

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow

Creating Confident Learners

Early childhood is an important time in children's lives because it is when they first learn how to react with others, including parents, friends, and teachers. Early childhood education is a stepping stone in preparation for primary school and, is so much more as it aims at the holistic development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs in order to build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing.



One of the most important things children learn in the early years is about themselves, they develop a picture of themselves that affects the way they approach any new learning, situation, task, or relationship, in other words they develop a self-concept. An important part of that self-concept is the picture they have of themselves as learners: is it ok to be curious, to explore, to ask questions, to tackle problems, to try to figure things out, to experiment? Is it ok to try something and fail sometimes? Being a good learner means having a go, seeing yourself as capable and taking reasonable risks.

Our educators appreciate the uniqueness of each child, providing opportunities to be actively involved, to *'be in the world doing things'*. Our educators know that learning happens best when we can explore the world together in ways that are interesting and fun.

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. The development of learning dispositions are the foundation for how a child creates their self concept as a learner.

The quality interactions that our educators provide support an encouraging and positive environment allowing the children to explore and extend their growing capabilities with confidence. We hope you enjoy reading about how your child is approaching their learning and the enjoyment they gain from exploring their world.



July 2020

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Sweetpeas: We are fast approaching the end of the semester with new friendships developing as children learn sharing and co-operating with each other. The Sweetpeas are beginning to move away from parallel play, where friends play side-by-side, to social play, interacting and sharing ideas with one another. We have been talking about emotions, what they look and feel like, using facial and body expressions. We all enjoyed games, making faces in the mirror and choosing emotion cards to identify how we were feeling. We also sang 'If you're Happy and you Know it' using lots of actions, happy, sad, angry, scared and surprised. Naming feelings is the first step in helping children identify their emotion. Understanding emotions in themselves and others helps children regulate their own responses. It is important to understanding that everyone feels angry, sad or scared at times and that all feelings are OK, but not all responses are OK e.g. It is OK to feel frustrated however not OK to grab toys. Developing these skills is so important in order to understand ourselves and interact appropriately with those we meet in our journey through life. *Just like children, emotions heal when they are heard and validated.* - Jill Bolte Taylor



Bluebells: The Bluebells have had a busy month, practising our hopping skills, jumping skills, side-sliding skills, planting seeds in the garden, and taking part in the walkathon to raise funds for Hornsby Hospital Children's Ward. Most of these activities have taken place outside where the children enjoy spending a big part of their day. We have been talking about the changes that are taking place outside due to winter and the children have noticed some trees have lost their leaves and that the flowers from a tree in the garden are falling on to the ground. There are many benefits to children playing outside in winter, as long as the children are dressed appropriately in jumpers, jackets, closed shoes etc. Preschool aged children need up to 3 hours of physical play each day and the children have been enjoying climbing the trees, exploring the fort and using the binoculars to look at the big trees over the fence, running around in a game or challenging their abilities on the climbing equipment. The children have also had the opportunity to extend their construction interests outside as they work together to create bigger models and use the ramp to experiment with motion and cause and effect.



Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Schoolies: This month the Schoolies have been busy whilst engaging with loose part play. Loose part play is a type of play that supports problem solving, creativity and boosts social skills. Loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, and redesigned. The Schoolies have approached our loose part set up with enthusiasm and a sense of wonder. Cups, paper rolls, lids, pegs, dinosaurs, animals, and other loose part materials that the Schoolies have requested to add to their play space. These are all readily available with no specific instructions or set of directions, they can be used alone or alongside other play space to further the children's possibilities, encourage group learning and open-ended play.

The Schoolies have brought so many ideas to life whilst using these loose parts creating dinosaur forts using paper cups and princess castles as they stack paper rolls on top of blocks whilst adding bottle caps for windows. The creations do not stop inside either as we extend our loose part play to the outdoors.



2021 Preschool Enrolment

Please note that your forms indicating your requirements for 2021 are now overdue, if you haven't already, please return these to Preschool as soon as possible

We now go to our waiting list and continue to fill positions for the start of our 2021 year. If

you know of anyone who may be interested in sending their child to Preschool next year, please let them know. Many thanks.





Transition To School Evening

Every year around July/August we hold a Transition to School Evening where families are invited to attend Preschool as we discuss how to support the transition for your child from Preschool to School. The information provided is practical and the evening provides the opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have in relation to your child starting school.

Unfortunately, we are unable to hold the event at this point in time and as we would like to get the information to you now, families with children heading off to school

next year will receive a hand out with all the information covered at the Transition to School Evening. Should this information raise any questions for you or should you have any concerns regarding your child starting school next year then please let us know.

Just because it is cold.....

Just because it is cold outside doesn't mean we stop the development of gross motor skills, the exploration of nature and the elements!

Please remember to pack a warm jumper or jacket with your child so they can comfortably explore and play in our lovely outdoor environment during the cooler months.



Walkathon

Walking for a good cause!

During the week of the 22nd of June the children participated in our annual Walkathon to raise money for the Children's Ward at Hornsby Hospital. The Walkathon allowed the children to experience the act of giving and the importance of helping our local community and contributing to help those who are less fortunate. The children had a blast walking and cheering on their friends with their pom poms's and holding up lap numbers. ***A big thank you to all the wonderful donations we have received, if you haven't already donated you have until the 6th of July.***



Scholastic Book Club

Thank you for all the orders received this month, these have now been delivered to preschool and available for you to collect. This month, the children chose a book about under the sea creatures, a Spot the Difference book, a Bluey book and a book called Respect which is about the Aboriginal culture. The next issue will be available in early term 3.



I'll have a Cappuccino please!



Deon was talking with some children outside and asked them what they would like to see in one of the bushy areas in the playground.

Pippy suggested *"Hmm, maybe a cafe?"* When Deon asked her what kind of cafe she said *"Oh a good one with yummy cakes and coffee. But just for kids you know, no grown ups"*.

July Birthdays'

Wishing everyone with a birthday this month a very happy day!

Magda—5 yrs

Aurora Bell—5 yrs

Genevieve—5 yrs

Josephine—5 yrs

...and Steph?



Phonemic Awareness Programme

Our new Letterland friends are **Red Robot** and **Lucy Lamp Light**.



The children enjoyed reading the Red Robot story and all the things he loves in Letterland that begin with the R sound. Red Robot wears red rollerblades and enjoys playing with his remote-control car. He also enjoys gathering a variety of recycled materials from his Letterland friends when

rollerblading throughout Letterland. The items he collects are used to create a rocket ship. The children also enjoyed singing the Red Robot song and did really well reproducing the R sound. Red Robot inspired our children to construct their very own rocket ship out of recycled materials. All of the children showed enthusiasm and a wonderful sense of creativity when decorating the rocket ship, happily respecting one another's contributions and working collaboratively together. To encourage the children to practise producing Red Robot's sound, the children sang familiar nursery rhymes including 'Row, row, row your boat' and 'Ring-a-ring-a-rosie'. The children also learnt a new robot dance where, together they explored their physical, wellbeing and receptive language skills whilst listening carefully to the instructions delivered and copying the actions of a robot.



Everyone loves Lucy Lamp Light. As we read Lucy Lamp Light's story we discovered 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 the ships can find their way. Producing the L sound can be tricky so the children enjoyed practicing to make this sound with the Lucy Lamplight song. The children enjoyed experimenting with light using our large light box which enable them to discover more about colour mixing. To practice the Lucy Lamp Light sound the children sang and danced to a new song 'Here we go Looby Loo'. Here is the link if you wish to do some singing and dancing at home <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cqs8ZOMMoW8>. The children also enjoyed making their own Lady Beetles using their fine motor skills and lots of creativity.



SUSTAINABILITY

Book Exchange – We are delighted to let you know that the Book Exchange is back up and running. This will only be available in the afternoon near the sign in iPad. In the morning, there will be a box available for returning books or for adding any books you wish to donate. In line with our Covid-19 procedure, please make sure you and your child use hand sanitiser before looking through the books.



Cups – Bite Me Bakehouse recently donated large coffee cups to preschool and the children have been exploring many possibilities with these! How high can the pyramid go? How long can we make the line of cups? Can we make a big circle with the cups? It has been fantastic to watch the children work together to bring their ideas to life and these cups have been a great addition to our loose parts play.



Return and Earn – Thank you for the continuing support of the return and earn project. This year the children have decided that the money raised from this will go towards caring for one of our wildlife injured in the recent bushfires. If you would like to donate any cans or bottles towards this then please hand them to an educator at preschool.



SUSTAINABILITY

Seeds – We dug up lots of yummy carrots from our veggie patch recently and were left with an empty garden bed. When the children were asked what they wanted to plant, they decided on “More carrots!” So the children helped turn the soil over, taking out any stones or remaining carrots before preparing the soil for planting. In the past week or two, we have seen the carrots start to sprout and the children have been taking great care of these, making sure to water them and we are looking forward to the day when these will also be ready for harvesting!



Close The Loop – At preschool, we recycle our ink cartridges and photocopier toner cartridges through an organisation called Cartridges 4 Planet Ark. These are recycled and turned into products such as road asphalt, garden beds and pens but more importantly, these are then kept out of landfill. These were collected this week and we have started a new collection. You are welcome to drop off any cartridges and we will place them in the box.



Little Endeavours



... with Jo!

We have already had lots of fun and learning since Little Endeavours has restarted at Preschool. The children have been sharing stories about what I missed out while I was not at Preschool (there have been a lot of birthdays and I have had many guesses as to how old preschoolers are now) and they are very keen to find out what we will be doing each week – asking questions as soon as they see me arrive.



Walkathon

The children made streamers to wave and lap numbers for our annual fundraiser walkathon. Those that had participated last year told our new children about what would happen. Numeracy played a big part as they counted out the number of streamers they needed and decorated the lap numbers. Lots of counting was done as the lap numbers were laid on the ground and the children counted and recounted to make sure we had all the numbers and that they were in the correct order.

Dinosaur Fossils

Clay is great for strengthening hand and finger muscles and the children had to work hard to soften the clay so that it could be flattened to make our dinosaur fossils – there were a few complaints! Decisions then had to be made about which dinosaur to use. The children shared their knowledge of dinosaurs with me and the fact that we were making mould fossils. There was great excitement when they found out they could take their fossil home.



Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): One of our QIP goals is to ensure that families understand our emergency evacuation procedures and all the efforts that go towards a safe evacuation of the Preschool, should there be an emergency. This month the children have been practicing our fire drill procedure. The drills have been occurring at various times throughout the day, sometimes without warning and the children have done a great job of following educators instructions as they move to the designated checkpoint.



During the drills educators discuss with the children what to do at home in the case of an emergency e.g. calling **000**, asking for the fire brigade and that it is important for them to learn their address and decide on a meeting place at home (usually the mailbox), should you need to evacuate.

It is important that as a family you continue to have these discussions with your child and develop a fire safe plan that works best for your family and their safety.

Dates to Remember!

Due to health and safety laws at this time we are unable to proceed with our usual planned events.



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