

# Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



Dear Families,

This year has been difficult and challenging for everyone, and the support and care from our Preschool community has been so clearly visible, especially these last six months. So please let me start by saying **'THANK YOU'**.

All the educators at Preschool could not be prouder of the children, they have had to navigate a tough year, with Covid and changes to their everyday life. We are so glad that the routine and consistency of Preschool was able to give them some normalcy. They have showed their resilience to adapt to changes and were able to do so whilst also bringing laughter and joy to our Preschool family.

We are all so amazed at how far the children have come this year. We have seen growth and progress in all aspects of their development. The educational team know how important it is to extend their knowledge, challenge their thinking and develop their social and emotional skills in a safe and caring environment. It is our greatest privilege to be working with your children in this wonderful environment.

A big farewell to our Schoolies who are starting the next chapter of their life. We are so proud of how far you have come, the wonderful friendships you have built, the kindness you display and your ability to collaborate and work together. We will miss you!

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. Through adversity they have shown up everyday and have gone above and beyond.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them so much for the caring and stimulating learning environment they provide each and everyday.

**On behalf of the teaching team, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe and relaxing break.**

Warmest Regards,  
Lara

Merry Christmas



## December 2021

Inside this  
Newsletter

Educator Reports  
Big School Week  
Fundraiser Updates





## Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review



**Sweetpeas:** We have come to the end of another year, which has been full of challenges. I am pleased to say how well we have taken all that has been thrown at us and held our heads up high. The best part of my job is to witness how all these precious little Sweetpeas, who have had such tentative starts at the beginning of the year, gain so much confidence and accomplish so much. They have learned to be away from parents, which sometimes takes a little time, to share, co-operate, make new friends and to be independent but not afraid to ask for help. It has been wonderful to see children with big smiles on their faces as they conquer things, they never thought they would. Thank you for all these special times we have spent together and for the affection you all so readily share with us. I look forward to seeing you all again next year as Bluebells, who will help settle the new Sweetpeas into the new preschool year. To all those who are moving on we will miss you so much and wish you good luck as you start new preschools. Wishing you all happy holidays and a safe return.

**Bluebells:** In the blink of an eye, here we are at the end of 2021. It certainly hasn't been the year any of us expected, planned or hoped for but the resilience shown by the children has been incredible to see. I can honestly say seeing the children each day kept life that little bit normal for the educators as we navigated a very strange year. Bluebells, we have had a great year together and we are so proud of how far you have come over these last few months. Everyone participated in Mini Moves this year, developing some amazing fundamental movement skills. Do you remember how tricky you found hopping at the start of the year? Look how well you can do it now! You have all made some lovely friends and you have become more confident in your learning, developing some new skills along the way. We have enjoyed lots of fun events at preschool this year, such as our Walkathon, the chicks coming to visit and the Reptile show. Bluebells, we know you are going to love being Schoolies and we can't wait to share this exciting next step with you. Merry Christmas Bluebells!

**Schoolies:** The Schoolie Educators would like to take this opportunity to share with you how proud and amazed we are of each and every Schoolie for navigating and adapting to the many changes this year that COVID brought. We want to shed light and bring to the spotlight the friendships that have been made, the independence that has been acquired and the leaps and bounds so many of our dear Schoolies have made in terms of their development. The Schoolies have learnt so much about one another and themselves as they have been preparing for their next chapter at 'Big School'. We wish all the Schoolies the very best for their first year of school and look forward to you popping back in for a visit and cuddles every now and then. Families, it has been a pleasure getting to know you as always, as well as sharing this very exciting time in your child's life, working collaboratively with you in preparing your child for big school. Wishing all Schoolies and families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.





# Fundraisers Update!



In September, the educators registered to participate in a fundraiser to raise money for the Black Dog Institute, the One Foot Forward event. Each of the educators set out to walk between 60–100 kms over the month of October which is the official Mental Health Awareness Month. We were still in lockdown and walking was one of the few things that we could do! October started and we set up our fundraiser page. The educators shared photos with each other of the walks we were doing, there were walks before work, there were bush walks and there were lots of walks in our local communities. Over the course of the month, the educator team walked a total of 660 kms and raised the incredible amount of \$5,495, all of which goes to help support mental health research and awareness.



Black Dog  
Institute

## Mt Colah Preschool

Thank you for taking  
**ONE FOOT  
FORWARD**  
for mental health

Distance  
**660km**

Raised  
**\$5,495**





# Christmas Party Fun



The Educators had their Christmas work party this month. We took part in a painting class and whilst we would love to display our artworks in our own homes, we thought it may be a nice idea to auction them off to our lovely families.

With all donations raised going to Annette's favourite charity 'Love your Sister'.

The first morning the paintings were put out for purchase, the children couldn't wait to ask Mum and Dad if they could take one home. We are so thrilled that all our paintings are going to lovely homes and supporting an important cause. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the families who bought one and have helped us raise \$190 for the 'Love your Sister' Charity, which is Australia's hardest working cancer vanquishing charity. Thank you again!



@pinotandpicassoturramurra





# Big School Week



We had a lot of excited Schoolies come into Preschool this week with their school uniforms on. We were lucky enough to have a visit from Mrs. Grimshaw from Mt Colah Public on Tuesday the 23rd of November. She taught us some catchy songs about lining up, keeping our hands to ourself and how to 'bounce back'. She also read us our 'Big School Book'.

This is a special book that was produced in collaboration between local schools and local prior to school services which offers the preschoolers' a great pictorial guide to all the different places in our local schools. The children learnt more about various aspects of school including uniforms, the office, the library, playground, canteen, different subjects they will learn and much more.

Needless to say, the children were very inquisitive and excited for their next chapter and this experience allowed them to approach their transition to school with more confidence as well as having many of their questions answered by who better than a real life Principal herself. We value our relationships with our local schools, and this was a great opportunity to further these connections.

Later in the week we also had a special visit from Maddie B's Dad, John who works at OOSH. He read us a story, answered our questions and gave us some insight into the fun that is had at Before and After School Care. Thank you so much John, the children loved playing keepy uppy and the funny faces you drew for them on their balloon. We hope you can visit again soon!

***(EYLF L.O2 Children are connected and contribute to their world.)***





# Big School Week continued...



During 'Big School Week' we saw so much imaginative play as the children transferred their 'Big School' knowledge into the context of their pretend play. With play spaces such as a makeshift School Classroom, Canteen and lots of painting the children expressed excitement, enthusiasm and lots of eagerness towards Big School and what awaits them there. To support those children who had a few more nerves we read stories to unpack the concept of how we may feel nervous or anxious as well as holding many Q ad A's during group time to answer as many of the children's questions.



## **Scholastic Book Club**

Thank you for the orders received for Issue 7, these should be delivered to preschool soon. With the commission received from this order, we have ordered new Christmas books to share.

Scholastic have released an Issue 8 and this one is online only or on the LOOP app. If you wish to place an order, please do so before Monday December 6th to ensure delivery before Christmas. Thank you for your continued support of the book club throughout 2021.



**We are on Facebook and Instagram.  
Feel free to follow us!**

**Facebook:** Mount Colah Preschool Kindergarten

**Instagram:** follow us at [mt\\_colah\\_preschool](https://www.instagram.com/mt_colah_preschool) for all our fun learning experiences



## **December Birthdays**

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

Jack—5 years

Amber—4 years

Oliver—4 years



# Letterland



Golden Girl with her long golden hair looks after a beautiful garden in Letterland. The children followed Golden Girl's lead with enthusiasm and couldn't wait to tend to our preschools garden where we got our hands dirty and worked together to trim our herbs, plant succulents and we even had the opportunity to decorate, pot up and create our very own unique looking grass heads with the lovely Jo. The children also used their imagination as they gathered resources and plants to make our own fairy garden where they looked through and made connections and took inspiration from the Golden Girl Story. During our Letterland group time we took a look at the amazing gardens all over Sydney, in particular we took a look at the Royal Botanical Gardens in the City. "Wow", "Emily I want to go there" the children said as they saw all the flowers and attractions that this exquisite place has to offer. We also touched on the importance of 'growing your own' and how we can save money and have fresh produce without going to the shops. Many of the children also enjoyed sharing what they have growing in their own backyards!



The children are currently learning about the special sound that Eddy Elephant makes. The children are enjoying Eddy the Elephant's song, providing great practice engaging with the "e" sound. We are exploring new knowledge about elephants, the different species of elephants, what they eat and how they live. The children will also engage in some elephant craft and stories about our favourite patchwork Elephant, Elmer! During our Letterland grouptime we also had a challenge in two teams to complete two large elephant floor puzzles. The children worked together so well and made sure everyone had a turn at connecting a puzzle piece. Later in the week many of the children had the opportunity to extend their colour recognition skills while engaging with the focus sound through an Elmer the Elephant collage craft, this experience entailed choosing different coloured squares to stick onto an Elmer template, creating a beautiful rainbow patchwork like picture.







# Little Endeavours With JO!



It is hard to believe it is the end of the year. With another lockdown thrown in it hasn't been an easy year for all of us but in LE we have had lots of fun. We have worked together, learnt lots and practiced skills in a fun way. Farewell to the Schoolies – I know you will all do well next year at school but I will miss your help and assistance in LE. I look forward to seeing all the children who are returning as they will be my new 'helpers'.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and thank you for the opportunity to work with your children this year. Xx

**Handprint Rainbow** – We made a wonderful rainbow that had all the handprints of educators and children at the preschool. Lots of great descriptive words were used by the children as I painted their hands and they described how it felt. They then chose who they wanted their handprint next to.





**Grassy Heads** – These are always a success and the children each decorated the faces of their own grassy head to take home once they had filled their stocking with grass seed and soil. We used yogurt pots brought in by preschool families as the base. They loved the fact they would then be able to cut the hair on their grassy head and it would grow back.



**Succulents** – With the recycling pots and containers left over from previous activities the preschoolers were able to choose the succulent they wanted to plant to take home. Most of the succulents were given to us from the church garden.



**Secret Christmas Craft** – Nothing much I can say about this except that the children are loving that they are making a gift for their family for Christmas. So many decisions to be made and they are taking great care as they make their gift for you. Stay tuned!



# SUSTAINABILITY



## Our Veggie Garden:

We have recently covered our vegetable boxes with bird net to keep the Bush Turkeys from digging up the tomatoes and beans that we have planted. With the children eagerly helping to keep them watered the tomato plants have really taken off and we are expecting them to yield a bumper crop, hopefully in time to enjoy for afternoon tea this year.



## Return and Earn:

We are so pleased to report that our Return and Earn project has already reached our target of \$100, to be donated to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation which helps to distribute culturally appropriate books to remote communities. To date we have exceeded our target by \$80 and are hoping to get this close to another \$100 by the end of the year. Thank you all for your efforts in donating so many bottles to support this amazing foundation.

## Preschool Accounts

Your final account for 2021 will be distributed 29th November with all payments due by *Friday December 10th*. This account will include all fees up until our closing day of December 23rd. It will also include the refund of the \$100 holding deposit to those families whose children are heading off to school next year. *Therefore, could we please remind everyone to keep a close eye on their accounts over coming weeks to ensure that all payments are up to date and for those leaving Preschool, please consider stopping any automatic fee payments you may have set up to avoid your account going into credit, especially considering the refund of your holding deposit.*



## Casual Days Book

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

## Dates to Remember

***Friday December 10th—Preschool Christmas Concert***

***Wednesday December 15th—Schoolies Graduation Picnic***

***Thursday December 23rd - Last Day of Preschool for 2021***

***Monday January 24th—First Day for 2022***

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