

## Child Care Subsidy

We continue to roll with the ups and downs of the new Child Care Subsidy. The second fortnightly statement under the new system has now been forwarded to you all and we would hope that you would let us know if you are having any difficulty understanding it or if you feel if something is wrong. It is pleasing to say for the large majority the transition has gone smoothly but we are experiencing a couple of teething problems and we are working towards overcoming these. *Parents please take the time to look at your automated payments to adjust according to any change that has occurred with your fortnightly amount owing. This will avoid you either getting behind in your fees or moving too far into credit. Many thanks.*

## Koori Kinnections Programme

August 7th

We will be discovering more about indigenous culture when we have a visit by Koori Kinnections on August 7th.



The children will have a great time hearing about Aboriginal culture and history and learning about the environment. They will also participate in some traditional games and some bush cooking.

Information coming home soon.

# August 2018

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## *Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review*

**Sweetpeas** Since the children have embraced our music groups with enthusiasm, we have been lucky to have some Mums come in to share their music talents with us. Eliza's mum Sally came in to play some special songs from favourite movies on the flute, 'Let it Go', 'You're Welcome' and 'How Far I'll Go', which the children really loved. She spoke about how she cleans her flute and how to put it together in order to take good care of it. Last week we had a music class with Gabe's mum Carmel. We explored and experimented with sound and rhythm. She had many props and new songs to teach us. The children had fun playing drums, shakers and dancing with scarves and tissues as well as pretending to skate on paper plates. She had so many good ideas to share with us to make our music groups a lot of fun. The children engage with these music times and enjoy experimenting with different percussion instruments, learning to keep beat to different music tempos as well as learning to work together so that everyone is heard. We will continue to explore these instruments encouraging self-expression.

**Bluebells:** We can't believe we are into Term 3 already! We hope you are enjoying looking through your child's portfolio and seeing all the amazing work they have done this year so far. We have just had a very exciting holiday program with lots of great activities happening each day. The children particularly enjoyed an exciting Science day. We started the day off with some salt painting. The children were invited to create a picture with glue – dribbling it all over the paper. Once they were happy with it, they then covered the glue in salt and shook off the excess. Then came the science part! Using some water colour paint and a dropper, we dripped some paint onto the salty glue and – WOW! The paint spread through the salt and the glue all by itself! This was fantastic to watch and the children were very keen to add more colours to the salty glue and watch it move. "It's like a snake!" Oliver H said! We also watched an experiment using Mentos lollies and a bottle of Coke –that was like a volcano! The children also showed a lot of interest in magnets that day and spent a bit of time experimenting with different ones we have at preschool and finding out what they would stick to. Science day was a lot of fun!

**Schoolies:** What a fulfilled past few weeks I have had during the short time that I have been here so far. All the Schoolies have made me (Cat) feel very welcome at Mt Colah Preschool. Many of the children have expressed a willingness to support and assist me as I learn the day-to-day routine and practice at Mount Colah Preschool, as well as also helping me learn the names of their fellow peers that attend. Over the past few weeks the holiday program has provided both the Schoolies and myself an opportunity to get to know one another, beginning to form relationships whilst engaging in a wide variety of different experiences together. The Schoolies have discovered that they have the capacity to cope with change and approach a new situation with confidence. An experience such as this also offers opportunity for all children to negotiate changes in their status or identities, especially when they will be attending full-time school and make transition to a new setting next year. I would like to thank all the children and families for kindly supporting and assisting me and I look forward to fun year ahead





***Just a Little Bit*** ....Patrick had just returned from an overseas trip and Steph asked Patrick if he missed everyone at Preschool a big bit or a little bit. After some very careful consideration Patrick replied "***hmm just a little bit***".

## Accident and Illness Policy



During the month of June the Educators reviewed our Accident and Illness Policy. No changes were made to the policy as a result of this review. The policy was discussed at the June staff meeting and it was a great opportunity for Educators to further discuss this policy to keep top of mind important safety issues eg. a focus on supervision practices, security of restricted areas for children and keeping high use areas safe, such as the bathroom. All Preschool policies can be found at the parent sign in table, please feel free to peruse these at any time.



On Construction Day we were all talking about wearing a hard hat on work sites. Lara asked the children "We wear hard hats..... because what do we need to protect"? and the children said "***our brains***" but then Joss also answered "***also our memories***".

## August Birthdays'

**A big Happy Birthday to all of our children and teachers having a birthday this month.**

Eadie—4yrs

Ashton—5yrs

Miriam—4yrs

Oscar—5yrs





## Best Friends ....

Georgia, Sophia and Penny were all sitting together playing. They made a zoo and all the animals were talking to each other.

Georgia said "*All these animals are best friends aren't they?*" and Penny replied "*Yes, they are best friends. Just like we are.*"

## Transition to School Parent Evening - Thursday, August 9th



Preschool families are invited to a parent evening to discuss transition to school. Our presentation will start at 7pm and we encourage you to arrive by 6.45pm to meet other families and enjoy some light refreshments. During the evening we will be discussing early childhood development, readiness for school, choosing the right school and tips for a smooth start. ***Please pop this date in your diary— we hope to see you there!***

## Scholastic Book Club



The first issue of Term 3 is out now. There are some fantastic books on offer this time such as The Wrong Book for \$2 and a few books that would be fun for Father's Day such as My Dad Is A Robot for \$10. You can order and pay via the LOOP app or you can return the order form and money to preschool. All orders are delivered to preschool and there is no charge for delivery. Remember 20% of every order comes back to the preschool in commission which allows us to update our books and resources too. Thank you for all your support of the Book Club.



## Developmental Portfolios

You should all have now received your child's Developmental Portfolio documenting their efforts from the first half of the year. We hope you have enjoyed looking through the portfolio's with your child and family members, celebrating their achievements and talking about their experiences. You will note that your child's Educator has suggested some developmental goals for the remainder of the year to assist or extend your child. Please do not hesitate to see your child's teacher if you have any questions or would like to have a one on one meeting. **Parents please return your child's Portfolio to Preschool before Friday, August 3rd. This is important to allow your child's Educator to use your feedback for planning for your child and so they continue the Portfolio for the second half of the year.** You will be able to keep the Portfolio at the end of the year.



## Schoolies Nature Walk Excursion – 16.7.18

The Monday Schoolies embarked on an excursion to Asquith Park during our Nature Day. The park provided a range of learning opportunities for the children. We were able to interact with our natural environment thanks to the wonderful nature inspired area.

Within this area we made our own teepee and collected natural materials from the ground to return to preschool for a nature inspired craft. We also used some of the materials for our loose parts trolley. The children's gross motor skills were also tested as they navigated their way around the various equipment. The Schoolies were encouraged to find rubbish at the park which was collected by educators and placed into the bin as we continue to be mindful of filling the environments bucket.

The children **LOVED** the time spent on their excursion which could not have been possible without our wonderful family volunteers Kimberly, Annabelle, Alexis, Maud, Mary and Justine. **Thank you!**



## Our Families are the Best!

*We have had some fantastic family involvement this past month and the children have valued the learning experiences provided.*



*The O'Connor family put together a 'Room on the Broom' play which was met with laughter from the children as they watched one of our favourite books come to life.*

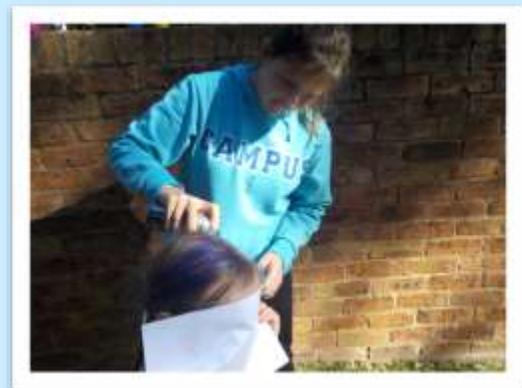
*Sally (Eliza's Mum) taught the children some information about her flute. She then went on to play some of our favourite songs for the children to sing along to.*



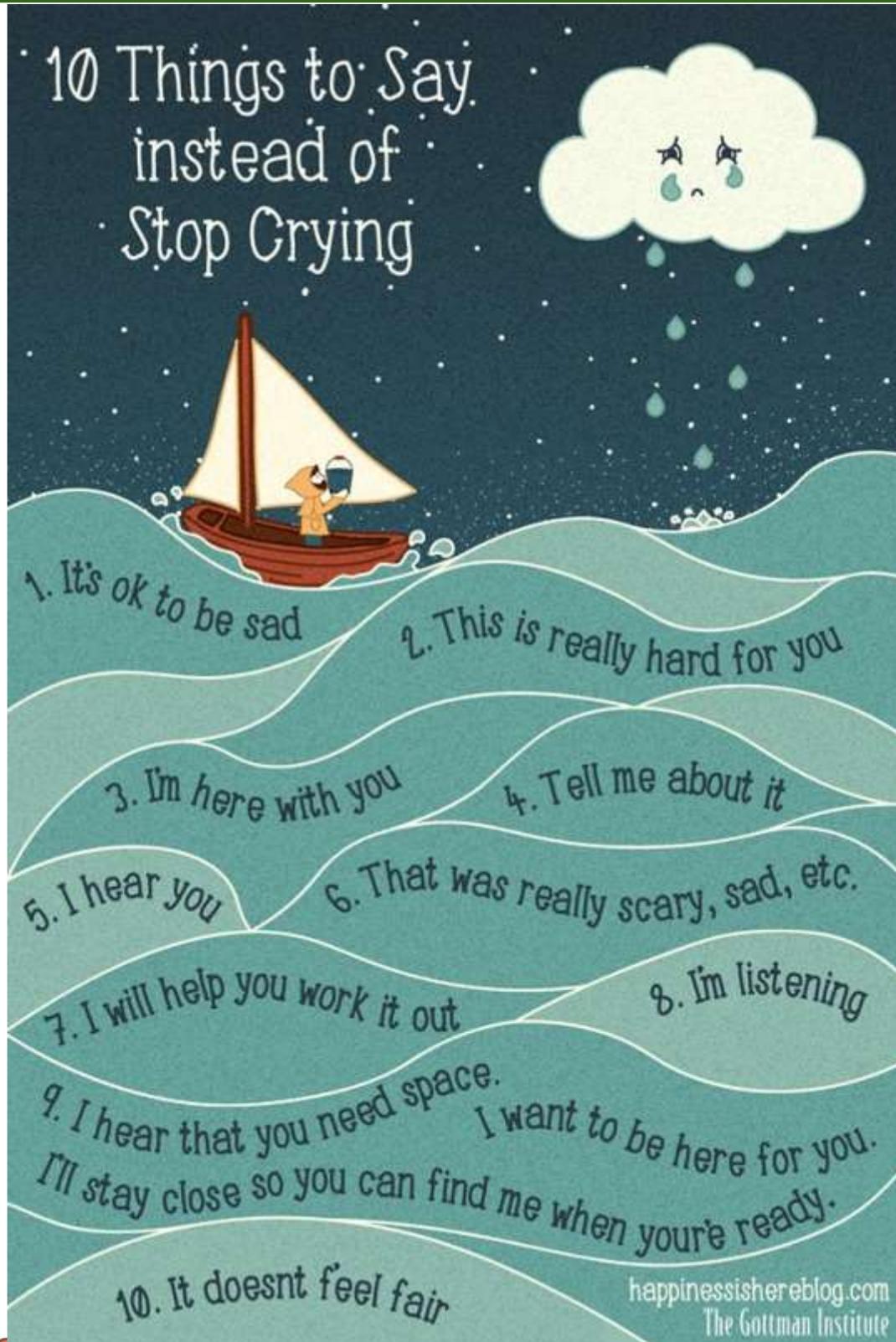
*Carmel (Gabe's Mum) gave the children a music class where they were able to interact with a variety of instruments. The gathering drum was a big success. This hands on experience allowed us to experiment with sounds and rhythm through the story of weather.*



*Jess (Tilly's Mum) helped us with our Crazy Hair day! The children were filled with joy on this day and loved their new colourful hairstyles.*



**Supporting Emotional Regulation** Early childhood is the time that children learn about the different emotions they feel and learn about self regulating their emotions. Here are some great ideas suggesting ways you can support your child to work through their emotions, helping them to learn to self regulate.



# Phonics Programme



The children were very excited to meet the cute **Peter Puppy** that makes a special 'P' sound. **Peter Puppy** loves **Playing** in the **Park** with his **Pals** and enjoys **Paddling** around in **Puddles**. The teachers have noticed the children's emerging interest in 'Paper aeroplanes' so we had a **Paper** aeroplane making class. The children all sat in a circle, they listened to the step by step instructions given by the educators then used their receptive language skills and acted upon these instructions. They used their fine motor skills as they folded and pressed the **paper** in various ways whilst providing support and encouragement to their friends next to them if they were having some difficulties, which was lovely to see. As the children threw their **Paper** aeroplanes they made the special 'P' sound. We then extended their knowledge by researching **Planes** at group time.



During the Holiday Programme we have been doing revision. We revisited our favourite Letterland characters: **Lucy Lamp Light, Oscar Orange, Talking Tess, Clever Cat, Sammy Snake and Dippy Duck**. Repetition helps to improve speed in recognition, increases confidence, and strengthens the connections in the brain that help children learn. It was amazing to see the knowledge the children retained on the sounds they learnt weeks ago. Parents, feel free to do sound revision with your children at home to further your child's phonemic awareness.





Working with the children as the year has progressed it is great to see how they now all participate together to create, solve problems and contribute to our group outcomes!!!



Our finished Belonging Tree now hangs at preschool with photos attached to show how our preschoolers work and play together as part of our preschool community.



During the second week of the school holidays we again learnt lots about how much you can achieve with team work. Our slime was fun to make and play with (using wooden spoons not our hands), but was not as successful as we had hoped. We discussed how science experiments don't always work and that by changing the balance of ingredients we will hopefully make better slime next time we attempt it.



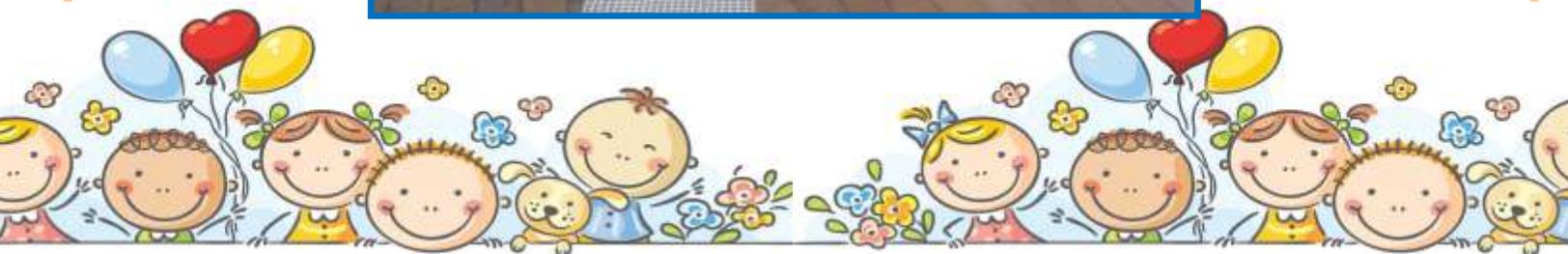
Little Endeavours



On Construction Day the children really impressed in the way they worked with each other to share their ideas and creativity!



Construction Day was a huge success and our finished 'building' had many features in it that the children created together. It was fantastic to see them discussing what they could use items for and how together they managed to construct it.





## Quality Improvement Plan (QIP):



As we look to our Quality Improvement Plan, our first area of focus is the cultural

competence of our Educators and our Preschool programme. We have started this by initiating a relationship with the Government's Inclusion Support Service to seek their guidance and support. Parents, do you find your home culture is respected at Preschool? Do you have any ideas on how we could better address cultural sensitivities? Would you like to participate in our Preschool Programme and share your culture with the children? Please talk to your child's Educator.

You will see displayed above the children's locker our focus areas of the Quality Improvement Plan. Progress notes are kept at the sign in table for you to look at. If you have any comments on any of the areas please feel free to let us know.

## Dates to Remember!

August 3rd	Developmental Portfolios must be returned
August 7th	Koori Connections
August 9th	Transition to School Parent Evening
August 20th	Wildlife Show
September 4th & 6th	Preschool Photos



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