

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



Dear Families,

The year has flown even faster than its usual fashion and yes, this is our final Newsletter for the year! We have Christmas and summer holidays right around the corner, a very special time of year. You will soon receive your child's

developmental portfolio for you to keep. When you look at the record of progress in skill level, development and growth for your child over the past 12 months you will be amazed at how far they have come. The educational team know just how important it is that children are given every opportunity to extend their knowledge, challenge their own thinking, develop social skills and confidence in themselves in a safe and caring environment and are so grateful to be working with your children to provide an active learning environment.

Farewell to all our children heading off to school next year. It has been a pleasure to watch them blossom, build their independence and resilience in readiness for their next adventure and wonderful to witness the kindness they demonstrate to each other. To our returning children, we look forward to seeing you again in the new year, as our leaders and helpers as we welcome new children and families to Preschool.

The passion, enthusiasm and dedication the teaching team has shown again this year is truly remarkable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them so much for the caring and stimulating learning environment they provide every day on top of the huge amount of administration that occurs behind the scenes.

I know the teaching team have also greatly appreciated the many ways in which our families have provided support this year and we all feel very blessed to be a part of the very special Mt Colah Preschool community.

On behalf of the teaching team, I would like to thank you so much for your support this year and wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe and relaxing summer break.

Warmest regards,

Annette



December 2018

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Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas: It's that time of year again when we all say 'Where did it go?' The Sweetpeas have come such a long way since starting preschool at the beginning of the year. The thing I enjoy most about my job is witnessing all the amazing changes in these little people. From really shy beginnings they have all grown and accomplished so much. Firstly and most importantly they have learned to be away from parents which may take time. I have watched new friendships grow as the children have learned to interact with kindness. It has been great to see children, with big smiles on their faces conquer fundamental movement skills which they thought they couldn't. With practice, the Sweetpeas are learning to be independent, but not afraid to ask for help, as they manage bathroom routines, pack away belongings, wash hands and apply sunscreen. We still have so many fun exciting things to do together over the coming weeks. Thank you all for our special times together, I look forward to seeing next year's new Bluebells, who will be able to help the new Sweetpeas settle into the New Year at preschool. Wishing you all happy holidays and a safe return. *'The greatest gifts we can give our children, are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence'* – Author unknown

Bluebells: We are quickly approaching the end of 2018 and very soon, our beautiful Bluebell friends will move on to being Schoolies. This month has been another busy one in preschool as we have been working so hard to learn all the songs and actions for our Christmas concert. We just know you will be impressed by how beautifully everyone sings! Our children have been learning about our bodies and how different parts work such as our lungs and brains - this led to a fantastic discussion about why we need to wear helmets when we are on our bikes, scooters, skateboards, skates etc. Over the next few weeks, we will be preparing for Christmas so look out for some wonderful craft coming home! To all our beautiful Bluebell children - your educators are so proud of you all this year. We have watched you embrace preschool this year and try your best at everything you have been asked to do, making some wonderful friendships along the way and having the best time! We would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Schoolies: Over the past few weeks all the children have been given the opportunity to gain greater understanding of our body, in particular our five senses; sight, smell hearing and taste. Together they engaged in some fun interactive discussions and experiences where they explored how all senses link to each other. The children were offered opportunity to smell, taste and feel some unusual ingredients and materials as well as expressing their own knowledge and understanding of their world and its surroundings by identifying different sounds through listening whilst exploring their sense of hearing. They also discovered that our senses help keep us safe, for example, smelling smoke from a fire and hearing and listening to traffic when crossing the road. Wow-wee we have had a wonderful time this year watching you grow and learn in your own individual way. Together we have learnt so much about each other as we have been preparing for the next chapter in your journey. We wish all Schoolies the very best at school and look forward to your visits and listening to your stories all about big school. Parents, it's been a pleasure getting to know you and sharing this very exciting time in your child's life as we work collaboratively together preparing your child for big school. When starting school, each child will develop at their own pace and there is a need for patience during the transition period. Stay focussed on offering support for your child's emotional and social well being and allow for a good night's sleep and they will flourish in their new learning environment.





Preschool Christmas Party

Friday, December 7th

Make sure your RSVP has been returned—we look forward to seeing you there!

Children to be dropped to Preschool **before 9am** and the Church will open for parents and family from 9.10am

Scholastic Book Club



The last issue for the year is out now and available in your communication pockets. All orders must be in for Friday 30th November to ensure delivery in time before we close for Christmas - no orders will be accepted after this day. Please remember you can return your order form with the money to preschool or you can order via the LOOP app. Thank you for all the orders received this year. The preschool has been able to update our own books and resources with the commission from these orders as 20% of all orders comes back to us as book club rewards. The book club will return in Term 1, 2019. Thanks for your support!

December Birthday's

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

Victoria—5 yrs

Hazel—5 yrs

Madison—4yrs

Xavier—6 yrs



Big School Week!

Week Commencing November 26th

Children heading off to school next year are very welcome to wear their school uniform during this week. During Big School Week we will be having visits from local schools. A teacher and several kindergarten students visit and talk to all the children about school, show off their school uniforms and read our preschooler's stories.



The teacher also introduces our children to a book called "Big School". This book was produced in collaboration between local schools and local prior to school services and offers the preschooler's a great pictorial guide to all the different places in our local schools. This book is then left out for our Preschool children to look at for the remainder of the year. We have been conducting Big School Week in collaboration with local schools for a number of years as it provides another Important transitional link for the children heading off to school



Preschool Accounts

Your final account for 2018 has been distributed and all payments are due by Friday December 7th.

Therefore, could we please remind everyone to ensure your account is finalised prior to December 7th and for all, especially for those leaving Preschool, *please stop any automatic fee payments* you may

have set up to avoid your account going into credit. Overpayment of fees by returning children will be retained as a credit in your account.

Please note that our daily fee for 2019 will be \$93 per day.

Casual Days Book

As the Preschool accounts are being finalised in December please be aware that the Casual Days Book finishes operating at the end of November.



Mini Santa Cheesecakes

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Line a 24 cup mini muffin tin with paper cases.
2. Use an electric beater to beat the cream cheese, sugar, vanilla and lemon juice until smooth and creamy. Add the eggs, one at a time.
3. Break each mini Oreo in half and use a knife to scrape the cream filling away from the lower Oreo. Place one mini Oreo into the base of each mini muffin cup.

Ingredients

- 12 mini Oreo biscuits
- 250 g cream cheese
- 1/2 cup caster sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 1 tbs lemon juice
- 2 eggs
- 24 fresh strawberries
- 150 ml cream
- 2 tbs icing sugar



4. Divide the cream cheese mixture amongst the muffin cups, pouring it or spooning it over each mini Oreo.
5. Bake in the oven for 20 minutes or until slightly risen and just beginning to crack on the surface.
6. Cool completely on a wire rack and refrigerate while you make the toppings.
7. Whip the cream and icing sugar together until thick and fluffy. Prepare the strawberries by cutting off their tops (where the stalk is) to create a Santa hat shape out of each one.
8. Put the whipped cream mixture into a piping bag and pipe a generous blob onto each cooled cheesecake. Place a strawberry onto each blob, pushing it down so that the cream oozes out slightly to become the hat's fur trim.



Last week we were talking about sight and how some people have to wear glasses. Hugo T asked Deon if she wore her glasses when she went to bed and Deon explained to Hugo no, I take them off at night time. He said *"Oh. Then how do you see in your dreams?"*



Santa Trivia—If all 2 billion children Santa visits left a class of milk for him, Santa would need to drink 4 million gallons of milk every hour, or about 137 million gallons of milk overnight. A human stomach can hold about 2–4 liters of liquid!





Expressive Art Fundraiser

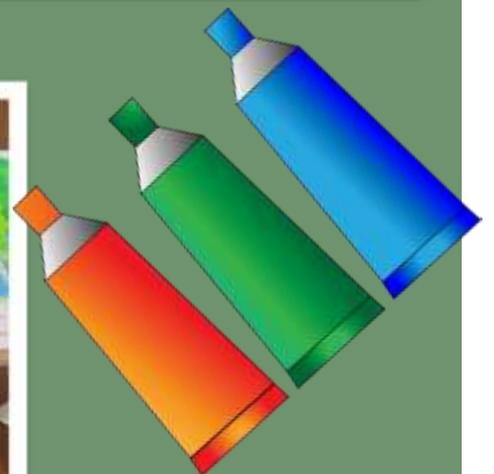
The children were busy over the last month completing their textured paintings for our Hornsby Hospital Children's Ward Fundraiser.

It was an important lesson in giving back to the community and helping those less fortunate than we are.

Everyone took pride in their artworks, even more so when they knew it was going to such a great cause. In fact, quite a few children were overheard telling their parents in the afternoon's that they needed to buy the painting to help the children at the hospital.

It is so lovely seeing our little people recognising how they can help others and displaying a sense of belonging within our community.

Thank you for your kind donations, we were able to raise a grand total of \$825.30





We were all excited about the Kindifarm visit. The children were inquisitive to see what animals they would see, with some of the children a little apprehensive until they saw the animals in a pen. We sat on a mat listening to Rob as he explained how to be gentle and quiet around the animals so that they wouldn't be frightened. Everyone had a chance to hold or pat the animals as they were passed around, a little pig and chicks. The duck was a little cheeky as it pecked at everything, so we got to touch his soft feathers on his back. Rob showed us how sheep are shorn and then cracked his big whip which sounded so much like thunder. Everyone was very impressed. Then it was time to feed all the animals special food that Rob had for us. The children were so good and listened so well. It was lovely to see everyone being considerate and kind to each other allowing everyone a chance to get up close to the animals.



Fun with Phonics

Walter Walrus and Golden Girl are the latest friends we have had the pleasure to meet in Letterland.



The Schoolies have been introduced to **Walter Walrus** who makes the special 'W' sound. He loves resting his **Webbed** flippers **Wedged** into his two **Wa-ter Wells** While he sunbathes, which makes himself look like a 'W'. The children were lucky enough this **Week** to make **Walter Walrus'** favourite drink, a **Watermelon smoothie**. The children individual came up one at a time and used their fine motor skills as they manipulated the tongs to pick up a few pieces of **Watermelon** and put it into the blender. As they did this they were asked to say a **Word** that starts with the special sound 'W'. After all the **Watermelon** was in we added some coconut **Water**. We then turned the blender on and **Watched** it **Whiz** around. The children then used their sense of taste when drinking their **Watermelon** smoothie which linked to our interest of, 'Our Senses'. Although not everyone liked the smoothie it was great to see them give it ago.



This week we have meet **Golden Girl** in her **Garden**. **Golden Girl** loves to play in her **Garden** and **Grows** all sorts of things such as **Green Grapes** and **Grass** for her **Goats** to eat. She even has a **Green-**

house. The Schoolies will be tending to our preschool **Garden**, doing weeding, watering and collecting the worm wee. **Golden Girl** will be very happy that we are maintaining our **Garden** and keeping it all nice and **Green**.



Mt Colah Public School Band Performance

Monday 12th November 2018



The Band which was conducted by Mat in the Hat played some of our favourite songs which we had to use our musical knowledge to guess. We danced to The Greatest Showman, Bananas In Pyjamas, Head Shoulders and of course Baby Shark, allowing us to express ourselves through music and dance. We learnt about tempo and the role of the conductor in a band. Mikey and Sophie both put on the conductors hat and had a turn of conducting the band with the baton.



The children were able to further their musical knowledge as they were shown a variety of instruments including the trumpet, flute, clarinet, trombone, saxophone, drums and more. At the end of the band's wonderful performance the children were able to engage with the instruments and there was much talk on the instrument they would like to play when they go to school.

A big thank you to the wonderful band! It is so great to belong to such a wonderful community!



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dates to Remember!



December 7th
December 21st
January 21st

Christmas Party
Last Day of Preschool
First Day for 2019



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