



## A Message From Our Chairperson

We have had a great start to the year at EPIC. All programs are underway and staff are very busy getting to know new families and the children they will work with throughout 2011.

As always, our programs at EPIC continue to provide outstanding support to children and their families. The PrEPIC [transition to prep] program operating at Morang South Primary School has a new intake of ten children and is going extremely well.

Our Acting CEO, Nicole Mahar is doing a terrific job and has the support and confidence of all staff. I am extremely pleased with how well the year has begun.

The Board has only met twice so far this year and is looking forward to an exciting and challenging 2011 as we consider how EPIC and its programs will look in the future. There will be more to report in this area as the year progresses.

I do hope I get to meet some of you during the year. Please know that the staff and the Board are always interested in feedback from parents. If you have any ideas, concerns or suggestions please let us know. You can email me directly on [shrimp.j@bigpond.com](mailto:shrimp.j@bigpond.com) or contact Helen at the office and she'll pass anything on to me.

I wish you a happy and fulfilling year in our wonderful organisation.

Jan Shrimpton

**Hey kids ... Can you spot EPIC's new friends in this newsletter? There are three to find.**

## Diary Dates

*Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April*  
EPIC Family Picnic  
4.30pm to 6.30pm

*Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> April*  
End of term 1

*Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April*  
*Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> April*  
*Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April*  
Planning days

*Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May*  
Groups commence

*Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May*  
School Transition Information  
Session, TOPIC: All your questions  
answered by school representatives

*9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May*  
National Volunteer Week

*Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> June*  
School Transition Information  
Session, TOPIC: Past parents'  
perspectives

*Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> June*  
Queen's Birthday holiday

*Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August*  
School Transition Information  
Session, TOPIC: Day-to-day issues  
regarding schooling



## My Time – Term 2

Week 1 - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> May  
Week 2 - 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> May  
Week 3 - 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> May  
Week 4 - Dinner meeting  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
Week 5 - 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> May  
Week 6 - 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> June  
Week 7 - 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> June  
Week 8 - No My Time  
Week 9 - 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> June

## A Message From Our CEO

I would like to send an enthusiastic welcome to all the families beginning with us in 2011, and to those families returning from 2010.

I hope all our families have experienced a positive start to term one. This year will be a busy year (as always) at EPIC. We have seen the addition of a number of short term groups to our program (some of which are described in more detail throughout this newsletter) to further address the needs and goals of our families.

In addition to the groups and support provided by your keyworker, I would like to encourage families to take the many opportunities that exist at EPIC to be part of our community and learn about the different supports and information early childhood intervention can provide. For example, over the next two terms we will be holding a number of school

information evenings in order to provide families with ways to gain information, and discuss queries as they prepare for school. Also in term two we will be offering Early G.O.A.L.S, a program designed to assist families in strengthening positive behaviours for their children and promoting family wellbeing.

There will also be lots of informal gathering opportunities – hopefully so families can connect with each other and have lots of fun! Coming up we have our Family Easter Sausage Sizzle - I hope to see lots of you there. Please feel welcome to chat with your key worker, or myself if you wish to have some more information. I wish all of our families a Happy Easter and fulfilling, productive time ahead.

Kind Regards,  
Nicole Mahar

HI FAMILIES,

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT WITH THE **FAMILY OUTCOMES** PROJECT IN 2010.

YOUR FEEDBACK AND EXPERIENCES ABOUT EPIC ARE IMPORTANT TO US! WE LOOK FORWARD TO UNDERSTANDING YOUR EXPERIENCES IN **2011** AND HOW EPIC CAN BEST SUPPORT **YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.**

THANKS AGAIN!

PADDY'S MARKET  
SATURDAY 7 May 2011

The Eltham Rural Group has kindly donated funding for the purchasing of books for the EPIC Centre Library. The Group are holding a Paddy's Market on Saturday 7th May 2011 in the Youth Hall at the rear of the Eltham Railway Station. Please support those who support the EPIC Centre.

# Friends and Food



Hi! My name's Jessica. I've been coming to the *Friends and Food* group on Friday mornings with Beth and Lynn. I'm a little bit fussy about what I eat but as part of the group we have been exploring foods. We started with fruit. In the first week I wasn't very happy and I really didn't even want to touch the fruit. Over the next few weeks I started to help with washing the fruit, peeling, cutting and balling the melon (that was a bit yucky but I did it!). Now I can make a fruit kebab with just a little help. I even started to eat pear at kinder...well, I'm just pretending at the moment but Mum's really happy because it's a start!

## Introducing some new members of the EPIC Team

These new team members were with us during Term One, 2011 and we're really looking forward to inviting them back again in the future. Your Key Worker at EPIC will let you know when they may be returning and help you decide if making friends with one or more of them might be beneficial for you and your family.

Hiya!

Some people might say we're all about what's fun for US....and they'd be right. We love to play. When we play we're working and Expanding Language and Vocabulary Skills – we're ELVS. With the help of Leah and Lynn, we've been trying to show our parents how much fun playing is and how much it helps us learn early language. We're really enjoying sharing books and "sparkling" songs too.



### Language Builders



G'Day! We're the Language Builders. We've been working with Leah and Lynn to help children build the bricks (concepts) and framework (grammar) of language. We've been providing parents with the tools to do a bit of DIY work around the home too!

Hi! My name is Feelix. Together, I have been working with facilitators Kate and Carla. Through play we have been exploring and labelling different feelings and promoting the use of calming strategies.



## Thank You Rotary Club of Bundoora

THE Rotary Club of Bundoora has donated more than \$10,000 to help the EPIC Centre in providing families with a Family Resource Room, where parents can make resources such as visual schedules to use at home with their children.

After a massive Christmas raffle which was held at Greensborough Shopping Centre, the club donated the proceeds to EPIC Centre's Acting CEO, Nicole Mahar at a morning tea function on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March.

The Family Resource Room is currently being equipped and will be ready for use in term two. The EPIC Centre staff and Board of Management thank the Rotary Club of Bundoora and look forward to inviting its members back to the Centre to explore the new Family Resource Room in full action.





National Volunteer Week is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 5 million Australians who volunteer.

The Opportunity Shop volunteers are essential to the EPIC Centre, and the organisation would struggle without the support of our volunteers.

On Monday, 31st January, the Reservoir Opportunity Shop carried out an amazing

working bee. A huge thank you to Joan Curtin, Evelyn Tucker, Margret Brown, Jean Lord and Robyn Nichols for devoting their time in cleaning, clearing and organising stock. Your contribution, coupled with Gretchen Fitzgerald's steering of the working bee, is very much appreciated.

To all EPIC Centre volunteers, we thank you for your support and huge contribution in making our services such a success. A huge congratulations to Peggy Thomas who has provided 15 years of volunteering services to Aunty B's, our Opportunity Shop in Diamond Creek.

Volunteers to work at our four Opportunity Shops – Reservoir, Preston, Diamond Creek and Hawthorn – are constantly being sought. If you have a genuine desire to make a difference, please contact Sandra Sartor at the EPIC Centre or via email [sandra.sartor@rmit.edu.au](mailto:sandra.sartor@rmit.edu.au).

#### In Memory of Charles Griffin

4<sup>th</sup> November 1952 – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011

The staff and Board of Management of the EPIC Centre are saddened at the passing of Charles Griffin. Charles, a recipient of the EPIC Centre's Life Membership Award, will be remembered as a kind and generous man who dedicated much of his time and efforts in assisting the organisation in its endeavours to raise funds. A special commemorative plaque will be arranged to mark Charles' contribution to the EPIC Centre. His contribution will always be remembered.

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#### CALLING PARENT REP

The EPIC Centre Board of Management is seeking a parent representative. Board of Management meetings are held one Tuesday night per month. Expressions of interest can be forwarded to [sandra.sartor@rmit.edu.au](mailto:sandra.sartor@rmit.edu.au)

#### Information Sharing

Please regularly check your child's information pocket situated at the front foyer.

Does the EPIC Centre have your current email address? Please forward any email changes to [epic@rmit.edu.au](mailto:epic@rmit.edu.au)



Have you got your EPIC Centre parking permit? If not, please see Helen at reception.