

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



Celebrating our Lovely Mums ...

Thank you to all our lovely mums attending our annual Mother's Day Dinner. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends and make some new ones too!



Congratulations Jo!

Jo has recently clocked up 20 years working at Mt Colah Preschool. We want to take this opportunity to thank her for the many, many ways she has helped shape the lives of little people who have passed through Preschool during that time and acknowledge the experience and knowledge she brings to our teaching team. Well done Jo!

June 2017

Inside this

Newsletter

Teacher Reports

Walkathon

Mother's Day Dinner

Healthy Habits





Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas: We have had a good start to the new term with many developmental activities that the Sweetpeas have been enthusiastically getting involved in. We have focused on cutting activities, memory games and social interaction where the children were observed communicating and co-operating while working in pairs. Science week was a really fun time for everyone with many experiments to take part in. We explored what ice is and how it is made. The children enjoyed painting with ice and finding out different ways to melt ice. We learned that ice melts at different rates depending on the temperature, size etc. We talked about countries around the world that get so cold rivers and oceans freeze, this was a challenging concept for some children to grasp. We also looked at things that glide and float in the air, from hot air balloons, parachutes to glider planes. The children enjoyed watching a rocket balloon shoot across the room on string using air to propel it forward and we also had races with folded planes floating just like glider planes. Through interesting objects and activities we begin to learn all about the world around us, We may get dirty or wet while we find out about things - but if we make a discovery, then it's been worth it.

Bluebells: The Bluebells have had a great month and have settled into the new term very well. We have been enjoying some beautiful sunny days exploring our outdoor environment. The children love to move outdoors, running, jumping, climbing and having fun on the obstacle courses we set up. This is a great opportunity for the teachers to observe your child's fundamental movement skills and each day, the Bluebells and Sweetpeas are working on a new skill. Fundamental movement skills are a specific set of skills that involve different body parts such as feet, legs, trunk, head, arms and hands. The skills we are learning include overarm throwing, catching a ball, running and hopping. Not only are we learning how to perform these skills effectively, we are having lots of fun with our friends. These skills are the building blocks for more complex and specialised skills that kids will need throughout their lives to competently participate in different games, sports and recreational activities so its important we get off to an early start. For further information on fundamental movement skills please take a look: <https://goodhabitsforlife.act.gov.au/fresh-tastes/fundamental-movement-skills-fms-1>

Schoolies: The Schoolies have had a fabulous month of learning. They took a strong interest in "Dance Week ". During group time Deon and Adele informed the children of different types of dance styles. The children also engaged with different types of media to gain further knowledge. They watched Irish dancing, belly dancing and Point on the iPad. Mackenzie brought in her ballet shoes and asked if she could demonstrate what she had learnt in ballet to the children. The children were shown 1st, 2nd and 3rd position. Xavier and Ben demonstrated some break dancing and Ella and Isaac Irish dancing. Ella said, "*You need to make sure your arms are behind your back*". The children continued to engage with different musical instruments throughout the week such as tapping sticks and shakers to make their own beat for the other children to dance to. This interest encouraged the children to use their gross motor skills and to work on their balance and co-ordination. Some parents have reported their children extending their interest by dancing at home and talking about different dancing styles. It is wonderful to see the children transferring their new found knowledge this way.





Cade told Deon that Donald Trump was coming to visit Australia and he and Malcolm Turnbull were going on holiday together. Deon asked Cade if he knew who Donald Trump was. He replied *"He's a President. I think he's interesting but I think he's a bit orange and I've never seen an orange President before"*.

Scholastic Book Club



Thank you for the orders for the recent book club leaflet. These have now arrived and we hope you enjoy your new books! Using some of our recent commission, the preschool ordered two books for us to share with the children, one about sharing and one about listening to each other. We're sure these will be put to good use! Look out for the next leaflet which should be arriving soon.

Please keep checking your children for head lice. We have sent home an email to families recently with information on how to check for and treat head lice. If not treated correctly they do keep coming back so please keep checking.



We were outside and Deon was holding a hula hoop. Charlotte H came over and said *"Can I have that?"* Trying to remind her to use manners Deon replied *"What's the magic word?"* She thought for a moment then said *"Umm, abracadabra?"*

June Birthdays'

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

Owen 5 yrs

Max 4 yrs

Elissa 5 yrs Deon and Adele ???

Thomas 4 yrs





Our Healthy Habits initiative is to support our Quality Improvement Plan item - *focussing on family and child health*. During June we will focus on the importance of dental hygiene.



Healthy teeth and gums are vital to your preschooler's general health.

Brush your child's teeth twice a day – morning and night. Use a pea-sized amount of low fluoride toothpaste on a child-size toothbrush. Your child might want to start helping to clean HIS/her own teeth. Letting them hold the toothbrush with you will help them feel a part of the action. But your child will need your help and supervision with cleaning teeth until they are about eight years old. Ask your dentist about whether you need to floss your child's teeth.

Just keeping teeth clean isn't a guarantee against tooth decay – a healthy diet is also important to your child's oral health. From preschool years on, encourage your child to rinse his mouth with water after lunch and snacks. This will help to wash away any leftover food. It's important to choose the right toothbrush – one designed especially for children aged 2-5 years. These toothbrushes have small oval heads, soft bristles of different heights and a non-slip, cushioned handle. They also often have cartoons and fun designs on the handle, which your child might like.

Children should visit the dentist to have their teeth checked by the time they're two. This lets your child get to know the dentist. It also gives you and your dentist a chance to talk about your child's dental health needs and plan your child's dental care. Your child might not always see a dentist – many other oral health professionals are fully qualified to give you advice and work on your child's teeth, depending on your child's needs. They include dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists.

Important Reminder:

Parents please make sure that you keep the front gate closed at all times. Recently we have witnessed some parents having conversations whilst standing in the gateway, holding the gate open. By regulation, the gate must remain closed at all times. It is also timely to remind parents that older siblings are not allowed to open the gate. Only adults (over 18 years) are permitted to open the gate.

Please help keep our children safe.



Don't Forget!

Parents could you please remember to look in your child's craft folder to see if there is any of your child's creative works to go home. The folder is located on the table outside the office.

Many thanks





Occupations Week

The children really enjoyed learning about different occupations and we send our thanks to parents who visited to share their knowledge and expertise!

On the 2nd of May Emma, Zahra's Mum, visited the Preschool for 'Occupations Week' to talk about her job as a police officer. Emma introduced herself to the children and they were all very excited to have a real police officer in their presence and Zahra proudly said *"That's my Mum"* (Lo1 and Lo.2). Emma engaged the children in a conversation about how police are there to help you and yes, as Ryder pointed out *"To put baddies in gaol!"*.

Emma then discussed some safety aspects such as: always staying close to Mum, Dad, Grandparents and Auntie and Uncles when out at the shops or the park. The children agreed and said *"You should hold hands"*. Emma also spoke about the importance of only going somewhere with people the children know. This was a little confronting however it is extremely important our children are safe and are aware of ways to stay safe and have fun while out. Emma asked the children if they would like to try on her police uniform, she brought in her belt, shirt and jacket. All the children loved trying these on and had a great time with Emma



On the 4th of May Justine, Heath's Mum, visited the Preschool to talk about her job as a florist for 'Occupation Week'. Justine took the children outside and spoke about being a florist. She asked the children why and when people might hold or buy flowers. Olivia, Willow, Mackenzie and Sophie T were proud to say they were flower girls at a wedding. Justine asked the children to identify some flowers they knew; the children said "bluebells and sunflowers". Then Justine and the children began decorating our boat with her beautiful native flowers. Each child had a turn and did a wonderful job contributing to the bouquet. Justine took this opportunity to talk about native flowers and their beauty. All the children loved helping Justine make the gorgeous bouquet on the boat 🌸

Cade saw the flower decorations on the boat that Justine and the children did the day before and said *"I don't like it, I LOVE it"*. Cade was asked if he would like to water our flowers so they last longer and he said *"Yes"*. Owen saw Cade watering and also asked to water the flowers.



WALK-A-THON



The children were extremely excited to participate in our annual WALKATHON this year. The educators have engaged the children in conversations about the walkathon and the importance of helping others. The children have their own hospital stories they have shared with us throughout this time and feel very proud that they will be donating the money they have earned to the Children's Ward at Hornsby Hospital. Thank you so much to everyone who participated. We are waiting for the final sponsorships to be returned to calculate our final total, which we will be forwarding on to Hornsby Hospital Children's Ward.



After Heath finished the walkathon Thomas went up to him, gave him a cuddle and told him

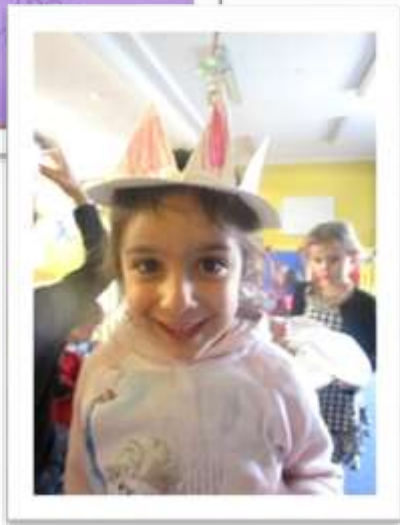
"I'm so proud of you".



Fun with Phonics

This month we introduced Harry Hatman and Munching Mike to the children.

Harry Hatman is a quiet character from Letterland who always whispers 'h' as he never shouts his special sound out loud. Steph and Zoe taught the children a special trick they learnt from their Letterland course that helped whispers the 'h' sound. The children were encouraged to hold their hand up to their mouth and whisper 'h' as they felt their hot breath on their hand. This worked really well and the children enjoyed doing it. Steph and the children traced their hands, sang along to 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' and made hats to wear. The children LOVED these activities and had a great time furthering their understanding of Harry Hatman. Zoe and the children acted out 'Humpty Dumpty', made a helicopter using our recycled materials and sang 'Happy and You Know It'. The children thoroughly enjoyed making a helicopter out of the recycled materials (Lo.2).



Then we introduced **Munching Mike** and his special sound, which is a little louder than Harry Hatmans. The children were encouraged to press their lips together as they made an 'm' sound. Ella was so excited for Munching Mike that she changed the name of her doll to match his special sound and named her doll "Molly". Steph and the children used our recycled materials to make a monster, and we will continue to utilise our recycled materials for Letterland activities. We also read a pirate book and made a map of our Preschool then conducted a treasure hunt to find our Munching Mike. Everyone had so much fun drawing maps and finding Munching Mike. Xavier thought out loud as he said "Maybe he has gone back to Letterland". Willow lifted the lid to the toy BBQ outside and said "I found him". Zoe and the children sang 'Mary Has a Little Lamb', danced to the Macarena and played music bop to Mambo number five and read 'A Mum in a Million'.

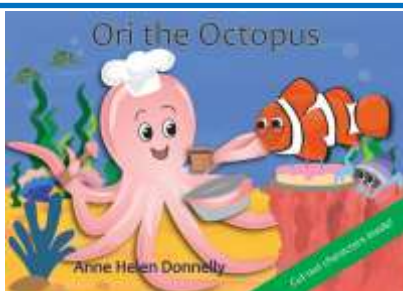


2018 Enrolments



During June we will be sending home a request for families to advise the days required for attendance in 2018. We ask you to take careful consideration on your selection of days as once we have current family requirements we then start to fill the days from our 2018 waiting list. As we are usually fully booked it may be difficult to change days at a later point. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact Annette or Lara.

Lara was sending the children downstairs and said "Schoolie boys may go downstairs". Willow called out "*Lara, it should be ladies first*".



One of our lovely Preschool mums entered a competition and won a personal reading of the book *Ori the Octopus* by the author, Anne Helen Donnelly. Our Preschool has been nominated as the venue for this event which will not only include the reading but some craft activities as well. The reading will be held on Tuesday, June 20th at 10.30am and this

date was selected as our focus during the week is "Under the Sea". The author has offered her book for purchase at a discounted rate of \$15. If you are interested in purchasing the book, please let your teacher know.



Just a friendly reminder...

Please remember to send along your child's hat to Preschool. Our Preschool Policy is "no hat, no play". Of course we have some spare hats but recently they are all being used. Also, please remember now the weather is starting to become cool to pack a warm jacket for your child so we can enjoy the outdoors together.

Thank you.





We have had a Marvelous May in Little Endeavours and everyone has had lots of fun learning and working with their friends. In all our activities this month I have been talking with the children about the fact that in each activity many of the items we were using were recycled or left over from other Little Endeavours crafts we have done.



OCCUPATIONS – Inspired by Heath’s mum Justine who is a florist, we created our own flowers using patty pans and then stood them in a recycled coffee lid to make our own floral arrangements.



DANCE – With pasta left over from our Mother’s Day craft we were able to fill our paper plate castanets to use during group time in Dance week. The children had to count out 3 ribbons to finish their castanet and then use all their strength to push the stapler down to seal the pasta in. Lots of discussion and investigating as we worked out how the stapler worked.



OUR MUMS – We all love our mums for different reasons and the children loved telling me why their mum was special. It also took a lot of fine motor control to add the red pasta around the heart shape and many children created a pattern with the different varieties of pasta, or decided to use only one type.



SONG & RHYME – Another chance to cook and we made gingerbread men. While baking we sang the rhyme that the Gingerbread Man sings as he runs away from everyone. Plenty of talk about other rhyming words as we rolled and cut our dough.





Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): The Educators have all been enjoying the opportunity to extend their knowledge through recently attended workshops, conferences and on line webinars.

The Preschool has become a member of Early Childhood Australia and taken advantage of the many training webinars they offer. These webinars provide us with great flexibility as generally they run from 40 minutes to an hour or so and therefore can be accessed during our working week. All of the Educators have a professional development plan with training assigned for the remainder of the year against their personal goals. We then share at our staff meetings the learnings taken from these training sessions so the whole team benefits as well.



Dates to Remember!

June 12th:

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday—Closed

June 15th:

Excursion to Fruit Shop (Schoolies Only)



Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten

Cnr Amaroo Avenue and Pacific Highway

Mt Colah NSW 2079

Preschool: Ph: 9476 4101

Email: info@mtcolahpreschool.com.au

Annette: Ph: 9943 0731