

# NEWSLETTER

January-February 2019



186 Flushcombe Road

Blacktown NSW 2148

Phone: (02) 9671 2669

E. [office@auroraelc.com.au](mailto:office@auroraelc.com.au)

## A Note from the Director

Happy New Year and Welcome to Aurora ELC for another exciting year of fun and learning! We hope that you have all had a restful and enjoyable break over December and got to spend much needed time with the children. I am sure you will agree with me that there is nothing more rewarding than finishing a year of hard work and beginning a new one with our most precious little ones.

Congratulations to the children that have made the transition to the Preschool (Dragonfly) room already and the upcoming transitions for the remainder of our 4-year olds. Our school readiness program introduces them to necessary skills required for school. These include pre-literacy skills, introduction to numeracy as well as high level socialization and more elaborate self-help skills. This is all accomplished through educators using intentional teaching, extending individual interests and creating fun projects. Don't forget to check out our daily diaries for an account on what we achieved each on your StoryPark© account.

Lunar New Year is on the 5<sup>th</sup> February this year. Wishing all our Asian families a very Happy New Year. This year is the year of the Pig. The Pig occupies the twelfth position in the Chinese zodiac in the recurring 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle. It is believed that the year of the Pig is a year of fortune and luck. Wishing all our families a year of prosperity and advancement.



To start our new year, we would like to invite to all our families to attend an information night here at the centre in March. This will be a good opportunity to meet all the staff and get to understand our program, policies and procedures. The date to this event will be confirmed and advertised by mid-February. At Aurora ELC, the Parent-Educator partnership is of utmost importance and we feel that we need to impart to you our knowledge and methodology of our daily programs with your children.

At Aurora, we are always striving on bettering ourselves and staying in the top tier benchmark for best practice and as a result have increased our educator numbers over the past 6 months Here is an introduction of our highly qualified staff:

**Centre Director/Authorised Provider** – Mrs Dalal Lim  
**Centre Manager/ Educational Leader/ECT-** Lisa Magner  
**Kitchen - Centre cook-** Nadia Tawil

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## Dragonfly Staff

**Room Leader-** Sana Qureshi  
**Room Educator-** Veilagi (Lani) Malo  
**Room Educator-** Hayden Ellery

## Bumblebee Staff

**Room Leader-** Caitlin Magner  
**Room Educator-** Lauren Carroll  
**Room Educator-** Emilia Juric  
**Room Assistant** – Jessica Tawil  
**Part-time assistant** – Azeb Arega

Please feel free to approach any of our staff to discuss children's development and progress.

**Activity Fund fees:** As per our enrolment policy, **\$60** will be billed to your account mid-February. This fund allows the centre to book external shows and activities to come to the centre for different experiences for the children. Expect this to be added to your fees by mid-February. It is billable to all existing families including the families whom have unrolled during the Christmas period or prior and have resumed a new enrolled for 2019. Children whom use our vacation care programs will also be charged this fee to cover some of the year's excursions. Brand new families that have enrolled in December - Current will not be charged this amount.

**Update of details:** Could I request that each family complete the last attached form to the newsletter with any new information that may have changed over the past 12 months. This includes addresses, home and/or mobile numbers and email addresses of both parents. This is important for data collection and is a requirement by the Department of Education and for the safety of your children here.

**Parking at the Centre:** A friendly reminder to our families in anticipation of school starting in a short few weeks, please remember that you **can not** leave your car on our premises if your child does not attend the centre on that day. Our limited parking facilities and turning circle are available for the convenience of our families who are dropping off ONLY.

If you need to take another child across the road to school or know that you will be inside the centre for a lot longer than 2-3 minutes for the drop off and signing your child in,

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please utilize the ample unmetered parking spots on the road. We are lucky to have available parking spots on the street even though that may mean a short 1-2-minute walk to our centre. Your consideration of other people's convenience and safety is much appreciated in this matter.

A great way to keep in touch with us is through our Facebook page. Get our latest news, information about future events and activities, latest childcare industry news and information, see our activities and share our recipes.

[www.facebook.com/AuroraELC](http://www.facebook.com/AuroraELC)

I look forward to meeting all of the new families over the next few weeks as you are dropping and picking up your children.

Warm regards

**Dalal Lim**

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## A word from our Centre Manager...

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I would like to personally extend a very warm welcome to all of the new families who have recently joined our Aurora Community. We feel very privileged that you have selected us to care for and educate your child in their early years.

Welcome back to all of our returning families! 2019 is a big year ahead for many! We are gradually transitioning our older children into the Dragonfly Room. To make the transition as smooth as possible, we have been providing opportunities for the children who will be moving rooms, to spend short periods of time in the Dragonfly Room. By the first week of February, we will have completed all of the transitions.

I am pleased to officially welcome Miss Azeb back to Aurora. As some of our older families would know, Miss Azeb previously worked at Aurora and left for a while to spend time with her family. Miss Azeb has returned on a part-time basis and will be working in both rooms.

We would also like to officially welcome Mr. Hayden and Miss Jessica. Mr. Hayden has a certificate III in Children's services. Miss Jessica has recently commenced her certificate III traineeship in Children's services.

### **Friendly Reminders to start the year!**

It is very important to sign your child in and out each day. Please ensure that we have a name and phone number for each person who is approved to drop off and pick your child as it is a legal requirement that the correct sign in and sign out times are sent to the Government/Centrelink each day.

**Preschool families:** families with preschool children at the centre, please ensure that you let Centrelink know that your child attends a centre that provides an 'Early Education Program'. This will enable families who have only been given either a 0 or a 24 hour per fortnight subsidy to access 36 hours.

The centre needs a letter from centrelink to advise us that your family is eligible for this so that we are able to activate this on our system

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## ***How is the preschool exemption applied?***

1. The parent lodges a Child Care Subsidy claim. Centrelink will use information in the claim to work out whether:
  - the family's entitlement is usually 0 or 24 hours of subsidised care per fortnight and
  - the parent has a preschool aged child(ren), as defined above.
  
2. If the claim establishes 'Yes' to the two above criteria, Centrelink will send the parent a claim outcome letter indicating:
  - their 'Subsidised hours per fortnight' is either 0 or 24
  - however, they may be entitled to 36 hours of subsidised care per fortnight for their preschool aged child(ren) if they attend a preschool program at their child care service (Centre Based Day Care service).

**Lisa Magner**

Centre Manager

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## Educational Leader Report

We are excited to commence the children's individual and group programs for 2019. As most of you know, we use Storypark to record each child's development, interests and progress towards the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) outcomes. The five Learning outcomes are:-

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators.

These outcomes are linked to our daily program and in individual observations. I encourage you all to access Storypark regularly to keep up to date on the room programs. We also welcome and value your input and ideas into the programs. If you experience any difficulties in accessing story park, please discuss with one of our educators or myself.



The room leaders in consultation with myself, are currently developing the Program Goals for Term 1 2019. We will also be sending out individual goal sheets for you to fill in for your child. These will then be added to your child's Storypark profile so that you can track your child's progress towards meeting particular goals and Learning Outcomes.

Health and fitness are an integral part of our Curriculum at Aurora. We place a very strong emphasis on our Munch and Move program which has been developed by the NSW Health Department. This program focuses on active play, fundamental movement skills and healthy eating and all aspects are incorporated into our daily program.



In 2019 we will also continue in our partnership with Happy Feet Fitness. This year our happy Feet Instructor is Miss Jodi and our classes will run on Thursdays at 2.15pm. The cost of the class is \$9.50 per week which is billed directly to families. Please see one of your educators if you would like to enrol your child.

I am looking forward to an exciting year ahead as we continue to evolve and develop upon our high-quality educational program for each child.

**Lisa Magner**

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## Hot from the kitchen...

Welcoming all our existing and new families to another new and exciting year at Aurora. I am Nadia, your children's daily cook. My role spans across the whole centre meaning that I get to know the children and their individual dietary and religious needs as soon as they enrol. We will be continuing with our Summer Menu for the remainder of term 1 of the year. Please feel free to ask me for any summer recipes that you would like to try at home or any general questions about her meals and ingredients.

If you would like to ask any questions, I ask that you please call me outside or knock on my door, as the Kitchen is strictly STAFF ONLY and parents are not permitted entry.

We will be continuing to provide our families and our community with the Food Pantry that was commenced here at the centre last year. Please feel free to take what you or someone you know in need, and also to contribute to our pantry for other families in need to benefit. This initiative has been hugely successful last year with many of our families utilizing the convenience of it. We had been very fortunate to have teamed up with a reputable Sydney based business in the inner west "**The Fruit Cart**" who have been donating fresh fruit and vegetables to us. Please make use of the wonderful fresh produce when you see them in the centre foyer.

Remember, it's very importantly to make sure to bring a fresh and cold bottle of water from home for your child, as the weather is getting very hot.

Lastly, please ensure that a piece of fruit or vegetable is brought every day that your child is at the centre to share with their friends at morning or afternoon tea.

Kind Regards,

**Ms. Nadia**

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## News

Bumblebee Room

Welcome to the Bumblebee room! My Name is Miss Caitlin. I am the room leader of the Bumblebee room. I have my Diploma in Children's services and have been working in the childcare industry for six years now.

I have a strong passion for childcare and helping children reach their potential. I love working with the two to three-year-old children especially as they reach so many wonderful and exciting milestones at this age. I am constantly researching new ways to further my knowledge of the industry and how I can make the Bumblebee room the best it can be. Please feel free to come and have a chat with me at any time.

### **The educators working in the Bumblebee room in 2019 are**

**Miss Lauren:** Miss Lauren has her Certificate III in children's services and is currently studying her Diploma.

**Miss Emilia:** Miss Emilia has almost completed her Certificate III in Children's services

**Miss Jess:** Miss Jess has just started a traineeship at our centre and is currently studying her certificate III in children's services.

**Miss Azeb:** Miss Azeb is our part-time educator in the room. She has her Certificate III in children's Services

Please feel free to come and talk with any of the educators in the classroom.

I would just like to start off by farewelling the children who have transitioned or are about to transition into the preschool room and start their journey into primary school. The educators in the Bumblebee room have had so much fun watching all of you grow in 2018 and can't wait to see you all achieve great things in the preschool room. Rest assured the Bumblebee educators will be going to get their daily cuddles from the children every day!

Welcome to all our new families! The beginning of the year is a fantastic time in the Bumblebee room as we get to star the year together. I am really looking forward to 2019. I think it is going to be an amazing and exciting year. I look forward to getting to know you all. I have a strong passion for parent input and love getting ideas from families. Throughout the year I will ask for suggestions from families on Storypark.

Storypark is a program which the centre uses to document children's learning. Each day a Daily Diary will be posted in the Bumblebee room community to show you what the children have engaged in each day. Please remember to check story park as we also post reminders about events throughout the year here. If you have any questions regarding Storypark please come and speak to me.

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## **A few housekeeping items about the room:**

Could any child who is currently wearing nappies please bring at least four nappies a day. I am happy for parents to bring in packets of nappies and then the educators will let you know when you need to bring in more nappies. Along with the nappies if your child requires any nappy cream can you please bring that in with your child's name written on it.

If you are toilet training or about to start toilet training, please come and speak to me and we can work out a plan together that is best suited to your child. When your child requires more nappies, a note will be left on the iPad for you as a reminder. If your child has soiled clothes or wet clothes they will be placed in the children's bathroom and a note will be left for you letting you know there is clothes to collect.

## **Each child in the room needs to bring the following items everyday**

- A water bottle
- Bed sheets
- A spare change of clothes
- Four nappies (only if your child wears nappies)

Please ensure that your child's name is on all their belongings. This reduces the amount of lost property. Please do not allow your child to bring any toys from home into the centre unless it is a comfort item such as a teddy bear. Toys from home often get lost or broken and this causes a lot of stress to your child. If a toy is brought into the centre it will be placed in the storeroom for you to pick up in the afternoon to avoid things getting broken.

Kind regards

**Miss Caitlin**

Bumblebee room leader 2019

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Dragonfly Room

## News

To all the families in the Dragonfly room, we would like to say a big farewell to all the children who have graduated this year and are moving on to the next journey of their educational lives, we will miss you all very much and wish you the best of luck for the future. We would also like to wish you all a happy new year for 2019!

As the year has started for many new families and children, we would like to extend a warm and friendly welcome to you all.

In this start of the new year edition of the newsletter we would like to share with you some important information to make your child's experiences in the preschool room a smooth and enjoyable one. As many of you know, the room leader teacher in the preschool room is Miss Sana Qureshi, joined by Miss Veilagi and Mr. Hayden who has joined the preschool room in 2019.

To make the new transition into the preschool room as smooth as possible, below are a few important things to remember:

- It is advised that all children's bags, clothing, drink bottles and personal items are labeled clearly with your child's name, the children will be supplied with a new Aurora Early Learning Centre hat that must be kept at the centre at all times your child will be able to keep their special hat once they have completed their time at Aurora, this encourages your child to be more self-independent in taking care of their items and establishing a sense of routine and responsibility.
- It is also advised that families co-operate with teachers when advising children not to bring toys in from home, as children can lose their special items and can cause them to be distracted from focus group times.

To encourage the children to engage as a group and build upon their social/ emotional skills and communication skills the children in the preschool room will have an allocated day on the news time roster for the children to bring something special from home to share with their friends and teachers. This schedule will help the children settle into a class routine and make it fair for everyone to share their special item with the whole class. **News time** rosters and "All about me" news time bags sent out will be displayed on Storypark on the 4th of February.

The news time roster will commence Monday the 4th of February. Please be advised the timetable will also be displayed in the class room and may be updated during February and March as new children arrive for the start of the preschool year.

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As most of you know we reflect and document children's experiences, goals and developmental milestones on (Storypark community posts) your child's day will be documented daily and be available to you through the Storypark website.

In the preschool room, we will also encourage the children to have rest time. This is the children's down time to encourage the children to relax and rest for another busy transition.

We encourage all families to bring in a set of bed sheets that are labeled with your child's full name, it is also encouraged that children sheets go home at the end of each week to be washed for the next busy week!

To all the new families of the Dragonfly room, keep a look out for your child's Preschool Welcome Pack. This pack will have lots of information in relation to the early years play based curriculum as well as lots of information to help you and your child get started for another busy year!

We look forward to working with you all and guiding and supporting your children to play, grow and develop throughout another busy year ahead!

**Miss Sana** 😊

Dragonfly room leader 2019

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## Parents / Guardians Contact Details Update

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In order to maintain an effective method of contacting you in case of any emergencies, please provide us with your current up-to-date contacts.

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Contacts:** Home Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address.: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from above):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mother's Contacts:** Home Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address.: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from above):  
\_\_\_\_\_