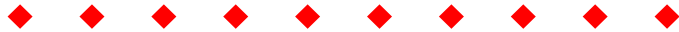


Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



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 in knowing this 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.

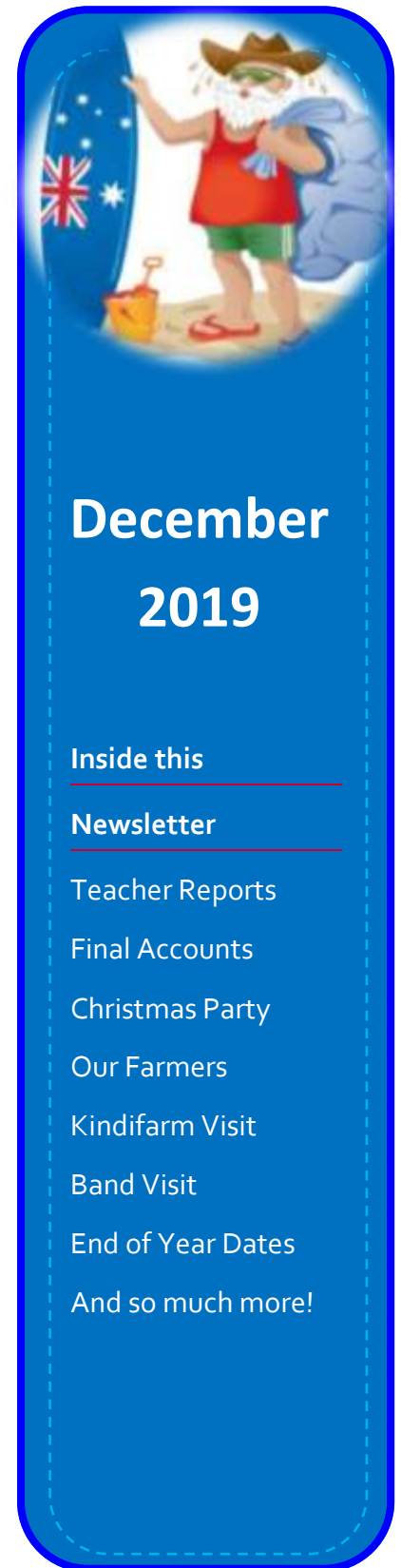
The passion, enthusiasm and dedication the teaching team has shown again this year is truly remarkable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them so much for the caring and stimulating learning environment they provide every day on top of the huge amount of administration that occurs behind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





Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas: Another year almost over. We have had so much fun getting to know each and every one of you. It has been a privilege to grow and learn together. The Sweetpeas have gained so much confidence, interacting with one another making new friends and making discoveries as we participate in challenging experiences together. You may get dirty, sometimes a little wet while finding out about things, but if you make a discovery, then it's been worth it. You have developed language and listening skills with lots of stories, poems, singing, games and music. In all areas of preschool you have developed pre-maths skills, especially by playing with sand, water and blocks. With lots of practice and plenty of paper, paint, pens and scissors, fine motor skills have come such a long way. There are still so many fun exciting things to do together over the coming weeks leading up to Christmas. Thank you all for our special times together, I look forward to seeing you all next year as the new Bluebells and Schoolies, who will be able to help new Sweetpeas, settle into the new year at preschool. Wishing you all happy holidays, a magical Christmas and a safe return. *'Play is our brains favourite way of learning.'* - Diane Ackerman.

Bluebells: It is hard to believe we are at the end of the preschool year already and we are preparing for Christmas! 2019 has been a fantastic year for our Bluebells, many of them coming to preschool for the first time. New friendships have been formed and it has been lovely to watch these develop and to see the excitement the children display when their friends arrive in the morning, ready for another day of fun, adventure and laughter! The children have become confident learners and active participants in all aspects of preschool life, whether we have been learning about life cycles of chickens or working out how to make the best sandcastle in the sandpit! In November we enjoyed a visit from Mt Colah Public School band and the children were very excited to experience live music and also be able to touch the instruments to discover how they worked. Our Christmas concert is approaching and the children are working hard to learn the songs to perform for their families – we're sure you are hearing some of this at home too! To all of our wonderful Bluebell children next year you will come back to preschool as Schoolies! We know how excited you are to sit in the back line at group and we also know what great Schoolies you are all going to be. Have a fantastic Christmas with your families and we hope you enjoy the holidays too. See you next year!





Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Schoolies: We are quickly approaching the end of 2019 and very soon, our Schoolies will be heading off on their new adventure. This month has been a very busy one at preschool as we have been working so hard to learn all the songs and actions for our Christmas concert. Over the next few weeks we will be preparing for Christmas so look out for some wonderful crafts coming home! All the educators have loved watching you grow in all areas of your development. You have been such a caring and empathetic group not only looking after your friends but helping the Sweetpeas and Bluebells with their transition into a new environment and lending a helping hand when needed. Thank you for continuing to challenge yourself and also challenge the educators by asking questions that yes, we have had to research! We wish you all the best on your next adventure! Give it your all and we hope to see you pop in for a visit in the near future.



Christmas Reindeer Cupcakes

Have fun making these with your preschooler

Method

Preheat oven to 200°C. Place white patty cases into a muffin tin and prepare the cake mix (with the oil, eggs and water) according to the packet instructions.

Bake for 20 minutes and remove from the oven. Leave to cool on a wire rack.

Melt the dark chocolate buttons in the microwave until they reach the desired consistency. Dip them in the chocolate before placing one on top of each of the cooled cupcakes.

Use the white writing icing to create two eyes on top of the marshmallow once the chocolate is set. Once the white icing has set draw on two pupils using the dark chocolate icing and a red nose.

Using a little more of the dark chocolate writing icing stick half a pretzel on top to represent antlers.

Ingredients

- 1 packet mud cake mix
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 cup dark chocolate buttons
- 12 jumbo marshmallows
- white writing icing
- dark chocolate writing icing
- red writing icing
- 12 pretzels





Scholastic Book Club



The closing date for all orders for issue 8 is Friday 29th November to allow orders to be received before Christmas. *Thank you to everyone for your orders placed throughout the year.* The preschool earns 20% commission on each order and this has enabled us to order books and resources that the children are interested in and also supported our book exchange programme as we have kept our own library refreshed. The Scholastic book club will return in Term 1 next year.

December Birthday's

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

Easton—4 yrs

Madison—5 yrs

Vihaan—5 yrs

Alessandro—4yrs

Zane—4 yrs

Educator Cat???



Big School Week!

Week Commencing November 25th

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 2019 has been distributed and all payments are due by Friday December 6th

Therefore, could we please remind everyone to ensure your account is finalised prior to December 6th 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 2020 will be \$96 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 and if you have used the casual day book in November your adjusted account will be forwarded first week of December.



Policy Updates

There are some policies which are compulsory under Regulation 168 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. The following list of Regulation 168 policies are currently under review during the months of November and December and will be in place by the end of January 2020. We are inviting families to participate in this review so please see an educator to express your interest. Your help would be much appreciated.



Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations
Administration of First Aid
Arrival and Departure Policy
Code of Conduct
Child Safe Environment Policy
Determining Responsible Person Policy
Emergency & Evacuation Procedures Policy
Enrolment and Orientation Policy
Excursion Policy
Fees Policy
CCS Governance and Management Policy
Grievances and Complaints Management Policy
Incident, Injury, Trauma & Illness Policy
Infections Diseases Policy
Interactions and Relationships with Children Policy
Medical Conditions Policy
Nutrition/Food/Beverages/Dietary Policy
Sleep and Rest Policy
Sun Protection Policy
Volunteer Student and Visitors Policy
Water Safety Policy
Use and Storage of Dangerous Products and Maintenance Policy
Supervision of Children Policy



A Different World..... Nika and Deon were looking through the green book the other day and Nika found a photo of herself. *"Those are my new clothes"* she told Deon and Deon commented on her Christmas t-shirt. She then said *"Do you like the shorts? They're from your world"*. Deon was a bit confused and asked her what she meant. *"You know, your world. You wear that when you dance"* and she started doing some highland dancing. On closer inspection of the photo Deon realised her shorts were a tartan pattern and said "Oh like tartan shorts from Scotland?" Nika replied *"Yes that's it! Your world!"*





Expressive Art Fundraiser

The children have yet again done an amazing job in helping our local community.

Whilst having lots of fun in creating some wonderful artworks the children wholeheartedly embraced the concept of helping others.

Due to their efforts the children have raised \$856.50 to be donated to the Children's Ward at Hornsby Hospital.

A huge effort by the children and many thanks to our wonderfully supportive families



THINKING OF OUR FARMERS.....



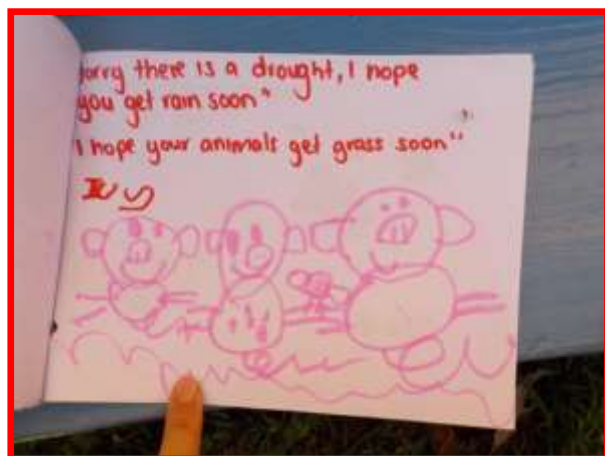
Over the past three weeks the children have shown a real interest in the farmers and the current drought they are going through.

Steph was going up to visit her friend that owns a farm in Guyra and the children created a list of all the things they wanted her to take photos of. A bull, tractors, the grass, a video of them feeding the cows, chickens, pigs and much more. While Steph was away she sent various photos and videos to preschool for the children to look at. The children were all shocked at how brown the grass was and that the farmers had to feed the animals everyday as there is no grass left for them to eat.

The children came up with an idea, they asked to have a drawing table set up for them to draw pictures to the farmers of Guyra. There were many wonderful artworks with beautiful messages attached.

When Steph went up for another visit she took the book the children made to give to her Farmer friends in Guyra. This is what they said,

“What a gorgeous book we have received from Mt Colah Preschool, this made us both teary but also smile, what caring and loving children you have at Mt Colah Preschool”.



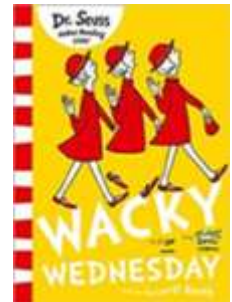
Fun with Phonics

Over the last few weeks the children have been introduced to new friends from Letter Land; *Talking Tess*, *Walter Walrus* and *Golden Girl*.

Talking Tess makes a special 'T' sound. She is always in a *terrific* hurry. This is because she is a very important person in the Letter Land community. She is in charge of all the *telephone* calls and *televisions* in Letter Land. To explore Talking Tess's love for *technology* and *talking*, the children participated in a group game of 'Chinese Whispers'. This experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all and they all waited in anticipation to find out the secret message that had been relayed amongst them. This game provided opportunity for the children to explore and further develop their receptive language skills. A recycled tin telephone was also made and a short video was watched by the children. With the help from their educator, a number of systematic instructions were carried out to make a tin telephone. The video also reminded us of the importance of keeping the hessian string taut to allow the relayed messages to become clear.



The children explored the *Walter Walrus* 'W' sound by brainstorming their ideas about all the things they could think of that start with the 'W' letter sound. These words were documented on the mind map poster located in the literacy area. To stimulate the children's ideas we watched a vibrant video and song that had a very playful approach to exploring the 'W' sound. The song had a very catchy tune and the lyrics influenced the children's ideas, particularly the use of the word '*wacky*'.



Fun with Phonics

Over the last few weeks the children have been introduced to new friends from Letter Land; *Talking Tess*, *Walter Walrus* and *Golden Girl*.



Golden Girl loves to *grow* all sorts of things such as *green grapes* and *grass* for her *goats*. To understand *Golden Girl's* love for planting new plants and caring for her *garden*, the children enjoyed time outdoors attending to the Preschool garden. The children also engaged in a number of other hands on experiences within the program to reflect *Golden Girls* letter sound including;

Cooking experience

A fun cooking experience was provided where the children were given the opportunity to help make basil hommus using basil from our Preschool garden. The children helped collect basil trimmings before helping combine all the ingredients together to create a smooth texture with an amazing aroma. All the children enjoyed trying the taste of the basil hommus for afternoon tea. **Garden play space:** A garden play space was made available in our phonemic awareness literacy area that was made up of an array of natural and processed materials and offered an invitation for creative and imaginative play to take place. **Sensory Game:** The children also enjoyed engaging in a fun and interactive game where they explored their sense of smell through the exploration of a variety of herbs that had been gathered from our Preschool garden. During this experience, the children needed to match the herb they could smell in the foil-covered dish with the appropriate herb on the laminated picture card.



We encourage parents to continue to do some letter sound revision with your children at home to further develop and strengthen their phonemic awareness in preparation for school next year.





It is hard to believe that this is the last LE report for the year and it is time to say goodbye to all the Schoolies. They have been wonderful helpers this year in all our activities, helping both me and their preschool friends.



I think our group projects this year show how well the children have learnt to work together, and that while we have lots of fun we are also learning and practicing new skills that will be used as each child moves on to school. I have loved getting to know your children and think I have learnt as much from them as they have learnt with me, with sustainability being a huge part of the LE activities.

Coffee Lid Animal Faces – Using lids given to us from Bite Me Bakery the children created some fantastic animal faces showing great creativity.

Ruby the Scarecrow – We now have a scarecrow watching over our veggie patches. She keeps scaring the educators as they think there is someone down in the yard!!!! Ruby is mostly made from recycled items and recycled straw saved from our last scarecrow.

Gardening and Green Basil Hommus – This activity was one of the preschoolers favorite's this year. The Schoolies picked the basil and we all made the hommus which some children loved so much they took it home in recycled containers.

Goop – Sensory activities have also been a favourite this year and goop is certainly messy. Again we recycled, using cornflour which we had left over from the holiday programme and the preschoolers were amazed that the goop was hard and soft depending on how you touched it.

Coloured Pasta – The pasta we coloured red and green will be used to decorate the bunting we are going to make to decorate preschool for the Christmas Concert. Look up for it!!



Mt Colah Public School Band Performance

Tuesday 5th November 2019

We were lucky enough to have a special performance from MCPS Band this month.

During the performance conductor Mat in the Hat and the wonderfully talented students played a variety of our favourite songs which we sung and danced to, including Baby Shark, Lion Sleeps Tonight, If You're Happy and You Know It and more. Lianna and Oliver even had a go of conducting the band as we learnt more about the role of a conductor, the baton and tempo. The children were able to further their knowledge around musical instruments as they were introduced to the sounds of the trumpets, flutes, clarinets, trombones, saxophones, percussion instruments and after the performance interact with these.



We love having our local community involved in our Preschool programme, it allows the children to build connections and further promote a sense of community within the early childhood setting. Thank you Mount Colah Public Performance Band. We are so lucky to belong to such a wonderful community.



LEARNING STORY



A Day on the Farm—Our Kindy Farm Visit

*'There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child.
There are seven million' - Walt Streightiff*

Dear Children,

How exciting, another visit from the Kindy Farm. After making sure you all had sunscreen and hats on we lined up at the door. Holding hands with teachers and friends we made our way around the Preschool. As we turned the corner we saw lots of animals in a special pen, goats, sheep, ducks, chickens, rabbits and we even saw a little pink pig, a cow and small guinea pigs. Two farmers were there to greet us with a very friendly **'Hello everybody'** as they introduced themselves, **'My name is Farmer Brooke and this is Farmer Kylie'**. Farmer Brooke asked us all to sit on a round mat on the grass. With good listening everyone found a spot very quickly. Farmer Brooke explained that the animals might be a little nervous if there was lots of noise. She asked if we could be a little quiet so that the animals would feel safe. She also told us the best way to pet the animals was to use one finger to gently stroke the animals she was about to show us.

First up was Savannah the guinea pig. Farmer Brooke put her into a small bag so that she would feel safe and also to make sure that her sharp little claws wouldn't scratch us. As she passed the guinea pig around you all did so well waiting patiently and quietly for a turn to pet her. Farmer Brooke was very impressed by the way you all behaved. She said you have very good manners and are by far the best preschool children she has visited, well done everyone! Next up was a chicken and a duck. Farmer Brooke told us some facts about them and then asked some questions. Some very good answers were given which showed what good listening everyone was doing. Next, were two very big heavy rabbits one brown and one white. Farmer Brooke told us their names were Peanut and Marshmallow. She wanted to know if we could tell which name belonged to which one. Quick as a flash some children answered, the brown one was peanut and the white one, Marshmallow. Then a little pink piglet was next. Her name was Pepper, the perfect name for a little pink pig. She was carefully wrapped in a towel and made little squeaking noises. With the gentle petting she got from all of you she settled down and enjoyed the attention. To everyone's amusement Pepper did poo in the towel on Farmer Brooke's lap. It was a little stinky and there was lots of laughter. Pepper felt really rough with coarse hair. Some children wanted to know why she had a tag in her ear and Farmer Brooke said that was a little like a name tag to make sure she didn't go missing. She was only 7 weeks old and liked to wander off.



LEARNING STORY

KINDIFARM

A Day on the Farm—Our Kindy Farm Visit cont...

Now it was time for feeding the animals in the pen with some special dried pellets, a little like dogs food. Everyone got a handful of pellets and had a chance to feed the animals. Some children were not too sure about this and stood back watching for a while. It looked like so much fun and they soon found courage to give it a go, realising that it was great having the animals nibble gently as they took food out of our hands. The cow was very cheeky and tried to eat all the food. We had a chance to feed some young goats bottles of special goat milk formula which was mixed with water. They were very hungry and pulled on the bottles very hard as they drank. It was so exciting being so close touching and feeding the animals. Before we knew it our time was up and we all said goodbye to the animals and thanked Farmer Brooke and Farmer Kylie for a wonderful day.



My thoughts on your learning: You all realised how kindness and consideration towards your friends help us all get the most out of an experience together. (LO 1). You discovered how important all your senses are in helping you engage with this hands-on experience of sight, sound, smell and touch. (LO4) You also acquired knowledge about animals that we didn't know before by listening to the instruction and the information Farmer Brooke and Farmer Kylie gave us. (Howard Gardener)

Early Years Learning Framework—Learning Outcome 1 Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect. Early Years Learning Framework—Learning Outcome 4: Children develop dispositions for learning and express wonder and interest in their environments. Howard Gardner—Naturalist

Opportunities and Possibilities: This was such a great day and it was lovely to see how you all enjoyed this experience so much, interacting and contributing thoughts and ideas. We will continue to provide interactive experiences for you to build your knowledge.





Dates to Remember!

December 7th

December 20th

January 20th

Christmas Party

Last Day of Preschool

First Day for 2020



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