

**Chatterbox**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We did it! We have finished the preschool year together and have watched the children grow, learn, achieve and develop in so many ways. We have worked together to build resilience, embrace spirituality, extend academic abilities and develop new friendships. Whoever said’ it takes a village to raise a child’ was so right! Our village is right here at Holy Family Early Learning Centre and I really hope that your child has felt secure, loved and appreciated by every single staff member. Thank you, to you, the parents for all your participation in the preschool program. For the preschool program to be successful a close partnership between parents and teachers is paramount. Together we have achieved a monumental year of learning, community involvement and activities.

The list below is a summary of all we have done this year:

Welcome BBQ Palm Sunday Liturgy Athletics Carnival

Fun food days Mother’s Day breakfast Father’s Day BBQ

Parent teacher interviews Farmyard animal visits Butterfly enclosures

Kenny Koala Nutrition Magician Harmony Day

Easter Egg raffle School photos Book Club

Minister Berry Early Childhood Strategy involvement King and Queen Dress up days

Bunnings sausage sizzle Children’s yoga Mr Bamboozle

Science Days Firefighters/Police visits Book Week

Hairdresser/vet/doctor surgery visits worm tea Buddy visits

Parent Management Committee Sounds Write information sessions

Grandparents Day First Preschool Disco Fete

Questacon Cockington Green Book Nook

Aboriginal Elders visit Mini Sports Day Water fun days

Transition to primary school days Christmas concert Prayer assemblies in the church

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated and passionate preschool teachers; Alex Knight, Jessica Stammers, Imogen Nardi, Vanessa Dunn and Laura Naffa.

Our teachers are the driving force behind the activities above. They all have spent many, many extra hours throughout the week, on weekends and in the holidays planning their programs, writing up assessments and observations, organising their classrooms and play spaces to make their rooms inviting for the children. They are dedicated to making the children feel included and special and have taken great pride in collating all the children’s work into individual portfolios. I’m sure you will agree that the portfolios really are extraordinary and a great snapshot of your child’s preschool year.

I can’t finish my last newsletter without a final word of remembrance for our dear office manager Wendy Hodgson. Wendy had worked at the preschool for 6 years and had become such a vibrant and ‘larger than life’ member of our community. We were all absolutely shocked and devastated when she passed away so suddenly in June. The children remembered Wendy last week when we released the second batch of butterflies from their enclosure into our flower gardens with a special prayer for Wendy. On the wings of each of the butterflies were 2 tiny red heart prints. We couldn’t help but think Wendy whose favourite colour was red was with the children and staff in spirit as we prayed for her, celebrated our Christmas concert and finalised everything for the year. The staff very much appreciated the support of you the parents during that very sad time. This was our ELC ‘village’ helping each other overcome our loss.

From all the staff here at Holy Family Early Learning centre we wish you all a very merry Christmas and safe and happy new year. We have loved teaching each and every one of your children and wish them nothing but success and happiness as they continue into primary school.

God’s blessing on you and your families.

Michelle Dudley

Director

15/12/19