Dear Kindy Parents

On Wednesday of this week, a meeting was held with the KZ Speech and OT Team to explain the screen that children will receive in just over a weeks’ time. ‘KZ’ stands for ‘Kathy Ziatas’ – who owns and runs the KZ Speech Pathology Service with her husband and a team of highly skilled and professional Speech and Occupational Therapists. The meeting was a valuable opportunity to ask questions and to hear how important early intervention is and how important a child’s early experiences are.

Why have we formed a partnership with this company?

• Each year, across schools, quite a number of children enter Kindergarten with a number of different speech and OT issues, which can often prevent them from accessing parts of the learning program. This was the primary reason for forming this partnership in 2014.

• To ensure that students have as positive a start to Kindy as possible, a speech and language, and OT screen is conducted across both classes in Kindy, to determine which children do not need any form of intervention; those children who need to be monitored, and those children who may require a little or regular intervention to address their needs.

• Unfortunately the waitlist for the public system is very long and families can often expect a wait of over one full year before a child is able to commence sessions.
• Organising a private Speech and Occupational Therapist service is preferable, however these can be expensive and children often need to be withdrawn from class, and driven to the session, which is obviously has ramifications for the child, teacher and parent.

What is going to happen next?
• As discussed at whole school meetings and at enrolment interviews, the speech /OT screen is now compulsory here in our school. While there may be some children who end up not having any speech issues that warrant intervention, the data that we will receive from KZ is extremely valuable for you and for us. Class teachers can use the information they receive to plan their programs. In this way, children who have a demonstrated strength in a certain area may not need to participate in certain activities. The teacher will use the information, alongside their own observations, to provide activities and opportunities to build upon what the speech and or OT may have flagged from the screen.

Parent Consent
• While we expect all families to participate in the screen, a child cannot be screened without parent consent, so it is very important that these forms are signed and returned to us by Friday 13th May, Week 3.

Payment of the Screen
• The cost for this screen is a one off payment of $140.00, which includes both the Speech and OT screen. This consists of a 30-minute 1:1 screen and it also includes a written feedback report.
• The staff will also be making themselves available to assist parents to interpret the report.
• It is important to note that this price is close to half of what it would cost for a single appointment with either a speech or OT. The price is cheaper because the screen is happening ‘on-site’ here at school and because of the numbers involved.
• Normally we would include this charge on our own school fees however, if we did this you would not be able to claim money back from your health care provider. By paying KZ directly, most of you should be entitled to reclaim some, if not a significant portion of the cost back.
• This year you will be able to pay by direct debit or by EFTPOS at the Office and this payment needs to be made before the screens commence in Week 4 (details on last page). If you need a little more time to pay then please pop in to discuss this with myself or Gillian Norris in the Office.

If my child is identified as having a speech and/or OT issue, what happens then?
• If your child is identified from the screen as needing some intervention, you will be offered an opportunity to access a once a week or fortnightly ‘in-school’ speech/OT session either individually or with a small group of children with the same needs. (This means that the cost of the session is shared).
• The therapist will be able to communicate regularly with the class teacher and collect the child at a mutually convenient time.

If you have a question regarding the screening itself please put it in writing and email it to St Emilie’s Admin: stemiliesadmin@cathednet.wa.edu.au as soon as possible, identifying your email in the subject box - KZ SPEECH Question for Leadership team – your name.
KZ Speech SP+OT Screens PAYMENT

Payment due: by Friday the 20th May 2016.

Screening Cost - $140.00 (total)

This screen covers a full Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy screen. Payment can be made in two ways prior to the screen being performed.

1). Payments can be made at St Emile’s Office with KZ Speech EFTPOS, with debit or credit card.

2). Payments can be made via direct debit to:

A/c: KZ Speech
BSB: 066 102
A/c: 10118005

If paying via Direct Debit then please add your child's surname and also email KZ with notification of the payment date, name and amount to info@kzspeech.com.au.

Please also notify if you would like the receipt to be made to allow for private health cover claims (ancillary cover).

With thanks from KZSPEECH

5/5/2016