



# Elanora C&K Community Kindergarten Newsletter—October 2013

## Transition Statements

Very soon, I will be preparing "Transition Statements" for each child. These are collaborative statements that reflect the views of the child, their family and their Kindergarten Teachers. The Transition Statement includes insights into the child's learning journey over the past 12 months as well as general information about the child and their family, including how they feel about starting school. The information in the statement:

- summarises the child's developing capabilities as they make their transition to school
- identifies their individual dispositions and approaches to learning and interests
- indicates how the child can be supported to continue learning
- enables families to share with the school information they believe is crucial to their child's successful transition.

I will be sending Transition Statements home for parents and children to write their thoughts about starting school. Please return them back to Kindy by the first week of November. When I have completed my comments, they will then be handed back to families. You are encouraged to pass them onto your child's new school as a way of introducing your child to their new Prep Teacher.

## Orientation Walks— Elanora State School

As part of our school readiness program, we will be taking the children on some walks around the Elanora State School. At first we will just look around the school campus. Later in term 4 we will visit the school library, and a classroom. There will be lots of opportunities for children to talk about, think about and come to terms with some of their hopes, fears, and expectations about starting school. Even if your child is attending another school, the exposure to a school environment and the follow up conversations will help your child to make that transition to primary school in 2014.

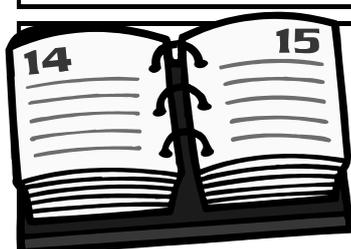


## Children's Sign In Area

You will notice that we have set up an area for children to sign their own names on arrival and departure. Some of our children have begun to show some interest and awareness of the letters and sounds in their names. Please be aware that at 4 or 5 years of age, it is perfectly normal for children to have **very little** interest, awareness or skill in this area. While it is important for us to support and guide children with their emerging interest in this area, we are not expecting children to have to write perfectly at Kindergarten as this will be fully covered in Prep and Grade 1 at Primary School. Please approach this area with your child with support and encouragement, however, please remember that any pressure or unrealistic expectations of their writing ability can be detrimental to their self-esteem at this early stage. As children's literacy skills are emerging, the best ways to support them in this area is reading stories to children everyday, (research shows that children who are read to every day experience greater academic success in primary school).

We are sending home a laminated copy of your child's name using the Queensland School font. Many parents are supporting their children at home to write their own name. If your child is beginning to write, please ensure that your children are introduced to the Queensland school print using capital letters only for the start of the name.

Once again, make this fun and only when your child is showing interest and readiness. Many children at 4 or 5 are still developing the small muscles in their hands that they need to write with. Children still need lots of opportunities for fine motor development at this age; Lego, play-dough, pegging, etc are all great ways to achieve this.



## Diary Dates

**Pupil Free Day (2014 Orientation Day)—Fri 18/10**  
**Pupil Free Day (2014 Orientation Day) - Mon 21/10**  
**Group B Family Concert/Picnic—Thu 5/12 5:15-6:30**  
**Group A Family Concert/Picnic-Tues 3/12 5:15-6:30**  
**Last Day Term 4 Fri 13/12**