK IN REVIEW**

Totally fun! You should have had some very tired yet well entertained little cherubs after this week. From hair and face painting on Monday, jumping all day Tuesday, laughing our heads off at Bob and his funny reptiles on Wednesday and then chilling out on Thursday movie day - what a great week. Keep a look out around the centre for the photos - here are a few from each day...

**MONDAY'S CHILD IS VERY COLOURFUL!!**



**TUESDAY'S CHILD IS VERY BOUNCY!!**



**WEDNESDAY'S CHILD (and Sophie's mum..) IS VERY BRAVE!**



**THURSDAY'S CHILD IS VERY RELAXED....**



**HOPE YOU ALL HAD A HAPPY EASTER xxx00000**

## SCHOOL PREPARATION PROGRAM INFORMATION 2007

Around this time each year, we send out letters to parents at the centre whose children are eligible to attend school the following year. This information lets our preschool team know what children will participate in our School Preparation Program later in the year. The decision to send your child to school is a very important one. If children turn 4 before June 2007 they are eligible to enroll in school. However age is not necessarily the only factor that needs to be considered when making this decision. Parents should also be aware that children at this age can mature considerably towards the end of the year, so a child that does not seem "ready" for school in April, may be well and truly ready by December later that year. If parents are unsure in making this decision we encourage you to speak to the preschool staff and also consider contacting the school your child would be likely to attend and ask their professional opinion. In the meantime, we will soon be sending out our request letter to parents as mentioned above. Also, don't forget that our first Parent Information for 2007 will be held on 30 May with the author of "Your child can fly - skills for school" guest speaking on this exact topic. I know I will be there listening attentively as a parent!



### TIPS FOR STORAGE OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS IN THE HOME

- Store medicines and chemicals out of sight and reach of children at least 1.5 metres off the ground and in a locked child resistant container
- Use medicines and chemicals safely. Follow given instructions and return them to safe storage immediately after use
- Buy products in child resistant containers and use child resistant locks on cupboards or cabinets that store poisons. You can buy these at hardware stores
- Ensure all products are stored in original containers and are clearly labelled
- Regularly dispose of unwanted and out of date medicines by taking them to your nearest pharmacy
- **IN AN EMERGENCY** - If your child swallows a poison do not try to make them vomit. Pick up the poison's container, the child and take it with you to the phone. Ring the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 and keep this number by your phone.

### IGA NEW LAMBTON - REWARDS PROGRAM

We have recently registered with the above supermarket after a few parents have suggested that it may be a worthwhile exercise. Each purchase made at this store by family or friends of the centre will earn us reward points that can be claimed as dollars. We would be using any cash incentives gained to give back to the children by means of equipment, books etc. I am told that you just mention Elder Street Early Childhood Centre when you make a purchase and the reward points will be sent our way. Let's see how we go - thanks!



[www.elderstreetechc.com](http://www.elderstreetechc.com)

Our very clever Kim has created a website for the centre. Parents will be familiar with our Centre Handbook and CD that you received on enrolment or at our Parent Information evening last year in April. This information has been used to create our website, the address of which is listed above. Check it out, there are some really cute photos and lots of information on policies and other centre stuff! Huge thanks to Kim for her time and dedication - she is one of the most generous people on the planet!

# Recipes from Catherine's Kitchens

**Zucchini Slice** Feeds family 4-6

Preparation time 30 minutes - Cooking time 30-40minutes - suitable for freezing

## Ingredients

2 medium zucchini, scrubbed

1 onion chopped

150g (3 slices) lean ham

1 cup grated cheese

1 cup self raising flour

6 beaten eggs

## Method

1. Grate unpeeled zucchini coarsely
2. Add chopped onion, ham, cheese, flour and eggs.
3. Pour into greased baking dish
4. Bake in a moderate (180 deg) oven for 30-40 min

Hope you enjoyed this month's news, sorry it is a little later than usual (really wanted to include the whole week's worth of crazy week photos for you!).

Thanks

Team Elder Street

## **PS:**

**REMEMBER -** PUT A JUMPER IN YOUR CHILD'S BAG FROM NOW ON....  
SUNSCREEN IS STILL IMPORTANT TO PUT ON EACH MORNING...  
INCLUDE A SMALL BLANKET IN YOUR CHILD'S SLEEP BAG AND 2 FLAT SHEETS...  
INCLUDE SOME SOCKS AND SHOES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER...  
LABEL EVERYTHING!!!!