

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



Child Care Subsidy—Effective July 2nd

Thank you to all for completing your online transition to the new Child Care Subsidy system. We know for most it has been straight forward and for others not quite so easy. The new system takes effect from July 2nd and our software provider assures us that everything our end is ready to go. Of course there may be some teething problems so, if after July 2nd anything seems amiss with your Preschool statement please let Annette or Lara know straight away. It will be a learning curve for all of us, however, overall we are expecting a smooth transition



Thank you to everyone for the wonderful support of our Walkathon this year. **We are pleased to announce the children have raised \$ 1,371.80** . These funds will be donated to Hornsby Hospital Children's Ward to help provide vital care to the children in our community. Well done kids! Your efforts have helped to make a difference in our wonderful community.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

You will shortly receive the July Holiday Programme. Please let your child's teacher know if you would like to come to Preschool to help out with any of the fun activities. We would love to see you!

July 2018

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Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas Over the past couple of weeks the children have been exploring the book 'Wombat Stew' by Marcia K Vaughan and Pamela Lofts. This created many learning opportunities for the children, as they develop language skills exploring different words describing Dingo's Stew and by recalling parts of the story. We also explored numeracy skills, learning to work together, measuring and counting ingredients as we helped make Wombat Stew brownies with Jo and counted ingredients as the animals contributed to the stew in the story. The Sweetpeas followed instruction by taking turns during role play sessions. We also had an opportunity to explore beat and rhythm, as the Dingo sang and danced around the billy, we used tapping sticks to keep time to the music, singing and playing on the xylophone. The Sweetpeas were enthusiastic about this experience and we had many requests for other songs to tap to such as Madison asking for the 'ABC song' Sam asked for a Dinosaur song and Ivy wanted 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' to name a few. The Sweetpeas enjoy these story and music times giving otherwise quiet children a chance to shine as they get involved in the experience.

Bluebells: We are quickly approaching the end of Term 2 and your child's portfolio will be coming home very soon. We hope you enjoy looking through these and seeing how your child's preschool journey is going so far. The Bluebells' have come a very long way since the start of the year. We have observed some beautiful friendships developing and it is fantastic to see how inclusive this group of children are. During construction play the children work together to make their tower just that little bit higher or help hold it while someone else adds an important piece on. All of this play is supporting the children's social development but also encourages their problem solving, collaborative and negotiating skills without the teachers intervening. I'm sure we will continue to see this strengthen over the next term too!

Schoolies: This month for discovery time we have been focusing on 'Wombat Stew'. We have used this enticing story as a means of exploring literacy, and this week we have focused on the rhyme within the story. Wombat Stew contains a variety of rhymes which the children really enjoy singing along too. We identified the rhymes within the story, discussed why that rhymes and brainstormed more words that ended with 'y'. The Schoolies expressed a great understanding of rhyming through this and we ended making up our own rhyme, which we then used tapping sticks to tap along to. We even drew a cauldron and expressed our rhyme through the arts as everyone drew inside it, guided by what was in rhyme for example; there was a cat and bat which the Schoolies drew. Please explore rhymes, nursery rhymes and Dr. Suess with your children as rhyming helps children to understanding the rhythm of language and improves overall expressive language skills. *Schoolies, it has been a pleasure being your teacher this year. I know you will continue to grow and flourish in your Preschool environment. I hope you all have the best time at Big School next year. I wish you all well, and will come and visit.*



Have a Healthy Winter



It is that time of year again where cold's and flu are all around. Here are some tips to help your family, particularly your little ones stay healthy over winter:

Hand Washing—one of the best ways to keep your child healthy during the winter season is to teach them how to wash their hands properly. Sometimes it is helpful to sing a short song whilst washing hands so they spend the time to do it properly. Important times to

wash hands is before eating, after toileting, blowing their nose, playing outside and after being at the shops.

Coughing and Sneezing— children need to be encouraged to cough or sneeze into a tissue or if not available into their elbow to reduce the spread of germs. Also encouraging children to do a good job when blowing their nose, disposing of the tissue and then washing their hands.

Get enough rest and eat healthy foods—if children are well rested and eating lots of healthy fruits and vegetables it will increase their immune system and ability to resist germs or overcome infection more quickly.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind families that if you child is unwell, displaying: lethargy, green runny nose, elevated temperature, vomiting, diarrhoea, head aches or tummy aches they need to be kept at home. This ensures that the ailment is not passed onto other children and also looks after our Educators. With rest, your child will recuperate much faster!



July Birthdays'

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

Riley 5 yrs

Steph???

Alexandra 5 yrs

Ashton 4 yrs

Penny 4 yrs





A huge welcome to Catherine Fielding who will be joining us on July 4th. Catherine will be looking after our Schoolies Group as Zoe heads off on maternity leave. Catherine is a degree qualified Early Childhood Teacher with over 10 years experience. Please help us welcome Catherine as she joins our Preschool family.



Fees Policy

The Fees Policy has recently been reviewed. Changes have been made to include the new requirements under the Child Care Subsidy system. Changes have also been made to the Waiting List Application Fee, Late Collection of Child Fee and the administration of the Late Payment Fee. The new policy comes into effect from July 2nd. A copy of the policy can be found at the sign in table.

Accident and Illness Prevent Policy

Educators have recently reviewed this policy. Whilst no changes were made to this policy it was the perfect opportunity for all to refresh on areas of accident and illness prevention. Please also refer within the newsletter to our article on how to have a healthy winter and promote your child and your family's health and wellbeing over the cold and flu season.



A Friend Indeed!

Grace was walking around on her own the other day, Ivy said to her 'Are you ok Grace, come I hold your hand' she took Grace's hand and both settled down to do some drawing.





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



Thank you for the orders received for Issue 4, these should be delivered in the next week. Issue 5 will be distributed early Term 3. With the commission this month, we ordered a book called Mopoke which we have heard lots of good things about! Look out for this on our bookcase soon.

Schoolies Excursion—Nature Walk and Picnic

Monday, July 16th

This excursion will provide the children the opportunity to explore our community. We plan to walk to the park where we will make sure there is no litter to be found as we exercise our knowledge on caring for the environment. We will also collect natural objects we find on the ground to take back to Preschool to make a group collage. After all that activity we will stop and enjoy our morning tea together.



Parents and family, if you are able to come along to help supervise this excursion we would really appreciate it. We only go ahead with excursions if we know every child has an adult hand to hold, so we do rely on your help.

Many thanks.





Developmental Portfolios

Currently our Educators are working hard to complete your child's Developmental Portfolio, in time to be sent home throughout the School Holiday programme. They will finalise these over the next week or so as they collate the fabulous work that has been done by your child over the first half of the year. We hope you enjoy looking through the portfolio's with your child, celebrating their achievements and talking about their experiences. The portfolio will also provide an opportunity for you to work together with your child's educator to set developmental goals for the remainder of the year and to assist your child in areas they may need further support. **Please do not hesitate to see your child's teacher if you have any questions**



Increasing Educator Knowledge

Recently Lara, Adele, Jo and Annette attended the Australian Childcare Alliance Conference. There were a variety of early childhood education workshops attended between all educators and all this new learning is shared amongst our whole team so that all benefit. The conference also provides a great opportunity to connect with other educators and build networks within the industry. All attended a Key Note address by a beautiful young man named Max who has started a charity to help children with cancer. He distributes turtle night lights so that little ones who are away from home from long periods of time feel more comfortable in hospital and so they won't be afraid of the dark. 100% of the money Max raises goes towards the production and distribution of the turtle night lights. Our educators could not help but get involved after the key note speech and meeting Max for themselves. We will be placing a collection container at the sign in desk, asking for gold coin donations that we can send to Max to support his wonderful work. What an amazing kid! For those who would like to know more just google Super Max and Bryce.



Phonics Programme



This fortnight the Schoolies met **Red Robot**. He makes a special growling sound which is always heard but never found, he is such a **Rascal**. The Schoolies decided that they wanted to make their very own **Red Robot** for

preschool. They collaborated as they came up with various things they could make **Red Robot** from, the final decision was **Recycled Material** as they said, "We need to care for our environment". The children sat in a circle together and started brain storming what **Recycled materials** they could use as **Red Robot's** body parts. They displayed great team work, problem solving skills and imagination as they built preschools very own **Red Robot**. At the conclusions of the activity Tilly said, "We used old rubbish to make something new, we are caring for the environment, how cool".



The Schoolies were very excited to meet **Lucy Lamp Light** who has a very catchy song. She has a **Love-ly** smile that **Lights** up everything around her in **Letterland**. We are going to get our bodies moving and blood pumping as we play the **Limbo** and do some **Line** dancing. Music and movement has been in high demand at preschool this term. Involvement in music supports language development and music evokes movement, and children require movement for their development and growth. Don't forget to keep your kids active over the winter by singing and dancing as it is a great way to have fun and support development at the same time.





Plenty of group experiences again this month and it is wonderful to see the older children guiding and helping their peers.



Wombat Stew has been a favourite this month and so in Little Endeavours we made some 'real' Wombat Stew out in the garden to take home with instructions to "just add mud" and also an edible version substituting ingredients – brownie for mud, sultanas for flies, jelly snakes for bugs, shredded coconut for feathers and choc bits for gumnuts. The children loved relating the recipe to me and discussing our substitutions and what else we could use.



We have also started a wall mural of our preschool **Belonging Tree** which will carry over for a few weeks (look for it on the wall near the bathroom door). Each time I come in the preschoolers are full of questions asking what we will be adding and giving suggestions of what we can do. I can't wait to see the finished product as the children are taking the lead in organizing how it is put together.





Quality Improvement Plan (QIP):

Our QIP is now being finalised as we have completed the review of our service against the National Quality Standards. Our ongoing focus over the next 12 months or so will be to improve our cultural competence and this covers many aspects of the service we provide. We will also focus on recruiting in terms of educator position descriptions and update those for current staff which will then be the basis for a review how we conduct our professional development reviews. We will also be reviewing our emergency safety procedures which will include the staff undertaking training to maintain their knowledge and skill in managing emergency equipment such as the fire extinguishers. We will be keeping you updated on our progress against these goals and will be seeking your input and ideas which we much appreciate



Dates to Remember!

July 9th—July 20th	Holiday Programme
July 16th	Schoolies Nature Walk & Picnic
August 9th	Transition to School Parent Evening
August 20th	Wildlife Show



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