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### Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 3!

We have an exciting term ahead of us. The plans for the extension to the centre have been finalised, advertised for tender and now in the negotiation stage. There are quite a few steps in this negotiation phase to ensure that while the building is under construction a strong plan is in place to minimise interruption to the centre and also to the college. At this stage we are hoping that the construction should commence sometime late in July and is expected to take approximately 14 weeks to complete depending on weather. Our intentions have been to have this extension complete and ready for new children in January 2016 and it is now becoming a very close reality.

The new extension will add another classroom and a teacher planning/meeting room. The room structures will be a little different next year with the extra classroom taking children from 2 years of age. The rooms will be structured as; 2 to 3 years, 3 to 4 years and two Kindergarten rooms 3 to 5 years giving the centre an overall licenced capacity of approximately 90 children per day.

The centre recently went through the accreditation process of Assessment and Ratings under the National Quality Framework. This was a two day process done by an officer from the Office of Early Childhood Education and Care who rates the service against seven quality areas. The limited feedback we received at the completion of the second day was very positive so we are hoping that our rating will be a good one. We should receive the draft rating and report within the next couple of weeks.

Shortly you will receive a letter from us requesting your child's booking requirements for 2016. This will need to be returned by 31 July so that we can collate and allocate those places. Remaining places available will then allow us to invite children on our waiting list for a place for 2016. As per priority of access guidelines and legislative requirements places will be offered to all families current and on the waiting list in accordance with these requirements.

So Term 3 is a busy term for all of us. I will be on leave from 18 July through to 23 August and in my absence Tracey will step in as Acting Service Leader. Please contact Tracey during this period if you have any concerns.

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for 5pm Monday 13 July in the ELC foyer and as always, all are welcome to join us.

God Bless  
Annette

## Information for this term –

### Grandparents Day

This month we will be celebrating Grandparents Day in conjunction with the College. This has always been a wonderful day for the children to have their Grandparents visit, spending time showing them everything they do at Kindy. Parents and Grandparents are invited to spend time with the ELC children from 10.30am to 11.30am. We look forward to many Grandparents joining us on Thursday 23 July. Please be sure to RSVP via the instructions on your invitation.

### Fruehlingsfest

Every year the College holds their spring fair, this year it is being held on Saturday 8 August. It is a fabulous day full of fun and excitement for all children and their families. The ELC staff will again be volunteering their time to help out on the day. We will not be in charge of a stall this year but we are looking for families to assist the staff volunteering an hour of their time helping the College on other stalls. If you would like to put your name down on our list as a volunteer please see Karen in ELC Admin. The Fair commences at 10.00am and continues throughout the day until around 5pm. It is a great day!!

Each year we donate an item to the auction. This year we have decided to donate an Art & Craft basket full of crafty items for the family who purchases the item at auction. To achieve this we need your help. If each family could donate an art and craft item (new) along with the team from ELC I am sure that we can build a fun and creative item for auction. Items we are looking for could be for example; paints, coloured pencils, crayons, sequins, pom poms, paddle pop sticks, glue, feathers, paint brushes, glitter, felt pieces, beads, buttons, paper mache items, cork, wool, gem stones, natural craft, clay, coloured paper, stickers or stamping items. These are just a few suggestions of which I am sure you can find many more. Please bring them to our admin desk and we will add them to the basket.

### Class photos

Class Photos that were taken during Term 2 in conjunction with the College are due to be returned to families towards middle of Term 3. We will inform you of the delivery date once we have been advised.

### Incursions

Pirate Day – Thank you to all of our families for your thoughtful donations on Pirate day, we raised \$90 for childhood cancer.

On Friday **17 July** we will be holding a Teddy Bears picnic gold coin donation day in aid of the Leukaemia foundation. Unfortunately Leuky Bear cannot visit us this year so we ask all children to bring in their special bear to help celebrate this great cause and have a wonderful picnic with our bears.



On Wednesday **12 August** the team from Underwater World present their Ocean Life Education workshop. This educational program teaches the children about our under water wildlife and how to protect them. Several species of underwater animals are brought in to show the children.

Monday **31 August** our local Indigenous Gubbi Gubbi Tribe will bring the Goombuckar bus for the children to experience Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

And finally a special visit from Queensland Surf Lifesaving on Thursday **3 September** to teach our young children about beach and swimming safety.

Flyers about all incursions with dates and times will be sent out closer to each event to ensure that you have the most up-to-date information.

## Clothing and Lost Property

During these colder days we encourage you to pack a jumper for your child for them to wear during the cold mornings and afternoons. Late in the afternoon it can get quite cold in the playground as the sun drops behind the trees. We have noticed that some children do not have enough spare clothes in their bags. Sometimes due to accidents or water play we need to change them, so an extra set of clothes in their bags each day is truly useful. Please ensure that your child wears enclosed shoes, thongs are not appropriate footwear for the activities that we do so they are not allowed at the centre.

Should you have lost or misplaced your child's hat, another one can be purchased from the College Uniform shop. The centre hat is compulsory.

If your child has lost any items please check the lost property bucket in the hall between the foyer and the rooms. Your missing items may be here. We encourage you to name every item of clothing, bedding, lunch boxes, drink bottles, socks and shoes your child brings to the centre to avoid losing these costly and precious items.

## Nutrition and Lunch Boxes

It is delightful to see so many children bringing in nude lunch boxes (no plastic wrap). The healthy choices in their lunch boxes are brilliant, thank you for packing such variety. Each day a child's nutritional needs are different, some days they may eat a little and other days a lot and this can depend on the weather or types of activities that they are doing each day. We always encourage the children to eat as much as they can but should they choose not to eat some then we allow them that privilege. Packing a variety of different food types and ensuring that there is plenty to choose from, will guarantee that on those days when they are really hungry they will have sufficient to eat, especially if they are here with us until 6.00pm.

By providing your child with a variety of food from the healthy eating pyramid you can guarantee that your child is getting everything they need to help them grow into healthy and strong adults. It also helps their brain development to learn and retain that learning. Plenty of water is also the key to a healthy mind and body so make sure you pack a fresh water bottle every day.



## Recyclable material

Thank you for your assistance in providing us with lots of these items, the children are being very creative in their use of these items. Could you please ensure that items you bring in that have contained food e.g. orange juice bottles or milk bottles that these items are rinsed out before they are brought in? We are always in need of boxes, cardboard rolls (not toilet rolls), paper, plastic lids, wool, nature items and lot more, check with your child's teacher.

## Enrolments for 2016

Please complete the enrolment request for 2016 that is being sent out to all families who are due to continue on at the centre next year. They will be given out by your child's teacher in an envelope specifically for each family. These need to be completed by 31 July and returned to ELC admin. We will email a copy as well just in case it gets misplaced.

If you have a Kindergarten age eligible child who is scheduled to attend Prep next year and you are looking at keeping them back for another year, please come and see me so that we can discuss the delayed exit process and a place in the Kindergarten program.

## **Prep and transitions to Prep**

If you are contemplating sending your child onto Prep here at Immanuel, please remember you will need to see the Enrolment Officer at the College to enrol your child. There is no automatic enrolment between ELC and the College, so please do so as quickly as possible to ensure that you do not miss out. You are most welcome to encourage parents to chat with Scott Moore our Head of Junior School or Jodie Hayat our Deputy Head of Junior School should you want any further information about Junior Schooling at Immanuel.

From Term 3 onwards the Teachers and Educators will be working with the Kindergarten children in transitioning them to school. We start this process at the beginning of the year encouraging children to gain independence and make decisions for themselves, from Term 3 onwards this becomes a bigger focus.

Having some ability to recognise letters and numbers, use a pencil, write their name, listen and talk; and physical skills like dressing themselves, running and jumping – are important for starting school. But it's just as important for our children to learn social and emotional skills if we want them to learn as constructively and happily as possible.

Our work focuses on strengthening the social and emotional skills of young children so that they are able to understand and control their own emotions; make friends easily; focus on learning, and communicate well with adults and other children.

The Australian development Census indicates that 1 in 5 children start school behind. Attached to this newsletter is a great article on school readiness and preparing for school. You may find this useful.

## **Allied health Professionals**

If you have any concerns about your child's health and or development you may be interested in contacting an Allied Health Professional. We have links to local professionals who attend the College on a regular basis and or are based in our local area. If you would like more information we have this in our parent area in the foyer or pop in for a chat with me anytime.

## **ELC Carpark (7.30am – 9.00am and 2.30pm to 4pm)**

Have you picked up your carpark sticker yet for the front carpark? This may be useful when you pick up your child from the centre at peak school times. Come and see Karen in Admin if you haven't picked one up.

Just a quick reminder, please do not leave children in the car unattended while you pick up your child from the ELC. I know the car park is safe but in the best interests of the children especially in summer is safer to take them with you. Police would like to remind parents that under Queensland law, it is illegal to leave a child under 12 unattended for an unreasonable time without making reasonable provision for the supervision and care of the child. The maximum penalty for the offence is three years' jail, but whether the time is unreasonable depends on all the relevant circumstances.

## **Staff Changes this term**

### On leave:

Annette – 17 July to 23 August

Olivia – 12 August

Katherine – 14 to 21 August

Tracey – 14 to 21 September

Nicole – 21 to 25 September

### Professional Development:

Melissa – 21 August & 1 September for Equip

**Thank you from the team at Immanuel Early Learning Centre**