



### The Elder Street Herald

## Elder Street Family Events...

### FAMILY BBQ @ BLACKBUTT

It was hot and a bit windy, but everyone seemed to have a great day. There was lots of space to run around with friends, ducks to feed, races, ball games and activities for everyone. The sausage sandwiches and salad weren't bad either.

For those who couldn't make it, have a look at the rest of the photos we have displayed in the

foyer.

### ELDER STREET XMAS PARTY

Please see the attached information flyer for the details of our lovely Christmas celebration and Preschool Graduation. We will follow the same format as previous years, but

instead of sausage sandwiches this year, we are going to have hot dogs. Of course Santa will be coming and lots of other fun activities. Don't forget to read the flyer and book in the date!



### Inside this issue:

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Family BBQ at Blackbutt         | 1 |
| Xmas Party School photos        | 1 |
| Staffing 2009                   | 2 |
| Centre Reminders                | 2 |
| Joey's Dinner                   | 3 |
| Drum Workshop                   | 4 |
| Hunter Inclusion Support Agency | 4 |

### Special points of interest:

- Good for Kids Good For Life have advised jam can be reintroduced to our menu as it is only used in small amounts — yeah!!!!
- Please be mindful of the amount of involvement staff are able to have regarding children's birthday parties. They report that it can be quite stressful when they are asked to chase birthday RSVP's from other families. A good idea for families might be for someone to start a phone tree amongst each other.

## School Photos— Mon 10 November 08

Shayne from Little Images will be back on the above date for photo day. Envelopes were put in family pockets last week (13/10) and need to be returned 1 week prior to photo day with payment. For those who do not attend

the centre on a Monday, it is best to arrive 1/2 hr before the group photo which is set for 10.45am. When the group photo is being taken, we ask that all parents wait inside the centre so the children can settle and have a

lovely smile for the photo. As always we request parents patience on this day, as it is always very busy. There are more sibling envelopes available on request and for any further questions about photo day, please ask Melissa or Kim.

Thank you

## *Joey's Dinner at Arriverderci's*

Our very sophisticated Toddler Joeyes, their families and the staff of the Joey's room, April, Kate and Tahlia enjoyed a fantastic evening together on Monday 13th of October when they all had dinner together at Arriverderci's at the Junction.

The children have been working very hard on their table manners all year and have been very successful in using their "restaurant manners" during meal times. To acknowledge this wonderful milestone and to also share with their families their wonderfully grown up manners, the Joey staff organised the very grown up restaurant experience.

The children and staff enjoyed a big plate of Spaghetti Bolognese and Garlic bread with a refreshing drink of water. The parents had some grown up meals from the menu too.

As the restaurant was very busy that night (we took up quite a bit of room!) the mum's and dad's ate their dinner after the children had finished and the staff and Joeyes went outside to a patch of grass to play some circle games.

We would like to make special mention of the wonderful job done by April, Kate and Tahlia. Congratulations for their dedication to the children and families of the Joeyes and for providing an experience that no doubt enriched the lives of all who attended. Well done girls!!!

## *Scenes from an Italian Restaurant. . . .*



## Drum Workshop with Tom the Pom—Wed 15 Oct 2008

We couldn't have picked a better day to have a performer come to the centre. It was such a rainy morning when Tom Harding came to visit us and let us make lots and lots of noise. We sang songs, learnt lots of different drum beats and names of drums, learnt some songs in sign language, played a listening game and laughed and laughed at Tom and his jokes. A great albeit noisy way to spend a rainy day inside.....



### Hunter Inclusion Support Agency

We have some wonderful support agency available to us in the Hunter and I wanted to briefly share with you some information about the Hunter Inclusion Support Agency that our centre, being an eligible child care service is able to access for children and families within our service.

All ISA's are managed by KU Children's Services and are Australia wide, it is funded by the Australian Government. Their 3 priority groups are children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including refugee children; children with ongoing support needs including children with disabilities; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Each agency has Inclusion Support Facilitators that work directly with child care services to support staff in a variety of ways, such as helping with inclusion readiness planning, facilitating skill development, linking services with other child care professionals, community groups and organizations.

From a children's services and child care professional's perspective, this type of resource is fundamental for us to be able to provide a holistic program for all children regardless of abilities or needs. If we feel that a child may need additional support we are able to contact them for advice. If we feel a child may need an assessment by another professional relating to child development we can give parents a permission form to sign which then allows a Inclusion Support Facilitator to come to the service to observe the child. The results of the time spent observing by the ISF can range from simply giving our staff some strategies and further information, to the ISF being able to suggest other disciplines of child development such as occupational therapists, speech therapists etc to make contact with the service and family.

We have many teaching strategies and techniques of assessment that we use when observing and programming for the children at the centre. At times we have further questions and need the support of other professionals to ensure we are providing the best outcomes for the children. As a parent it can be distressing to consider that your child may have additional needs, however with so much positive support and research on child development available to us, it would be a shame not to be certain that each little person has the best start possible in life. On page 5 of the newsletter I have included some information from one of the other agencies SCAN (Supporting Children with Additional Needs) available to us on Autism Spectrum Disorder. If parents have any questions relating to this information or other child development information please speak to staff.

## Staffing 2009

We have recently discussed with staff their professional goals encompassing which age groups they would like to work with in 2009. Some of our staff have been with the same age group for several years and are looking forward to new challenges that the different rooms offer.

### Nursery Possums:

Kate Mitchell: M,T,W,Th  
Karen Adamthwaite: M,T,Th,F  
Tahlia Christie: F  
Mel: W

### Toddler Joeys:

Sheree Downie: T,W,Th,F  
Shelly Whipper: M,W,Th,F  
Tahlia Christie: M,T

### Preschool Wallabies:

Kim Pomfrett: M,T,W  
April Brown: M,T,Th,F  
Georgia Baker: Th, F  
Tahlia Christie: W

I have said it before, but I think it can never be said enough how lucky we all are at Elder Street to have these wonderful women teaching, caring and loving every child each day. Elder Street will be entering it's 5th year in 2009 and I am so proud to have this team of dedicated, hard working professionals with me every day. Unlike some other children's services we have very low staff turnover and also a great esprit de corp within our workplace. This is not due to any-one person, but to the great teamwork and respect that the staff show each other through good times and bad.

Over the next couple of weeks the staff will be making sure they spend time with children from their new rooms and also chatting to any parents that they may be not so familiar with. Make sure you say hello and ask any questions you may have of your child's 2009 room staff, they will be more than happy to have talk with you.

Thanks - Melissa

## REMINDERS

### LABELLING CLOTHES

### JUST DO IT!!!!

(please.....)

### NO FOOD FROM HOME PLEASE!!!

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. We have quite a few children in attendance now with life threatening anaphylactic allergies to certain foods. Please understand the importance of this practice or be prepared that staff will not hesitate in asking for the food to be disposed off on arrival and children to wash their hands thoroughly. We do not

mean to offend, but have a very serious duty of care to all our centre community.

### DRINK BOTTLES

Please remember to give your child's drink bottle a good old soak in soapy water at least a couple of times a week. We have quite a few permanent resident drink bottles at the centre that don't quite make it home each night and therefore are really quite grotty. So, give them a wash, fill them up and bring them back in each day—thanks!

### SUNSCREEN

Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child each morn-

ing when you arrive at the centre. Even though it may not seem hot earlier on, by 10.30 when we are in the sunny playground it is definitely hot enough for skin to burn. The sunscreen is available in the Nursery change room, the Pre-school room and in the playground.

### PICK UP IS 5.50pm

On enrolment parents are advised and agree to by signing their child's enrolment form that they will arrive at the centre by 5.50pm each day.

Staff should be able to close the doors at 6.00pm and we feel that it is only fair that parents arrive 10 minutes prior to this. If for reasons beyond your control you are running late, just give us a call and we will be more than understanding.

## 2009 Enrolments

Confirmation of enrolments for 2009 were sent out a few weeks ago. The letter details which room your children will be in when we re-open on 5 January 2009. For those who have requested changes to enrolled days, I have tried my hardest to meet everyone's requests. Siblings on waiting lists for 2009 positions have also been notified and given enrolment packages. Please complete these forms and provide other requirements as soon as possible.

As the confirmation letter states, families have until the 31st of October to drop days that they have requested for 2009. After the 31st of October families will be responsible for those enrolled days come 5 January and will need to then give 2 weeks notice before reducing these

enrolled days. The aim of this procedure is to enable the centre to open in January at full capacity and be in a position to provide the best quality care we possibly can.

### FEES FOR 2009

Also detailed on the confirmation letter was the daily fee rate for 2009. Children aged 0-2 will be \$73.00 per day. Children when they turn 3 years and are not using nappies are \$68.00 per day. This applies from Monday 5 January 2009.

### MOVING ROOMS

Very shortly, families whose children that are changing rooms in 2009 will receive some information about that room to read. The information simply gives parents an idea of the developmental goals that the staff will

be working towards, the daily routines, what parents need to provide each day and any changes that may be applicable in the older age groups.

The children will be well prepared for the change and have already begun participating in some orientation time in their new rooms. The children and parents moving from the Joey's to the Wallaby room will probably notice the biggest changes as there are more children in the room, more responsibility and jobs for the children, but also lots, lots more activities and fun things to do!

If parents have any questions or concerns about their child changing rooms, please either speak to the staff from the room or myself.

## Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism is best described as a group of disorders with a similar pattern of behaviour in three key areas – communication, social interaction and imaginative thought. The currently favoured term is Autism Spectrum Disorder, with the word "spectrum" being used because no two people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder are exactly alike.

### What is Autism Spectrum Disorder

As the term suggests, there is no one diagnosis or label. Rather there are several labels that place people at different points on the spectrum.

### Causes of Autism Spectrum Disorder

There is no one cause for an ASD. The cause can be different in different people. Researchers are looking at several possible causes. These include a combination of genetic factors, viral infection, complications during pregnancy and chemical imbalances in the brain.

### Diagnosis

There is no specific diagnostic test for ASD. Diagnosis is made using a multi-disciplinary assessment. For children, this involves having a child tested by a number of professionals, who will provide information needed to make decisions about program and treatment approaches. The age of diagnosis varies from approximately 18 months through to adulthood, depending on circumstances. A diagnosis of ASD will only be made if the "autistic like" pattern of behaviour is apparent before the age of three years. Sometimes a provisional diagnosis is made if the child is very young, and a reassessment at a later date is recommended.

### Characteristics Checklist of ASD in children

Food problems – the child may be resistant to solid food or may not accept a variety of foods in their diet.

Unusual responses to other people – A child may show no desire to be cuddled, have strong preferences for familiar people and may appear to treat people as objects rather than a source of comfort.

The child may have marked repetitive movements, such as hand shaking or flapping, prolonged rocking or spinning.

There may be constant crying or a unusual absence of crying

There may be what is called a lack of eye contact

The children develop an obsessive interest in certain toys or objects whilst ignoring other things

The child may have extreme resistance to change in routines and/or their environment

The child may appear to avoid social situations, preferring to be alone

There is limited development of play activities, particularly in imaginative play

The child may have sleeping problems

There may be an absence of speech or unusual speech patterns such as repeating words and phrases

There are often difficulties with toilet training

The child has sensory sensitivities to certain sounds, colours, tastes, smells and textures. Certain noises or busy places ie, shopping centres, may be extremely distressing for the child.

'Autism – Perceptions and Reality' - The Autism Foundation 1998

**Elder Street Early Childhood Centre**

136 Elder Street  
Lambton NSW 2299

02 49539300  
02 49539782  
elderstreet@optusnet.com.au

**Building Partnerships with Families**

**We're on the web**  
[www.elderstreetechc.com](http://www.elderstreetechc.com)

**New Friends at Elder Street!**



Hi to Esther and mum and dad Angela and San...



Welcome to baby Millie & parents Peter & Joann....



Finally, Sam and parents Michelle & Matthew—WELCOME!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!**

**October**

- Tiernan turned 1
- Cameron turned 2
- Xavier turned 2



- Jaide turned 5
- Isaac turns 5
- Gerry turns 5

**November**

- Esther turns 1
- Olivia P turns 2
- Charlotte turns 4
- Billy turns 5
- Harriet turns 5



**Birthday boys  
Xavier & Cam!**

**Happy Birthday  
guys!!**

**New Arrivals - Congratulations!!**

A big welcome to baby Max !Congratulations to Megan & Robert on the arrival of a little brother for Oscar (Possums)

Congratulations to Georgie and Duane on the arrival of beautiful baby girl Maddison. Mitchell (Wallabies) is a very proud big brother indeed!

