



## The Elder Street Herald

# Port Folio Week

In our last couple of newsletters we have mentioned our planned port folio evening for some time this year. We had been aiming to have this around mid year. After some discussions and thinking about the cold night time weather and how busy everyone's lives are, we have come up with another idea for this event.

We thought it would be more practical if we had a Port folio Week. The week would consist of having the children's port folio's available to parents in their child's room from Monday to Friday between 3pm and 5pm. Staff would of course be around the centre during this time for any discussion or explanation of the port folios. Staff are happy to chat with parents but ask that parent's be aware that staff will still be responsi-

ble for the children in their care and may need to cut chats short if necessary. If parents wish to discuss their child's port-folio/development at length, please do not hesitate to book in a time for this with the team leader.

We feel this will also provide a wonderful opportunity for the children to sit and spend a little bit of time with their parent/grandparent etc sharing their interests, skills and friendships via their wonderful folio of work.

The portfolios are works in progress and are being added to each week. Please be aware that the work involved is quite intensive and that not all folders are always up to date. Please don't be concerned as the photos and templates are being worked on constantly (girls all have new laptops) and

periodically added in hard copy to their folders.

So please note down on your kitchen calendar, diary, mobile phone or whatever memory method for important things you use, that:

### Elder Street Port

### Folio Week

runs from

**Mon 1/9/08**

to

**Fri 5/9/08**

from

**3pm-5pm daily**

*Come and spend 10 mins with your child chatting about their lives via their special port folios.*



Not just a bunch of sticks—a tree made by the Joeys



Beautiful beach shell mobile. Collected and created by the staff

## Elder Street "au la naturale"

At Elder Street we are making efforts to engage the children in the natural environment as much as possible. We are choosing wood over plastic wherever practical and letting natural resources influence their learning environment. We send our thanks to the Comber boys Sol and Abe and mum Maree for bringing

in some lovely natural resources. We would like to encourage all our families to take a nature walk together and see what you can collect to bring in and share with each other. Shells are always great, beautiful rocks, unusual leaves, whatever you see that is of interest to them will always be of interest to us.

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### Special points of interest:

- We have a new template attached to the newsletter for families to add to their child's folder. Have a look, it is called "My Bedtime Routine"
- Centre shut down on Monday 4th August, 2008. Notice posted on front door explaining Bank Holiday for staff under their award in lieu of Newcastle Show day. No fees charged for this day.

### Staffing Update

Quick update with staffing at Elder Street.

Georgia who last worked in the babies room and has been on maternity leave since July last year is due to begin back at the centre part time Thursday the 31st of July. We are all excited about her return. Sadly, this means that we no longer will need Donna to work for us on Thursday and Friday in the Wallabies.

We had a lovely last week with Donna and hopefully will have her back to work for us if Kim or Georgia go on holidays or have any more babies!!

The preschool teaching staff of the Wallabies room will be Kim on Mon—Wed and Georgia for the Thursday and Friday. Shelly and Mel will continue to work their usual days in the room.

### Holidays

We have a few more holiday breaks for staff coming up also:

- April will be away for a week from 4-8 August.
- Kate will be away for 2 weeks from 18-29 August.

Mel will be covering these periods.



**We bid farewell to Donna for the moment, but will see her around**

### Feeling Philosophical?

We have had one lovely, supportive message on our Centre Philosophy board from our families, thank you very much to the Cummins family. As an idea, if you are a little strapped for something to write, maybe consider something about your own family values that you feel are promoted and nurtured in your child whilst at Elder street.

It could be as simple as you appreciating the fact that the staff show value and respect to the children while they are talking or communicating, or that, the children have the opportunity to choose what they do for the day, both promoting self esteem. Parents may want to write something down about the child portfolios. We have had some lovely verbal feedback that could transcribe beautifully in support of our Centre Philosophy.

Keep thinking, and don't be shy.....

## REMINDERS for everyone to help with..

### LABELLING CLOTHES

Firstly, congratulations to those parents who do this job extremely well—to all you others, all we can say is AAAAHHHHHHH!!!!!!!

### NEW POLICY

We handed out a new policy called Prevention of Food Allergy Exposure a little while ago which requests that no food be brought into the centre. Thank you for your understanding regarding this very important issue.

### JUMPERS & COATS

We know that some of our little friends like to argue about wearing an extra jumper or coat, but we would like to ask that parents ensure there is one nice warm thick jumper/jacket/coat at

least in your child's bag. The children have no issues putting them on throughout the day, it is amazing what they will do in a group!

### DRINK BOTTLES

Just water to drink in them and remembering to bring one and take home each day is excellent.

### SLEEP TIME COMFORTERS

Just to clarify that for sleep time we would like children to only bring small soft toys, eg, teddies, animals etc. Things to leave at home for play time are large dolls and accessories, barbies, cars and all other toys.

### PARKING IN ELDER STREET

Please remember to be considerate of the residents of Elder street when parking to collect

children. We need to ensure that enough distance is given either side of their driveways for them to easily come in or out of their driveway.

### "ALL ABOUT ME" SHEETS

We have some lovely ones come back, but sadly quite a few children still don't have this special sheet in their portfolio. If you need another one, just ask. If you are unsure what we mean, just ask and we will fill you in.

### MOST IMPORTANT!!

Please ensure that big brother and sister siblings who attend the centre at drop off and pick up time wash their hands before touching toys. All our hand washing and efforts to stop the spread of infection will be in vain if we don't all follow through!!

THANKS!!!!!!

## Changes to Child Care Benefit (CCB)

With the new financial year brings more changes to the structure of assistance with child care costs. The first change is the increase in the rebatable hourly fee. This has increased in parents' favour from \$3.37 ph to \$3.47 ph as of 7 July 2008. The other significant change (subject to the passage of legislation) is the changes to Child Care Benefit (CCB). All families should have received an assessment notice from the Family Assistance Office which explains that:

1. Families with 1 child in care earning over \$126,000 will no longer receive CCB
2. Families with 2 children in care earning over \$131,000 will no longer receive CCB
3. Families with 3 children in care earning over \$148,000

will no longer receive CCB.

The FAO has advised us to encourage families to continue to test their eligibility for CCB, even if they have incomes over the cut off points mentioned, as it is through this process that they can receive Child Care Tax Rebate.

Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) has increased from 30% to 50% and will now be paid quarterly. It is not income tested. This payment is made via the FAO and all information they require is linked to us, which should alleviate the need for statements and receipts.

Please be assured that Elder Street's fees have not increased. Many centres increased their fees as at 1 July, but we did not. Our rate as at Jan 2008 remains at \$71.00 per for 0-2 and \$66.00 per

for 3-5.

Our centre account records are now up to date with the FAO's records and all families accounts should be correct. If you believe you should be entitled to CCB and are not, please contact the FAO on 136150 to update your income estimate.

If you would like a statement or further explanation of fees from our end, please don't hesitate to come and speak with me.

Although we cannot calculate CCB any longer we have been sent a new 08-09 Ready Reckoner, a copy of which is posted on the notice board in the foyer. Further explanation of this information can be found at [www.oeccecc.gov.au](http://www.oeccecc.gov.au).

### GOOD FOR KIDS, GOOD FOR LIFE

*Nutrition Bite.....snacks high in fat, sugar & salt*

Have you ever wondered just how much energy your child may be using up doing physical activity? This table shows how much food energy (calories) is contained in some common snack foods and the required time of certain activities it takes for an average size 9 year old child to burn the food energy off

Snack	Energy (calories)	Activity	Time
10 potato chips 26g	140	Bicycling	45 minutes
1 can of soft drink	189	Disco dancing	60 minutes
Small red apple	72	Walking briskly	30 minutes
1 Kit Kat	152	Handball	30 minutes
Yoghurt muesli bar	1405	Soccer	45 minutes
Doughnut	280	Skipping rope	60 minutes
3 choc chip cookies	140	Swimming	30 minutes
3 slices watermelon	72	Watching TV	2.5 hours

**DID YOU KNOW**— exposing children to a range of foods early in life can have a major impact on their food preferences as adults. Studies show that if children are exposed to a food 3 times before the age of 3, they are 3 times more likely to enjoy it as an adult, even if they don't like it when they are young....

## Elder Street Early Childhood Centre

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Building Partnerships  
with Families

We're on the web  
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### A QUICK WORD ON THE "N" WORD

Ask any early childhood professional what the "N" word is and they will tell you straight away – "gasp!...naughty". During any level of early childhood studies, this word is one of the words we are taught to wipe from our vocabulary, and for good reason. It may seem harmless enough (and let's be realistic, there are many worse words!) but the reason behind our passionate reactions and concern when children or parents use it is linked to a very important cause, that of the child's SELF ESTEEM. When managing or supporting positive behaviour guidance we follow the practice of addressing the action or behaviour. Our aim is to avoid labeling the children and rather focus on how others may feel, what other choices they could make and sometimes simple re-direction.

Have a think about the words you use at home when your cherubs are testing the boundaries, if you are an "N" word user, or your child describes themselves in this way, you may want to consider changing the dialogue to something a little more self esteem friendly.

Try a calm but somewhat surprised "how sad!" or "Oh dear!" - they will probably think they are back at Elder Street!!

Talk to you later— Team Elder Street

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

### July

Taj turned 1  
Anthony turned 1  
Jake turned 2  
Elise turned 2  
Ryan turned 2  
Sophie turned 3  
Isabella turned 3  
Jesse turned 5  
Jorjia turned 5



Katelyn turns 4  
Danica turns 4  
Olivia turns 4  
Darcy turns 5



### New Arrivals - Congratulations!!

To Kiersten, Brendan and Oliver (Possums)-

A warm welcome to another beautiful boy, Gabriel. Well done!

Welcome to lovely Ayla Belle - She is Madelyn's (Wallabies) new baby sister. Well done to Rochelle & Lee she is just gorgeous!



Big sister Madelyn

Happy Birthday guys!!

### August

Oscar P turns 1  
Oscar B turns 2  
Kelsey turns 3  
Benjamin turns 3  
Austin turns 3

Big Brother Oliver - he is so good at giving cuddles!!

