



Jobs for family's package: You will receive a short survey to assist the service in providing the best care options for you in 2018. With the changes coming into effect from Monday 2 July next year, we are currently planning to ensure that we are providing the best care options for your family with limited interruptions. I strongly encourage you to read the attached letter to this newsletter, go to the Australian Government Department of Education website, find the Family Child Care Subsidy Estimator, and look at how the changes will affect your childcare eligibility next year. We will soon be able to let you know the fees for next year, hopefully next newsletter, as we are currently working on the budget. <https://www.education.gov.au/sites/education/files/sch/est/index.html>

Bookings for 2018: For children who are attending the ELC next year and are currently enrolled you should have already confirmed your child's booking with Kerrie or myself. If not please do so this week. Letters of offer are currently being made for families on the waitlist. Any questions please come and see Kerrie or myself. We endeavour to have positions offered this time next month.



Super Max Turtle update:

Thank you again for all of your kindness, generosity and support over the past few months! Through the ELC mufti day fundraiser, the fantastic bake sale that just took place (a HUGE thank you to Hannah, Debbie and Abigail for that!) and the wonderful support of the gorgeous ELC staff, we raised enough to give 41 turtle night lights to children with cancer... that is truly remarkable! Thank you!

Please return your Super Max cards as soon as possible.

You may also want to follow their trip on social media to see pictures of the superheroes you've helped to comfort. Here is that information:

- Instagram - [@SuperMaxAndBryce](#)
- Facebook - [Super Max & Bryce](#)
- Website - www.supermaxandbryce.org

Book fair: Will be holding our annual book fair during Book Week – Monday 21 August - Friday 25 August. Start your Christmas shopping. To finish Book Week, Pre Prep 1 and Pre Prep 2 will join the Prep - Year 6 children for book fair parade. Dress as your favourite character and be in the Multi-Purpose Hall at 8.40am on Friday 25 August. Please bring your children to the hall if not at the centre by 8.30am on this day.

Family Church service Sunday 20 August, 9.00am. Please come along and bring a plate of food to share for morning tea after the service and support your children making connections with the local congregation. The children are learning some songs to share.

Staffing: We have welcomed Linda to the team in Pre Prep 1 and she is developing strong relationships with the children. If you would like to catch up with Linda to discuss your child's progress please do not hesitate to contact myself or see Linda to arrange a time. Miss Ashley who works in Pre Prep 1 as an Inclusion Support Worker is off to University next month and we wish her all the best with her studies. I will communicate information about the new staff member once we have confirmation.

Xplor: We now have most families signing in and out. Please ensure you continue to do this or it may affect your childcare rebates, as it is a legal requirement. We will have a new update in September, mainly supporting the Educator pages. Xplor is continuously working towards improving the product. We love receiving posts from families who are adding to your children's timelines. Keep up the great work with this!

Transition to school: We need parent/carer consent to share transition information. Parents/carers must give their consent for a transition statement to be shared with a child's Prep teacher and/or other relevant staff at their new school, using the Transition statement consent form. Please return the consent form so we can pass straight onto the Prep teachers at St Andrews. If your child is not attending St Andrews next year please write the name of the school your child is attending so we can start looking at how we support your child with their transition and contact that school. Parents will also receive a copy of the transition statements in November/December when completed.

Outdoor Classroom Day - 7 September 2017.

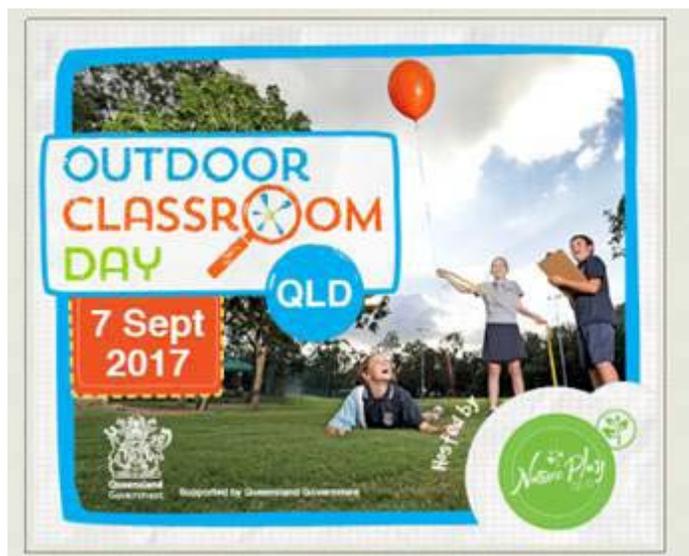
We have pledged to participate in Outdoor Classroom Day QLD. It's part of an international campaign celebrating the power of outdoor learning for young minds. It aims for chil-

dren to benefit from learning experiences in outdoor environments.

Your children will participate in outdoor learning sessions, benefitting from outcomes including increased physical activity, a heightened motivation for learning, creativity, and understanding concepts. It also improves their overall health, social skills, encourage better attendance, teamwork and reduces bullying. All students will receive a FREE Nature Play Passport to an Amazing Childhood.

Hosted by Nature Play QLD. Supported by Queensland Government.

www.outdoorclassroomdayqld.org.au



Healthy Teeth Children 18 months - 5 years of age

- Children aged 18 months to 5 years - use a low fluoride toothpaste.
- Research shows that young children swallow a lot of toothpaste when brushing their teeth. Therefore, it is recommended that they use a low-fluoride toothpaste such as Colgate 'my first toothpaste'**, Macleans 'milk teeth'** or Oral B children's toothpaste**.
- Use a pea size amount of low-fluoride toothpaste twice a day, in the morning and last thing before bed at night.
- Toothpaste tubes should be kept out of children's reach, and toothpaste put on the brush by an adult to avoid accidental swallowing of large amounts.

Taken from Women's and Children health network Parenting and Child Health website for further information please see link:<http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetails.aspx?p=114&np=301&id=2519>

We look forward to another wonderful month in the ELC.

Bronwyn Waters
ELC Director

Junior Kindy News

We have had an exciting learning journey throughout the month of July, where a large part of the group gravitated to learning more about the solar system. This started from an interactive board that was shared with a small group. The interest extended to planets and identifying each one, while sharing information about specific facts. The children continued to learn through songs, books, pictures, creating their own drawings, art and sharing this with others. We set up a solar system area, where they could explore further using a model solar system, dark boxes with torches and glow in the dark stickers.



We have watched as the children's creative play has developed further. We added a fairy garden, including natural items from our outdoor space to promote imagination and ideas to be shared within small groups. The animals in this area have also supported the extension of language as the children take turns in taking on different roles.

We were fortunate to have a visit from Kate, Jeremy's mum who was able to inform us the important job that the Ambulance do. This occurred on the Tuesday 11 July where the children we invited to climb inside the vehicle down on the oval. This promoted lots of conversation and new knowledge was obtained.



Pre Prep 1 News

This term we have moved Library Day to Wednesday, promoting an opportunity for all children to visit, as we continue to develop the connection with the College. We will be using these library opportunities to explore books, to support our learning within the classroom, and our current interests. We also ask you to avoid sending your child in thongs on library days, to ensure a safe and smooth walk to the college. We will be leaving around 9.30am to start our journey to the library, so please be aware of this when arriving on Wednesdays.

The children are very excited about show and tell and we encourage their enthusiasm. Please help us promote the sharing of news and if they would like to bring something encourage, books, photos and avoid toys.

You may have noticed the class has been working in two groups to provide a more engaging and calm environment. We continue to mix the children, prompting new friendships and development of social skills. It provides us with the tools to support the children through challenges and develop new skills in an unhurried way, where distraction is limited. The children are all able to contribute to group discussion, share ideas and develop the plan for the days learning. We have seen an increase of developing problem solving skills, where the children are now communicating solutions to something that isn't working or a concern they may have. We continue to provide these opportunities to test out their ideas and increase their confidence. Just as we continue with the kindness jar, this links into caring for one another and assisting their friends and to help work through a range of scenarios.

This month we have been busy with our new Unit of Inquiry 'Sharing the Planet'. Pre Prep 1 have been discussing their favourite environments with their peers and learning about the living creatures within them. The children have greatly enjoyed the bushwalk adventures this term. They especially loved having the opportunity to use the iPads, taking photos themselves of what they saw on their walk.



To encourage our friends' interactions with the natural environment, this term we are taking part in 'Nature Plays' list of things to do before we turn 5. We have been completing some of these already as a class, but always love to discuss how the activity may have been different when done at home.



As we are creating new learning opportunities inside and out, we are looking at having the Junior Kindy children as part of the bush program. We will be inviting the children to explore the bushland behind our outdoor environment. Be on the look out for planned dates and permission forms.

Miss Stephanie, Miss Jana, Miss Emily and Miss Cathy



As we have been shivering our way through winter, we would like to remind parents to please ensure the children always have a jumper in their bag and spare pair of long clothes. We understand some days seem warmer than others, however we would just like to ensure our friends stay warm for unexpected changes in the weather.

In the coming months, we would like to invite parents to come read to our children. The children have a beautiful identity of themselves and are very proud of their family members; therefore, we are looking for parents to read stories to our friends each week. If you are interested, please write your name on the calendar in our room. We look forward to your visit.

Miss Linda, Miss Stacey and Miss Ashley

We were delighted to have Sean from the Sea Shepherd come to the classrooms to talk to the children about how we can protect our oceans and marine life. Sean demonstrated through images some of the important ways we can combat the growing tide of marine debris (such as plastic bags, bottles, balloons and glass) that lay in our waterways and ocean. The children took home some valuable information from Sean's talk and enjoyed discussing it throughout the afternoon.

Pre Prep 2 News

It has been a very busy month in Pre Prep 2 with lots of inquiry-based learning and adventures taking place. This month we have had the opportunity to delve deeper into our Unit of Inquiry: Sharing the Planet. The children have begun to develop a good understanding of some of the concepts and attributes within the inquiry, and are using this language throughout the day. We have enjoyed exploring the many different environments that surround us through the children's own experiences and items that they collected in their brown paper bags. This unit has not only allowed the children to share their favourite environments, but it has also driven the inquiry further by sparking discussions about the way we can care for our environments.



Over the past month, we have also started to explore the bush environment and explored the bushland behind the

Early Learning Centre. This has been such a positive experience for the children. The children have loved the freedom to explore the environment and see what interesting objects they can find. Whilst on our nature walks, the children do take risks with the uneven surfaces, lifting large sticks, climbing on the sticks and at times steep terrain. Children naturally seek out risk and they are very good at knowing what a manageable risk is, what they are capable of and when they are not ready to take a particular risk.



We have noticed a big shift this month in the children's interest in writing and drawing. This term we provided the children with the opportunity to sign in when they arrive or continue to sign in using the tree. It is wonderful to see how many children have become more confident in writing their names both in the classroom and when signing in.

Highlights for this month!

- Peter Combes show
- Talking to a group of students from Japan via skype
- Ambulance Visit
- NAIDOC week celebrations

Just a reminder to bring a piece of fruit to share every day. Please ensure you pack shoes and a jumper as it get quite cold in the playground.

Until next time,
Miss Teresa, Miss Mardi and Miss Sarah



Jobs for Families Child Care Package

The Australian Government will invest around \$37 billion on child care support over the next four years. This significant investment includes an increase of around \$2.5 billion to support the implementation of the *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package.

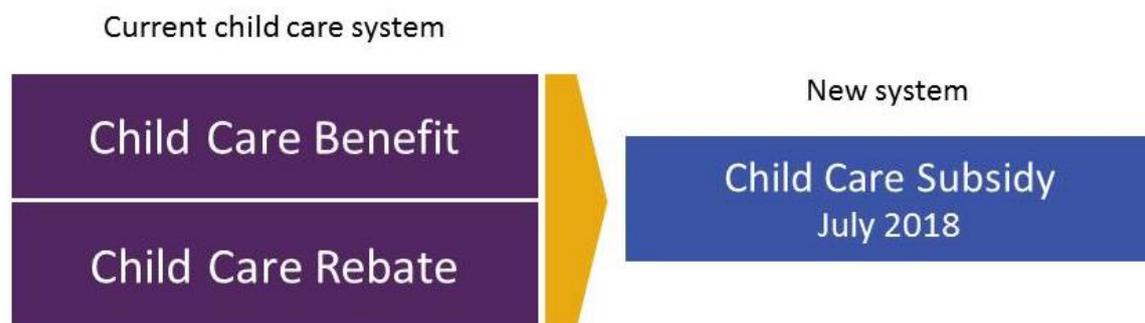
The Package will make our child care system more flexible, more accessible, more affordable and targeted to those who need it the most.

Key changes for families

Simplified system

The centrepiece of the Package is the Child Care Subsidy. When the Child Care Subsidy commences in July 2018, it will:

- replace the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR) with a single, means-tested subsidy
- be paid directly to service providers
- be simpler than the current multi payment system
- be better targeted and provide more assistance to low and middle income families.



Family Income

Families earning \$65,710[^] or less will receive a subsidy of 85 per cent of the actual fee charged (up to 85 per cent of an hourly fee cap). For family incomes above \$65,710[^], the subsidy tapers down to 20 per cent when family income reaches \$340,000[^]. For families with incomes of \$350,000 or more, the subsidy is zero per cent.

Combined Family Income	Subsidy per cent of the actual fee charged (up to relevant percentage of the hourly fee cap)
Up to \$65,710 [^]	85 per cent
More than \$65,710 [^] to below \$170,710 [^]	Tapering to 50 per cent*
\$170,710 [^] to below \$250,000 [^]	50 per cent
\$250,000 [^] to below \$340,000 [^]	Tapering to 20 per cent*
\$340,000 [^] to below \$350,000 [^]	20 per cent
\$350,000 [^] or more	0 per cent

*Subsidy tapers down by 1 per cent for each \$3000 of family income.

When the subsidy commences the hourly fee caps will be:

Service type	Maximum hourly fee cap
Centre Based Long Day Care	\$11.55 [^]
Family Day Care	\$10.70 [^]
Outside School Hours Care	\$10.10 [^]

[^] **Note:** These provisions of the Package will be increased by CPI for implementation in July 2018.

For families earning more than \$185,710[^] an annual subsidy cap of \$10,000[^] per child will apply.

Families will receive a **fortnightly statement of child care usage** from their service provider, which includes the payment of the subsidy and out of pocket costs. This will make the service more accountable and provide greater transparency for families' entitlements.

Activity test requirements

Family eligibility for the Child Care Subsidy will be determined by a three-step activity test, more closely aligning the hours of subsidised care with the combined hours of work, training, study or other recognised activity undertaken, and providing for up to 100 hours of subsidy per fortnight.

Step	Hours of activity (per fortnight)	Maximum number of hours of subsidy (per fortnight)
1	8 hours to 16 hours	36 hours
2	More than 16 hours to 48 hours	72 hours
3	More than 48 hours	100 hours

A broad range of activities will meet the activity test requirements, including paid work, being self-employed, doing unpaid work in a family business, looking for work, volunteering or studying. There will be exemptions to the activity test for parents who legitimately cannot meet the activity requirements.

Low income families on \$65,710[^] or less a year who don't meet the activity test will be able to access 24 hours of subsidised care per fortnight without having to meet the activity test, as part of the Child Care Safety Net.

For the first time, families who currently use Budget Based Funded services will be eligible for child care fee assistance.

Support for disadvantaged and vulnerable families

The Package also provides targeted additional fee assistance through a new **Child Care Safety Net**.

The **Child Care Safety Net** is being progressively rolled out from July 2016 and will help vulnerable families and children to address barriers in accessing child care, while encouraging parents to enter and return to the workforce.

The Child Care Safety Net and has three components:

- 1 the **Additional Child Care Subsidy (July 2018)** – a top up payment for families who are genuinely disadvantaged.

Extra support for	Additional subsidy
Children at risk of serious abuse or neglect; grandparent primary carers on income support; families experiencing temporary financial hardship	A subsidy equal to 100 per cent of the actual fee charged (up to 120 per cent of the hourly fee cap), up to 100 hours of assistance per fortnight
Parents transitioning to work from income support	A subsidy equal to 95 per cent of the actual fee charged (up to 95 per cent of the hourly fee cap), hours of assistance determined by the activity test

- 2 the **Community Child Care Fund (July 2018)** – a grants program to assist services to:

- reduce the barriers in accessing child care, in particular for disadvantaged or vulnerable families and communities
- provide sustainability support for child care services experiencing viability issues
- provide capital support to increase the supply of child care places in areas of high unmet demand.

\$61.8 million of the CCCF will provide a third funding stream for Budget Based Funded services to ensure their viability in the new system. This is in addition to the Child Care Subsidy and the Additional Child Care Subsidy.

The Connected Beginnings program, which is part of the CCCF, commenced in July 2016. The program provides for the integration of child care, maternal and child health, and family support services in a number of Indigenous communities experiencing disadvantage, as recommended by Andrew Forrest in his review of Indigenous jobs and training - *Creating Parity*.

- 3 the **Inclusion Support Programme (commenced July 2016)** – assists mainstream services to improve their capacity and capability to provide inclusive practices and address barriers to participation for children with additional needs, particularly children with disability.

Refer to the *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package [Child Care Safety Net Fact Sheet](#) for additional information.

Transitioning to the new system

The Government recognises that the transition from the existing child care system to a new system will be a significant change for Australian families.

Under the new system existing child care payments will be replaced with the Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy. Families and service providers will have time to adjust to the new model and we are working towards a seamless introduction of new systems and arrangements.

All families who use, or need to use, child care in the future will be kept informed of the progress of the changes and given timely information on how they may be affected.

Centrelink will contact families directly to provide information on current entitlements and how they may change under new arrangements. This may include asking families for additional information, to ensure that they move onto the new payment system smoothly.

Implementation timeline

July 2016

- Inclusion Support Programme commenced
- Connected Beginnings commenced

April 2017

- Some strengthened compliance powers commence

July 2018

- Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy commence (replacing CCB and CCR)
- Community Child Care Fund commences
- New Compliance Framework commences

For more information on the *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package, please go to www.education.gov.au