

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow

Developmental Portfolios

We hope you have enjoyed looking through your child's Developmental Portfolio and have also found it to be an informative insight into your child's development and how they are progressing.

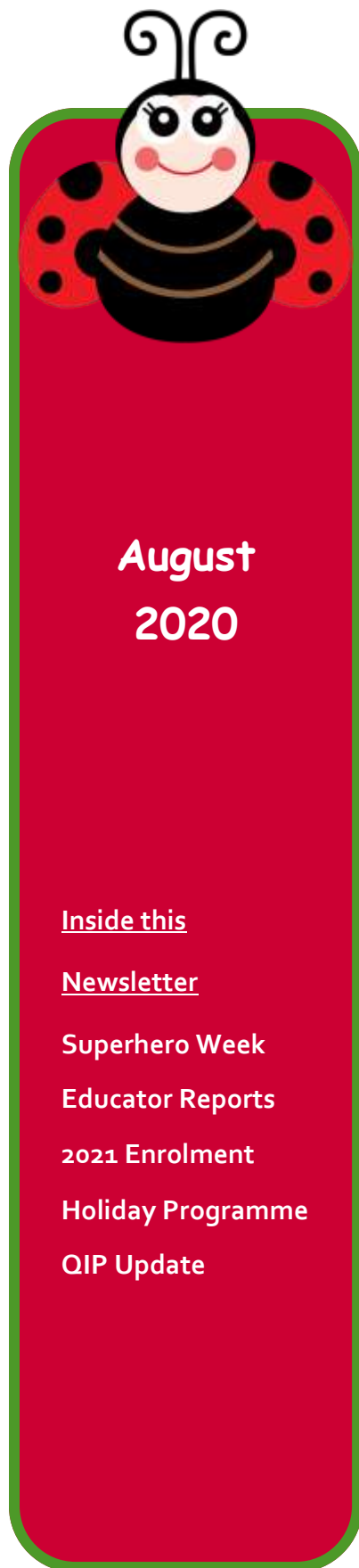


In particular, we hope you have enjoyed reading the learning stories that educators have captured, highlighting your child's growing capabilities, how they interact with others, problem solve and transfer their knowledge from one context to another.

If you have any questions in relation to your child's development please see your child's Educator. You are also able to request a meeting time with your Educator should you wish to discuss your child's development at length. ***Please return your child's Portfolio to your child's Educator prior to August 3rd as we need them back to continue recording observations of your child for the remainder of the year.*** You will be able to keep your child's Developmental Portfolio at the end of the year.

Additional Childcare Subsidy

From July 12th the Government's Child Care support package ceased and we returned to the Child Care Subsidy system which requires parents to now pay the gap fee. If you are experiencing financial hardship and finding the gap fee payments difficult please visit the Government information page on the <https://www.education.gov.au/additional-child-care-subsidy-o> which provides information on how you can apply for temporary financial hardship and we have hard copies of this also available at Preschool. If you are experiencing financial hardship please call Annette or Lara to discuss.





Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas: The Sweetpeas have enjoyed a fun filled holiday program with many activities to participate in. Last Friday we all joined in with dress up day. Children and educators alike got into the spirit, using their imagination by pretending to be something or someone else for the day. So many different characters arrived at preschool. We had a few Elsa and Anna characters, Chase from Paw Patrol, beautiful unicorns, Owlet from PJ Masks, a shark, Where's Wally, a super brave fire fighter, lots of super heroes, Woody and many more. There was so much excitement when a life size Black Panther came to visit. We discussed what an imagination is and went on a journey using our imagination as we followed a red balloon floating across Australia, seeing many wonderful things. This led to understanding how authors use their imagination to take us on a magical journey with the use of words and how an artist tells a story with drawing. When children use their imagination in play they develop an understanding of the world in which they live, they learn to solve problems, create new possibilities and who knows, could even change the world one day. A child's imagination can change a twig into a magic wand or a cardboard tube into a telescope. Albert Einstein said, ***'Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.'***



Bluebells: The Bluebells have been very enthusiastic participants in the recent holiday programme, engaging in a variety of experiences. From making tornadoes to dressing up as their favourite characters, there was lots of craft, stories, games and learning experiences. One such day was engineering day. The children participated in conversations about what an engineer is with many sharing their ideas of what an engineer would do. The children were then invited to investigate a variety of recyclable materials and imagine what they could create. There were cd cases, dvd boxes, coffee pods, bottle tops, cups, bottles, ribbon casing and much more. The children chose their materials and were then invited to draw their idea onto paper before being assisted by Deon and Jo using the glue guns to bring these to life. Many children created types of vehicles such as cars, trucks, trains and planes while some children created bridges, space ships or people. These were all fantastic ideas and the children demonstrated what confident and involved learners they are.





Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Schoolies: During the past few weeks our program has been enriched with exploring a wide range of old and new Nursery Rhymes. This interest stemmed from the Schoolies wanting to engage in rhyme games and reading Nursery Rhymes books in our quiet corner. The children have been singing and reading books to further explore the concept of rhyme, their favourite books being 'Green Eggs And Ham' and 'The Cat In The Hat' by Dr Seuss. The children have been identifying the words that rhyme with each other as we read the books and then continue to think of other words that rhyme with a word from the story, further scaffolding their own learning. The children have also been engaging in Nursery Rhymes during music and movement and transition times to further their understanding of the concept of rhyme. 'This Old Man' and 'Open Shut Them' have been on repeat. Hearing and using rhyme, rhythm and repetition helps children develop early literacy skills. The repetition of words, ideas and skills is important for early brain development, as it creates secure foundations for early learning. Families please continue to sing Nursery Rhymes, read rhyming books, play rhyming games, make up silly rhyming songs to further your children's literacy skills and understanding of the concept of rhyme



**PLEASE
LET US KNOW**

Families,

Please let us know if your child is unwell or is not able to attend Preschool before 9am on the morning of attendance.

This applies for any type of illness or reason for non attendance.

Just a reminder that if anyone in your family is suspected of having the corona virus that your child is to remain at home until the family has been tested and cleared.





“All children need heroes, some need superheroes”

Commencing the week of Monday July 27th, we will be supporting Bear Cottage’s annual fundraiser ***Superhero Week.***

The children are encouraged to dress up as a Superhero throughout the week. Remember, not all superheroes wear capes, your child can dress up as anyone they consider to be a Superhero such as an astronaut, nurse, policeman, doctor, a member of the family, sporting hero, lifeguards etc.

Throughout the week we will make a donation tin available should you wish to make a donation to this great cause. Alternatively, we have also set up a link if you would like to donate this way <https://www.superheroweek.com.au/fundraisers/MCPK/mt-colah-preschool>. Bear Cottage provide amazing and very special support services to children and families, for more information about the special work they do please click here <https://www.superheroweek.com.au/>

Thanks for your *Superhero* support.

Being active contributors to their world....

Children's connectedness and different ways of belonging with people, country and community helps them to learn ways of being which reflect the values, traditions and practices of their families and communities. Whilst preschool age children start by helping and contributing in small ways to the world around them over time this learning transforms the ways they interact with others. Our aim is to create an environment where children can participate collaboratively in everyday routines, events and experiences providing the opportunity to contribute. Kindness, empathy for, and a willingness to help others are dispositions that all our Preschooler's are soaking up from the world around them—literally as we speak. Especially in the crazy nature of the year we have had let's surround them with great examples of our human capacity to make a difference in someone else's life, no matter how small.





2021 Preschool Enrolment

We are now enrolling for the start of 2021

If you know of anyone who may be interested in sending their child to Preschool next year, please invite them to get in touch with us.

Many thanks.



Steph was talking to Lucas and asked him "What should I get for my birthday?" and he replied "get a house" and Steph said that's too expensive. Lucas replied "Just get an apartment then"



Outstanding Job!

Congratulations Mt Colah Preschool, together we have raised a massive

\$1,762 for the Children's Ward at Hornsby Hospital. The children have done an amazing job to reach this target.

A big thank you to our awesome families for your support to this worthy cause.





Is your child due for their 4 Year Old Immunisation Booster?

1. Please remember that the ongoing provision of your Child Care Subsidy is linked with keeping to the immunisation schedule—if you don't have the booster in a timely fashion your CCS can be cancelled.
2. Once you have had the immunisation booster, please remember to provide to the Preschool a copy of your updated Immunisation Statement for our records. The Preschool is legally required to keep a copy of your child's current status on file.

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 5 of the book club is available now and this will be a brochure again this month. Please have a look through this at the range of books available. If you would like to place an order then you can return the order form with the money to preschool or you can order through the LOOP app. All orders placed are delivered to preschool and the preschool receives 20% commission on each order which we then use to update our books and resources. If you have any questions about the book club, please see Deon.



August Birthdays'

Wishing everyone with a birthday this month a very happy day!

Hamish—5yrs

Pippy—5yrs

James—4yrs



HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Wow! We had another fun filled Holiday Programme this month. To say the children enjoyed themselves would be an understatement!

The children were all such enthusiastic participants over the past fortnight. It was an opportunity for us to explore many of our learning dispositions and skills.

Here are some highlights from the past fortnight:



We used our expressive language and creativity during Sock Puppet Day



Crazy Hair Day brought out our fun loving personalities



Bluey Day was so much fun, we made masks and transferred our knowledge of our favourite show into our play.



HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

*Highlights continued from our fun
Holiday Programme*



Dress up day allowed us to further expand our imaginations as we took on different characters.



Science Day allowed us to use a range of our skills to problem solve, experiment and investigate. We learn't that things don't always go to plan, but that's okay!



Phonemic Awareness Programme



Peter Puppy

The children loved meeting Peter Puppy. Peter Puppy loves playing in the park. Peter Puppy thinks the best time for playing at the park is just after it has been raining, because then he can paddle in all the puddles. Reading Peter Puppy's story helped us uncover many words that start with the P sound. We also practiced making the P sound singing Peter Puppy's special song. Making paper planes was an exciting way to connect with Peter Puppy's sound. With some help and guidance from educators and our instruction books the children enjoyed folding and making the planes further developing their fine motor skills. Once they had made their plane it was now time for the fun part! Together they enjoyed flying the planes and watching them glide across the room. This experience was a huge hit! The children also enjoyed creating our very own 'Purple People Eater' with Jo. Using a wide variety of decorative materials they applied wonderful creative and imaginative skills. The children decided they only wanted to use items that have a 'P...p...p...' sound on the 'Purple People Eater' including, *pom-poms*, and all item's... *'P...p...p... purple'*. This experience was a wonderful learning opportunity for the children to share their own thoughts and ideas and express and extend their knowledge of Peter Puppy's letter sound. We also discovered many hidden theatrical talents as the children created their own puppet theatre and brought their own stories to life.



Revision

Using our Letterland interactive software and Letterland character story books and songs, the children have enjoyed rediscovering the Letterland friends they met last Term and their special sound. During these experiences the children's educators have encouraged the children to practise producing the various letter sounds. Playing 'I spy' has been a fun way for the children to consolidate their concept of phonetics as they scan our learning environment for objects that have the corresponding beginning letter sound. For example, when the children were required to look for an object that starts with *'Red Robot's, 'R...r...r...'* sound, the children found the bright red *rocket ship* on the wall along with the *rubbish bin*. As they did this, the educator's encouraged the children to produce the letter sound.



SUSTAINABILITY

In the garden – One of the fun days we had during the holiday program was Nature day. We worked very hard with Jo turning soil to prepare the vegetable tubs for new vegetables. We filled them with new soil and made sure to carefully replant the carrots and tomatoes already growing. New beans and lettuce plants were planted. With a little TLC and lots of water we will have fresh carrots, tomatoes, lettuce and bean for our afternoon tea.

Our worms have been working very hard munching all the veggie scraps making precious worm wee for our gardens. The children enjoyed filling bottle to take home to use in their gardens. We also fed the worms and some brave children asked if some worms could 'Come and play.'



Return and Earn Thank you to everyone for all the bottles collected. Some recycled bottles were used for Science Day. We made tornados in a bottle using water, glitter and a drop of dishwasher liquid. The children found these quite mesmerizing. Another load of bottles will be counted and taken to Berowra Post office to be added to our Koala fund bringing our total to \$40. Thank you for your support.



Little Endeavours



What a busy month we
have had learning,
creating and having fun.



OUR PURPLE PEOPLE EATER – To practice the sound P we make our own one eyed, one horned flying purple people eater. As we created him we found we used lots of P words to describe him, and the items and processes we used to make him.



CRAZY SOCK DAY – So many different socks brought in to make our wonderful sock puppets. The children loved adding all the different features that made each one so unique.



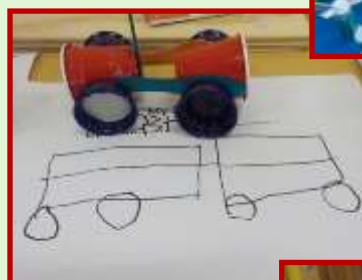
NATURE DAY – Our worms have been working hard eating all our scraps and the preschoolers loved putting all our worm wee into bottles so they could use it on their gardens at home. There were also requests for the worms to 'come out and play' and children held them in their hands and watched they wriggle around.



SCIENCE DAY – It only took water, a drop or two of dishwash liquid and glitter to make a mesmerising tornado in a bottle that the children were amazed by.



ENGINEERING DAY – First there was the choice of what to use, then the plan to be drawn, and finally putting it all together to create a vehicle, bridge or anything else the children could think of. All the finished products looked very like the plans we saw them draw up.



PEOPLE WHO HELP US – We created our own Mt Colah Preschool Police Force and the children made their own police wallet with a picture of themselves, a police trainee badge and information card with their name and badge number.



Quality Improvement Plan (QIP):

During the last few months of COVID lockdown, Accreditors have not been performing spot checks on children's services as they have been unable to move to and from services for health and hygiene reasons. In lieu of this they have been phoning to ask questions and request paperwork demonstrating compliance. We received a spot check call the week commencing July 6th. The Accreditor verbally asked questions about our educational programme and requested copies of: Medication Form, Injury and Illness Form, Enrolment Form and current information on educators to ensure they complied with correct qualifications, working with children checks, first aid training and other management requirements. Also requested was information on the process of our ongoing Quality Improvement Plan. All this information has been forwarded to the Department of Education as requested.



Dates to Remember!

July 27-31

National Superhero Week Fundraiser

August 3

Portfolios Due Back

August 10—21

Living Eggs



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