

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



What are learning dispositions?

Very soon you will receive your child's developmental portfolio providing you with some wonderful insights into your child's ongoing development. You will notice that in doing so the educators have captured the ongoing development of your child's learning dispositions.

You might ask, what are learning dispositions? Early childhood 'learning dispositions' are used to understand a child's view and approach to learning and they are the guiding 'habits of the mind' when it comes to learning and therefore affects the outcomes of their learning.

Children will require a complex combination of dispositions, skills, values and attitudes to be successful future orientated life-long learners. A child's identity as a learner is crafted from the development of 'learning dispositions' which enables the child to feel confident, capable and resilient with a great 'can do' attitude when tackling something new. Early childhood learning dispositions are used to understand children's ability to be self motivated and be life-long learners.

At Preschool through both spontaneous and planned experiences and the way educators respond to children as they learn, support children's dispositions to persist, find interests, take responsibility, select and assess their own learning goals, and take an active part in the programme.

Parents are powerful teachers of learning dispositions for their children. Rather than give your child the answer to a question help your child to find an answer for themselves. As a parent it is important to show your child you are learning too. You can learn with and from your child. Parents can model how to cope with trying something new and not quite getting it right first time. Model how to celebrate success as well as cope with disappointment. If you show a "can do" attitude then your child will do the same.

Children who see themselves as someone who tries new things, keeps going when it is hard, knows when to stop and ask for help, learns from making mistakes and has good support networks, are children who will be successful in their future educational pursuits and in life.



July 2019

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Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas: We are fast approaching the end of the semester and with many social goals, the children have all come such a long way. It has been wonderful to witness how the children are starting to develop from very hesitant beginnings, at the start of the year, to learning how to make friends, share and co-operate with each other. The Sweetpeas are beginning to move away from parallel play, where friends play side-by-side, to social play, where friends are beginning to interact and share ideas with one another. By participating in many group games and activities the children are learning to develop very important social skills which are the tools needed in order to communicate, learn, ask questions, ask for help, get their needs met in appropriate ways, get along with others, make friends and develop healthy relationships. Developing these skills are so important in order to interact appropriately with those they meet in their journey through life. By understanding and experiencing empathy the children have come to realise that by being kind and considerate towards each other, they can have a positive affect on those around them. ***'You can't stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes'* - Winnie the Pooh**

Bluebells: We are quickly approaching the end of another term and what a busy time we have had! Over the past few weeks, we have been having many discussions around road safety and learning ways to keep ourselves safe. We spent some time talking about how to be safe when we are in the car. Did you know that nearly 80% of children aged 0-4 years killed or injured in traffic related accidents are passengers? That's why it is important that children be buckled up safely when in the car and it is important that children of this age understand the reasons for this. The children and educators looked at all the different types of car seats that are available and the children were able to identify which seat they had in their car. We spent lots of time engaging in role play using our play seatbelts. The children took us on adventures to the beach in our preschool car, making sure they fastened their seatbelts when they got in the car and we talked about when it was ok to take our seatbelts off. Everyone agreed that we shouldn't take our seatbelts off unless the adult driving the car tells us it is safe to do so and we should leave the car using the Safety Door (the door closest to the kerb). There is a website called <http://www.kidsandtraffic.mq.edu.au> that we have used at preschool over the past few weeks which has lots of great information about correct car seats, NSW road rules and some interactive songs and stories that you can share with your child.



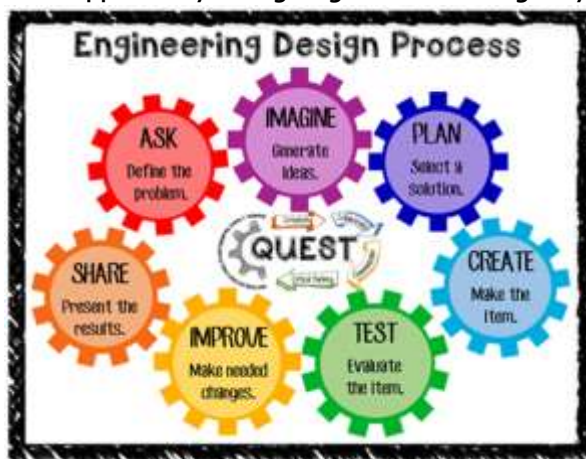


Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Schoolies: Over the past month the Schoolies have been fascinated with building things and taking things apart to see how they work. Research has suggested that engineering experiences help build a variety of characteristics in young children including confidence, communication, collaboration and creativity. It teaches children that failure isn't a bad thing, that it is a part of problem solving and a positive way to learn. It has been great to see the children engaging in hands on engineering experiences such as making a bridge from paper that would be strong enough to hold a peg. Educators observed their minds ticking away as they used various techniques such as rolling, scrunching and folding to manipulate the paper and experiment with cause and effect, trial and error. The children then used reflective thinking as they considered why things happened the way they did and what they could change.

"Failure is opportunity to begin again more intelligently".

The Schoolies helped their educators make a wooden cabin using various lengths and shaped blocks, following step by step instruction to build a steady foundation for this house. They applied their receptive language skills along with their social skills whilst communicating with one another their ideas and thoughts. We have wonderful engineers!



Families Please Note: Cat will be away on leave from Monday, July 1st for just over 2 weeks. Adele and Lara will be taking good care of Cat's group whilst she is away.



Grace was talking to Adele outside the other day and she said with her hands on her hips, ***'You know Adele, I never got an invitation to the Queen's birthday! My Nanna CC and Poppie CC also didn't'*** She seemed quite puzzled about that.



Public Holiday Survey Outcome



Thank you all for submitting your thoughts on our policy question regarding paying fees on public holidays. Only 12 families voted to increase fees overall and not pay for public holidays. Therefore, our policy remains unchanged. Thank you again for your contribution to our policy review.



Child Care Subsidy Rates Please be advised that the Child Care Subsidy Rates will change from July 1st. Information can be found at the Parent Information Desk. Please keep an eye on your accounts from July onwards as your CCS may have changed and you may need to update your automated payments. Many thanks.

Scholastic Book Club



A big thank you for all the orders placed for Issue 4. These will be ordered and delivered within the next couple of weeks. The preschool has been able to purchase some great stories with the commission from the book club including one called All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman. This is a wonderful story that tells us that no matter what race, religion or background a child has, they have a place and are welcome at our preschool. The next issue will be available in Term 3 and you will find this in your communication pocket. Ordering is easy, you can return your form to preschool with the payment or order on the LOOP app.

July Birthdays'

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

Ellie—5 yrs
Magda—4yrs
Jayden—5 yrs
Aurora—4yrs
Genevieve—4yrs
Josie—4yrs
Penny—5yrs

Steph?



Excursion Update



Unfortunately our Schoolie Group excursion to the park on Monday June 24th was postponed due to the lovely heavy rain we received. A new date will be communicated to you soon.

Transition to School Parent Evening

Thursday, August 8th



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!



SAVE THE DATE—Friday, August 28th

.... For our father's day breakfast! More details to follow.



Thank you to everyone for the wonderful support of our Walkathon this year. **We are pleased to announce the children have raised \$ 1,097.50 .** 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.***



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture

There are six guiding principles under the National Quality Framework that are designed to permeate or be embedded throughout our work with children and family. (ACECQA, 2018, p.10)

The guiding principles are:

- The rights and best interests of the child are paramount.
- Children are successful, competent and capable learners.
- Equity, inclusion and diversity underpin the framework.
- Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are valued.
- The role of parents and families is respected and supported.
- Best practice is expected in the provision of education and care services.

The guiding principles are the central pillars of our work with children, families and communities. They are heavily influenced by equity, inclusion and diversity. It is important to engage with these guiding principles in our teaching practices and relationships with children, families and community.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, our service has determined that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture as an area where we could extend our knowledge and embed authentic cultural practices and in doing so, share this with children and families.

It is important for all Australians to have an understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, including their unique connection to the land, seas, skies and waterways. Our aim with this focus is to foster a higher level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions. Looking to the future, our children armed with this knowledge will be equipped to build better relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider community.



Educators have started this process by researching information to extend their knowledge, attending professional development seminars and open discussion at team meetings to share individual knowledge and plan ways to enrich our educational programme.

As we move to include information about indigenous culture within our educational programme you may hear the children talking about what they have already learnt. The children have been keen participants as we:

- Say our own Acknowledgement of Country – *as seen on our Acknowledgement Tree made with Jo and located at the entrance to the pre-school.*
- Created our own Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian flags for display. We have been having regular conversations about the meanings of each detail of these flags.
- We have practiced using the Darug Language every morning with our greeting of “Gamaroo -Wah” to our educators and friends; along with “Boodjeri-Gamarun” (Good afternoon) during show and tell, and Yanoo Yanoo as we farewell each other at the end of the day.

You will notice within our learning environment more opportunities for the children to discover and explore indigenous culture through stories, games, art, puzzles, music and various open-ended play activities which represent and pay homage to the first people on our land.

If you or a member of your family are able to contribute in any way towards the building of knowledge for our team, in relation to our local Darug people or would like to participate in any way in sharing indigenous culture, please let us know.

Sustainability Programme



Book Exchange:

Wow, what a fantastic response we have had to the book exchange! It is wonderful to see children looking through the collection

of books with their families at the end of the day, choosing a book to take home to share. Thank you for all the donations of books we have received, the children certainly have a great choice of books each day. Please continue using this exchange as we are excited to see this early love of reading developing at the same time as promoting our sustainability programme.



Worm Wee:

We have a very healthy worm farm at preschool and recently we sent home bottles of worm wee for

you to use in your garden. Our worm farm takes the scraps from our lunch and morning tea and turns it into lots of wee for our plants. This is a great project for the children to be involved with and many enjoy getting to know the worms, feeding them and holding them.



Return and Earn Project: Our target chart is getting higher and higher each month and we are very grateful to all the families for supporting this project. As you can see on the target chart near the door

exiting to the playground, we are past our new target of \$60 and have now hit the \$75 mark! Wow! Last month we planted new carrot and bean seedlings, bought with money from this project. Thanks to the rain recently these are growing nicely and the children are being mindful in their approach to caring for these. Well done everyone!

Please remember our efforts to reduce packaging waste. Where possible, pack fresh food for your children's meals, in reusable containers, for so we can reduce the amount of waste from packaged goods.

Thanks for your assistance.



Craft: This month, Steph created a fantastic police station using old boxes from our cardboard recycling bin. The children really enjoyed using it and we were able to send this home with a family when we were finished with it for it to be reused and enjoyed some more at home. Jo

also created our wonderful Red Robot with the children which we are sure you have seen when you come into preschool. Jo and the children also used some old wooden blocks and caps to create vehicles! You can read some more about this in Jo's Little Endeavours Report.





The children have been having a great time visiting Letterland meeting two new Letterland friends, **Red Robot** and **Lucy Lamp Light**.

Red Robot wears rollerblades and enjoys playing with his remote control race car. He also enjoys gathering a variety of materials from a number of his Letterland friends when rollerblading through Letterland. These items are used to create a rocket ship, displaying ways in which you can reduce, reuse and recycle old materials.

To reflect the important role that Red Robot plays in the Letterland community, the children were given the opportunity to apply their engineering skills whilst also expressing their own sense of creativity when making their very own Red Robot. A wide variety of recycled materials and items such as cardboard boxes, food boxes and other miscellaneous goods such as an old cooking tin were used.

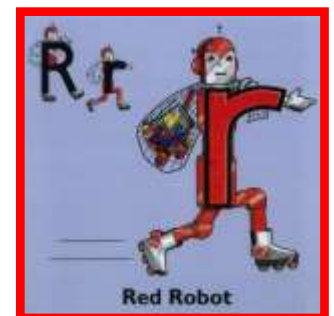
Our Red Robot was made with the help of our educator Jo. He is an absolute masterpiece!

Quite a few of our Schoolie boys enjoyed sharing their own thoughts in regards to what items and materials should be used for various features of our Red Robot, e.g. A Lipton tea box was used to give our Red Robot a cheeky smile with a sticking out tongue. Red cups and patty pans were also used to resemble Red Robots many buttons.

All the children thoroughly enjoyed this experience where they had fun and expressed their creative side whilst actively applying their investigative skills with persistence and confidence.

The children also learnt a new robot dance where they explored their physical wellbeing through movement and various actions.

They were also introduced to the concept of rhyme through listening and viewing a catchy rhyming educational video. When the children were asked if they knew what rhyming means Patrick's response was, "It's when words have the same sound as the other word". The concept of rhyme will be revisited during Semester 2.



Robot Dance - So Much Fun!





Everyone loves **Lucy Lamp Light**.

This is because she has a lovely smile that lights up everything around her in Letterland. Everyone gathers around Lucy, even the lions and leopards because they love her. Lucy Lamp Light lives in the Letterland lighthouse. At night her light shines out from the lighthouse so that ships can find their way home.



To reflect Lucy Lamp Light's wonderful use of light, a fun and interactive play space has been implemented within the indoor learning environment which consists of a large light box and a variety of materials such as x-ray films and coloured shapes and lenses.

This play space has been a huge hit with all of the children with many of them experimenting with colour by placing coloured lenses over the top of one another to discover new colours. The children have also explored light and shadow by investigating through their own means of play.



Just a reminder.... Parents if your child is starting school next year now is the time to be contacting your school of choice to commence the enrolment process for next year. If you need any help in choosing a school for your child please talk with your child's educator.

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 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!





We have had a great month creating and constructing a variety of projects which I think all of us have enjoyed working together on. The preschoolers have great imaginations and are able to use them in all the different areas in which we have been working together.



Goodbye to our Scarecrow : The weather finally wore our scarecrow out and we deconstructed him, saving some of the items (boots, hat, belt, braces, straw) to recycle and use when we build a new one. For those children that had not been part of the process of building him they learnt about how he was put together as we took him apart. Everyone is very keen to make another scarecrow to guard our veggie patches.



Our Preschool Acknowledgement Tree -
As we put handprint leaves, based on the Aboriginal flag, on our Acknowledgement Tree the children and I discussed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people and how they were here before us. We talked about how they cared for the land and how we now share the land and care for it with them. The children knew what the colours on the aboriginal flag represented and proudly told me.





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Our Big Red Recycled Robot:

There were so many ideas for our Red Robot who was inspired by the Red Robot in the Phonics Programme R sound week. We had a great time listening to each other, working together, and then congratulating ourselves on the great job we had done. He stands tall at preschool watching over us.



Recycling Construction – Following on from all the interest in our Red Robot I continued to work with the children's creativity and engineering skills by providing them with a variety of different recycled items from which they planned and created a new item. One day we had a huge variety of vehicles and on the second day robots were the theme, and there were children who had other great ideas and made something entirely different.



Quality Improvement Plan (QIP):

Our educators have recently been attending training in many areas of early childhood education. Deon has recently attended a training course on critical reflection a vital skill used in the planning of our educational programme. Annette, Lara, Cat and Steph recently attended an ACA conference and attended seminars on brain development in early childhood, practical application of the Reggio Emilia philosophy, engineering and its application in early childhood education and furthered our knowledge on indigenous culture. We value these opportunities to broaden our perspectives and skills and take advantage of networking with other early childhood educators.



Dates to Remember!

July 8th—19th	Holiday Programme
August 2	Creature Feature Show
August 8	Parent Evening—School Readiness
August 28	Father's Day Breakfast



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