

St Peter's ELC acknowledges Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the traditional custodians of lands, waterways and skies across Australia. We thank you for sharing and caring for the land we learn and play on. We pay our respects to elders and we share our friendship and kindness.

From the Head of ELC – Kathleen Brohier

The National Quality Framework (NQF) provides a national approach to regulation, assessment and quality improvement for early childhood education and care services across Australia. Research shows quality education and care early in life leads to better health, education and employment outcomes later in life. The early years are critical for establishing self-esteem, resilience, healthy growth and capacity to learn. Quality education and care shapes every child's future and lays the foundation for development and learning. The NQF is set up to support approved providers, service leaders and educators to assess the quality of their education and care service's practices, policies and procedures against the National Quality Standards (NQS).

The National Quality Standard (NQS) sets a high national benchmark for early childhood education and care services in Australia. The NQS includes 7 quality areas that are important outcomes for children. Services are assessed and rated (A&R) by their regulatory authority against the NQS, and given a rating for each of the 7 quality areas and an overall rating based on these results. These 7 areas are –

- Quality Area (QA) 1 – Educational Program and Practice
- QA 2 – Children's Health and Safety
- QA 3 – Physical environment
- QA 4 – Staffing arrangements
- QA 5 – Relationships with children
- QA 6 – Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- QA 7 – Governance and leadership.

With our return to Toorak Road, a new licence and service approval was required. This also meant that our rating from the NQF is now 'Provisional' before we are assessed and rated (A&R). Throughout this term our educators have focussed each week on the NQF – making note of what we are doing, and what we could improve on. This has created much discussion and critical reflection of our practice. As a part of our A&R visit, our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) is a main component, highlighting our strengths and areas in which we recognise as areas to improve.

This is being updated to reflect our current practice. I invite you to take a look at the 2020 document that is on Storypark, alongside our Policies and Parent Handbook (*keep in mind, this QIP document was written to reflect our location*).

This coming Wednesday, June 2, our focus will be on QA 6. If you would like to join our educators at 3.30pm via Zoom, as we discuss Collaborative partnerships with families and communities, please let us know. Your input would be greatly appreciated. If you are unable to make this time, but would still like to be involved, please take a look at the link <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/Guide-to-the-NQF-September-2020.pdf>, with the focus on pp252-281 to provide your thoughts, comments and suggestions. We look forward to working with you, as we aim to provide the highest quality care for your children.



Dates for your Diary ~

Please ensure you keep up to date with communications, as further events may be added throughout the term

Term 2

May

P&F-Friday 28th – Kinder Parents Coffee Morning, Hobba 9am – Postponed

June

Wednesday 2nd – SKC Buddies 5C – Kinder – *postponed (possibly cancelled tbc)*

Friday 4th – **ELC CLOSED** – Staff Professional Development Day

P&F-Saturday 12th – Kinder Family Day at Bounce 10-11am – Postponed

Monday 14th – **ELC CLOSED** – Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Friday 18th – End Term 2 (**no aftercare**)

P&F-Friday 9th July – Pre Prep Holiday catch up – tbc

TERM 3 - July

Monday 12th – Staff Return

Tuesday 13th – ELC Commence Term 3 – Children return

Tuesday 20th – SKC Buddies 5D – Pre Prep

Wednesday 28th – SKC Buddies 5E – Kinder

August

Tuesday 10th – 1.00 - 8.00pm Parent/Teacher Exchanges (ELC children finish at 12.00noon)

Friday 20th – 7.00pm Parent Auction Night – Sophie Gannon Gallery

Tuesday 24th – ELC Photos – Pre Prep

Wednesday 25th – ELC Photos – Kinder

Friday 27th – **ELC Closed** St Kevin's College Staff Reflection Day

September

Monday 6th – 8.30-9.30am Father's Day Morning

Wednesday 15th – 8.30-10.30am ELC Grandparents and Special Friends Morning, followed by Morning Tea

Friday 17th – End Term 3 (**no aftercare**)

Looking after our Health – Community Immunity

As advised by the Victorian Chief Health Officer, alongside health and safety advice for Early Childhood Education Services, in the context of coronavirus (COVID-19) – St Peter's ELC actively encourages staff and children to stay at home if unwell.

'Rest is Best!'

Physical Distancing and Transmission Reduction in Early Learning, in the Context of Coronavirus (COVID-19) – as outlined from the Department of Early Childhood Education

There are a range of actions that Early Childhood education and care services can take to reduce the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission. One way to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) is physical distancing, also called social distancing. The more space between people, the harder it is for the virus to spread.



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A partnership between St Peter's Parish and St Kevin's College, Toorak.

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This guidance recognises that the general advice for the Victorian public to maintain a physical distance of 1.5 metres from others will not always be practical in education settings, notably settings that work with younger children. In early childhood education and care services, regulatory space requirements have not changed.

It remains critically important that adults – both staff and parents - maintain physical distancing between themselves at early childhood services.

Key messages:

- Any student or staff member attending the ELC (or their family members), who have **knowingly had contact with a person being tested for or diagnosed with COVID-19, cannot, under any circumstances, be at the ELC**
- All staff and children who are unwell must remain at home.
- Hand hygiene, cough etiquette and environmental cleaning and disinfection are the most effective ways to reduce transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Parents/carers of children with complex medical needs should seek medical advice from the child's medical practitioner to support risk assessment and informed decision making regarding the suitability of continuing education and care at this time.
- Staff, children and parents/carers should have the influenza vaccination, wherever possible.
- *The greatest risk of transmission in the early childhood environment is between adults.*

P & F Committee

SAVE THE DATE! **Friday 20 August – Parent Auction Night**

We are excited to begin the planning and preparations for our forthcoming Auction Night. This is a wonderful evening for our parent community, as we come together to celebrate the children's work in both a friendraising and fundraising evening. *In recent years, we have also taken the children to Sophie's gallery so they can see their artwork on display.*



This event will include both silent and live auctions. The live auctions will be for artwork created by the ELC children. Our P&F Committee will be collecting silent auction items donated by our parent community. Funds raised from this annual event are donated to the Edmund Rice Foundation, to projects both locally and globally, as well as help towards the children's Artist in Residence Program. If you are able to donate something, we thank you in advance for your kind contribution and hope you too leave with something special on the night!

Silent auction donation suggestions:

Use of a family holiday house for a weekend
Wine/food hamper or restaurant voucher
Tickets – movies, concerts, events, sports
Experiences – golf lessons, cooking class
Children's toys/activities – sports, dance lesson, music class
Artwork/memorabilia



**COVID restrictions will be monitored through the coming months – fingers crossed all will go ahead as planned.*

Kinder

This term the Kinder children are becoming aware of how they can make positive changes to our environment. The children are learning that small changes form positive habits which can benefit not only our environment but our health.

Turning the lights off in the classroom and ensuring the taps are all switched off is part of our every day routine. The Environmental Warrior of the day ensures that they take care of doing our part for the environment. It has been wonderful to hear that these practices are also taking place within some of the children's homes and they are sharing their knowledge with their families. Every little bit helps when it comes to Climate Change, no matter how big or small you are, everyone can make a difference.



The children are just starting to see roots and grass sprouting from the grass heads that they planted. A sense of responsibility and connection to our environment is forming as the children have actively ensured that the grass heads get enough sunlight and water to grow.



As well as looking after our environment, the children are also thinking about ways that they can ensure they take good care of their bodies. As a continuation from Active April, we spoke about the importance of visiting a doctor if we are unwell or injured. We were very happy to have a visit from Dr Nick (Amelia's Dad) who answered some of the questions that the children had about how a broken arm can be fixed, he demonstrated the way in which a bandage can be applied by using one of our baby doll patients in the hospital.



Our knowledge on looking after our bodies was extended when Andre's Mum who is a dentist came and spoke to us about how we can best take care of our teeth. We spoke about food that is good for our teeth and food that should be avoided due to being high in sugar. The children now know that it is important to brush their teeth twice a day for 2 minutes.



We look forward to extending and consolidating our knowledge around health in the Kinder Room.

Chegosaurus has also loved visiting the homes of so many children, watching on as their confidence, vocabulary and social skills extend.

Pre Prep

Outdoor Play

In Pre Prep, we spend a significant amount of time outdoors, where the children have long periods of time to engage in uninterrupted play opportunities. Outdoor play plays a crucial role in the development of children's understanding of the world around them and it is this unstructured play which supports children to engage in rich complex learning. Some of the key benefits for children who spend significant periods of time engaged in outdoor play include:

Opportunities for risk taking: The ability for children to learn how to manage risk is extremely beneficial in our ever growing risk adverse society. Children need to learn how to develop the skills and knowledge to make good choices based on their own judgment.

Social and emotional skills: Children learn and develop a range of social and emotional skills as they engage in outdoor play. Research tells us that outdoor play has a positive effect on children's social behaviour as they learn to work together collaboratively, negotiate, follow rules and there are fewer conflicts. Children's emotional wellbeing is supported through outdoor play as it reduces stress and anxiety and builds confidence and self-esteem.

Language development: While engaged in outdoor play, children use more complex language and sentence structures as they constantly describe what they see, do and feel.

Cognitive Development: Outdoor play provides a range of challenges for children, which supports their cognitive development in terms of problem solving, reasoning, conceptual development, autonomous thinking, observational skills, concentration and memory skills. It also supports children's varied learning styles and children are intrinsically motivated to learn.

Environmental Awareness: Children who spend significant periods of time outdoors develop a deeper understanding of environmental and conservation issues, as it fosters respect and a caring attitude towards the environment.

As we get ever closer to winter, we will continue to provide the children with opportunities to engage in outdoor play. While messiness is undoubtedly a feature of outdoor play, the benefits are vast and for this reason, we encourage our Pre Prep families to provide appropriate clothing that children don't have to worry about getting dirty, rainy day clothing and something to change into if needed!



As St. Peters ELC educators, we continue to strive for the children to further their development of their passion and confidence to take on a lifelong learning journey. We support and encourage the children to take risks in their learning and are so fortunate to continue to observe evidence of this each day. We embrace The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework which emphasises that *“Children who are confident and involved learners have positive dispositions toward learning, experience challenge and success in their learning and are able to contribute positively and effectively to other children’s learning.”* It was so wonderful to hear, during Parent/ Teacher interviews, that this encouragement and guidance is also embedded in the children’s home environment.

In the Kinder Specialist Program, one of the children’s highlights has been their exploration of their knowledge of dinosaurs through creating artworks, and Music and Drama.

In the Pre Prep Specialist Program, the children have been eager to participate in a flower experiment. This intentional teaching experiment would further the children’s understanding of the life cycle of a flower. The children were eager to share their hypotheses of what would happen when adding dye to a vase of flowers at group time and after when completing a drawing of flowers, inspired by the flowers before them.

Gigi completed her painting and was enthusiastic to share her thoughts. *“Well, I have mixed yellow and blue paint together and I know that they make green.”* Gigi pointed to her painting excitedly, *“but these flowers were hit by a magical rainbow and the petals turned into lots and lots of rainbow colours.”* It was so wonderful that Gigi felt confidence that her unique idea would be celebrated at St. Peters. Early childhood is such a unique and special time indeed!

“Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution.” Albert Einstein.

