

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow

Getting Back on Track

As of May 25th, we have more or less seen most children back attending Preschool and it has been lovely to see everyone. Below we have outlined the procedures that are currently in place and we would appreciate your ongoing support.

- Until notified otherwise families will be asked to stay outside during drop off and pick up times. Please observe social distancing at all times and be safe in the carpark.
- To our Health and Safety policy we have also added that children's temperatures will be taken on entry each day via a digital infrared thermometer.
- Should you wish to meet with your child's educator please call the preschool and we will make a time for a telephone meeting or arrange a meeting outside.
- If your child is unwell, please keep them at home and contact the preschool to let us know. If the illness has any links to the respiratory system and/or temperatures you may be required to bring a GP clearance certificate before your child returns to Preschool.
- If your child has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has had any contact with someone who has, you must advise the Preschool immediately.
- At this time the Government has kept in place the Early Childhood support scheme therefore no fees are being passed onto parents until June 28th. Should you choose to keep your child at home you are still able to. As far as we know the CCS system will resume from July 1st and that is when family gap fee payments will also resume.

June 2020

[Inside this](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Educator Reports](#)

[Update your Centrelink details](#)

[Road Safety Fun](#)

[Update CCS Details](#)





Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas: Over the past few weeks we have spent time learning about Road Safety. The children have been engaged and have enjoyed learning about this very important topic. They have discovered and developed a good understanding of how to keep safe in carparks and while using the road for walking, cycling, using a scooter, or skateboarding. It was wonderful to hear the children engage and contribute so much knowledge to discussions around being alert in and around car parks and the very important rules about holding an adult's hand and listening to instruction. We also talked and engaged in role play about obeying rules of the road while riding bikes. They also learned the importance of making sure we have the right equipment such as the correct size bike which is in good working order, pumping wheels, making sure the brakes work, the use of a bell, a well fitting helmet, suitable shoes and bright clothing, in order to be seen by motorists. The stop, listen and look rule was reinforced whenever we are around traffic, which the children demonstrated so well during our role play scenarios. We have all agreed that being outside on our bikes, scooters or skateboards is a fun way to get fresh air while exercising, developing leg muscles, strengthening bones, increasing stamina and co-ordination and balance skills. Happy cycling and Stay Safe everyone!

Bluebells: It has been great to see so many of our friends returning over the past few weeks. Everyone is doing a fantastic job of settling in, friendships have picked up where they left off and the children are enjoying their preschool day. Over the past few weeks, the Sweetpeas and Bluebells have been working on the very tricky fundamental movement skill of hopping. Hopping definitely isn't as easy a skill to pick up as some others and the educators have been trying out games and techniques to support this learning. To hop properly, the children have to learn to balance on one leg, keep the other leg bent, swing their arms, spring off their foot then land on the same foot. We have spent lots of time practising this and enjoying games such as Hopscotch, making a chalk balancing line to hop along and hopping in hula hoops. We also found a fun dance called The Hop And Stop and you can find this on You Tube. Hopping is a skill that children need to learn as it helps promote balance which children require throughout their lives to competently participate in different games, sports and recreational activities. We will continue developing this skill at preschool over the coming months and you can help at home – draw a hopscotch outside and demonstrate how to hop! You can also follow Munch and Move SWS on Facebook for more activities to help develop your child's fundamental movement skills.





Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Schoolies: What a BLAST the Schoolies have as we begin to learn about Space. This interest was stemmed from the children engaging in a drawing experience on the pavers where they explored spaceships, stars and planets (Reggio Emilia- The child as an active participant). The educators have been blown away with their existing knowledge and willingness to learn more about Space as they have thrown some hard hitting questions our way. We have read various books, explored visual aid posters, watched short video clips and looked at images to further their knowledge on the Solar System. Steph and the children engaged in a craft experience where they created each planet in the Solar System. We researched the size and colour of the planets and their order in the Solar System. This is now a wall display for the children to engage with and we will continue to add other space features over the coming weeks as we further extend our knowledge and interest in this area. If you would like to continue to further your child's interest on Space there are various educational YouTube clips that have great information the children's favourite being 'The Solar System Song'.

STRATEGIC INCLUSION PLAN

Our aim for our SIP is to embed Indigenous Culture into our educational programme and environment to extend the knowledge of all within our Preschool community. Educators are using a variety of learning experiences to further our understanding around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. We are making links within our discovery times and this month we have been linking Aboriginal Culture to our space interest as we learn about how the Aboriginals believe the sun and the stars were made through Dreamtime Stories. Educators have been providing resources which further extend the children's knowledge through role play, art, and storytelling. We have also acknowledged Reconciliation Week this month.



Is your Information Up to Date?

If you are eligible to receive payments from Centrelink, such as Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and Family Tax Benefit (FTB), you may receive communication asking to provide your family income estimate for the 2020-21 financial year.



You need to do this even though you aren't currently paying child care fees. This is because Centrelink will use this estimate to work out how much CCS and FTB you will get **next financial year**.

Especially if your income has been affected by COVID-19, make sure you register this change in your online assessment for the child care subsidy

There's more information about updating your family income estimate for the 2020-21 financial year on the Services Australia website.



We are very excited to announce that our annual Walkathon will go ahead the week commencing **June 22nd**. This is a great event where the children walk to raise money for the Children's Ward at Hornsby Hospital. Please get behind the children's efforts. They really enjoy the Walkathon and learning how they can contribute to our local community and help others in need. Further information on its way home to you—thanks for your support.

Scholastic Book Club

As you may have noticed, this issue of the Scholastic book club is back to a magazine! This will be in your child's bag this time and if you haven't had one come home, you can collect one from the table when you sign in. Thank you for the orders received for the last issue. We bought a book called Peppa Loves Our Planet which is all about Peppa Pig and her family celebrating sustainability. If you would like to place an order this time, you can complete the order form in the leaflet and return it with the payment to preschool. Or you can order via the LOOP app. If you have any questions, please see Deon.



kids say the funniest thing



Steph was talking to Dan F about planets and asked what are Saturn's rings are made of.... Dan responded **"Ice Ice Baby"** Needless to say there was lots of laughter!

Zane approached the educators and asked them **"What's a baby monkey called?"** The educators thought for a while before Zane answered **"A chimp off the old block"** A great joke Zane, it gave the educators a great laugh!



June Birthdays'

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

Madelyn—4 yrs

Momina—5yrs

Madeleine—5yrs

Cohen—4yrs

... Deon and Adele ???





Local News

Mount Colah Public School—Kindergarten 2021

Unfortunately, due to the current climate our Kindergarten Open Day, which was planned for Wednesday 20 May has to be postponed, a future date tba. If you or someone that you know lives in the school catchment, we are now accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2021. Please contact the school via email or phone and we will post an enrolment pack out to you. As original documents need to be sighted, you will be contacted when it is appropriate to come to the school to complete the enrolment process.

IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE COMING TO OUR SCHOOL IN 2021 PLEASE COME TO OUR

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 11 August 2020

7pm – 8:30pm in the School Library

Address: Telopea Street, Mt Colah please enter through back gate via Pierre Close

Enquiries: ph 94773627 Email: mtcolah-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

St Bernards Catholic Primary School

VIRTUAL OPEN DAYS—ENROLLING NOW FOR 2021

May 28 and June 4

10am and 6pm each day.

To register go to: <https://forms.gle/Y2dA22XNgHCRkwx9>

Discover what a catholic education can offer. A centre of excellence in teaching and learning which offers a balanced, holistic curriculum in a safe and caring environment. All families seeking a catholic education at St Bernard's are welcome to apply.

Address: Warrina St, Berowra Heights, NSW 2082

Enquiries: ph 9456 2104 Email: sbb@dbb.catholic.edu Web: sbbdbb.catholic.edu.au



ROAD SAFETY

We have had so much fun learning about how to be safe in the car and safe around roads and driveways



stop
look
listen
think



Phonemic Awareness Programme

Over the past few weeks the children have had the pleasure of meeting another two Letterland characters, Harry Hat Man and Munching Mike.



Munching Mike

Munching Mike is a metal monster. To practice Munching Mike's letter sound, the children were given the opportunity to apply their own problem-solving skills by experimenting with magnetic forces. Magnetic materials provided to the children included magnetic sticks, washers, screws and bolts. This open-ended experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The children's educators observed many of the children expressing a great deal of excitement as they watched the washers and bolts dangle from the magnet sticks and dance and wiggle around on the tabletop surface as they held the large magnet under the table.

Monster Craft—to allow the children to express their own sense of creativity and imagination, an open-ended art and craft experience was also made available for the children. They enjoyed creating their own version of a monster using a wide variety of collage materials.

Monster Mooves—The children also expressed a great deal of enjoyment when carrying out the role of a monster, actively performing various actions and movements whilst dancing to 'Monster Moves' (Dance-a-long) by Koo Koo Kanga Roo. You can find this dance on YouTube. This song offered opportunity for the children to have fun whilst practise producing an 'm' sound through the repetitive use of 'm' sounds throughout the song.



Phonemic Awareness Programme



Harry Hat Man

To encourage the children to practise the very quiet 'h' sound that Harry the Hat Man makes, the children were given the opportunity to engage with 'The Letter H Song' by ABCmouse.com. This song explores rhyming words and sentences through the use of fun lyrics and storyline. For example,

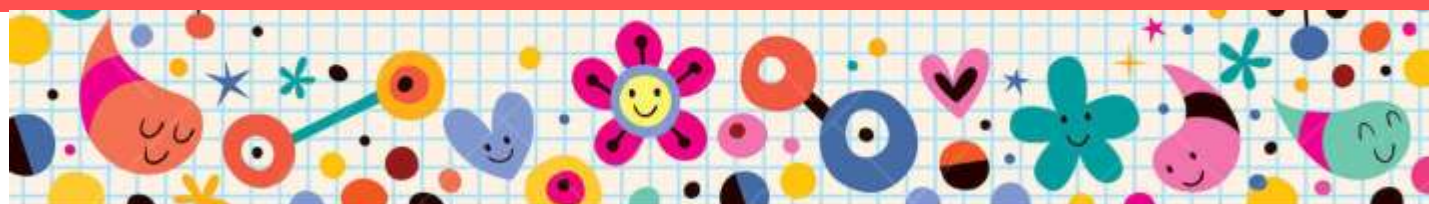
*Ho, hum, Harry had a hammer,
How he liked to pound it,
He hid his hammer in the house,
But his sister Hannah found it.
Half a herd of happy hippos,
Hung out in a huddle,
They had the most hilarious time,
Hopping in a puddle...*

(To see the whole song, type 'The letter H song' ABC mouse on YouTube)

A new fun dance called 'Hop and Stop' was introduced to the children. The little rabbit characters encourage the children to perform a hopping action for different durations of time, then they are told to STOP! (similar concept to musical statues). This experience encouraged the children to not only explore their overall physical wellbeing but also apply their receptive language skills.

The children also enjoyed a new story, 'Mrs Honey's Hat', that tells the misfortune of a little old lady's hat. The children were given the opportunity to play an active role in the storyline whilst it was being read, carrying out the numerous animal roles in the text. Various felt pictures that needed to be stuck on Mrs Honey's hat using Velcro were distributed to the children which, in turn, replaced another felt picture. This was enjoyed by all the children with many of them sharing a laugh each time the different animals got up to mischief. A fun drawing experience was also provided where the children created their own version of Mrs Honey's Hat.

A big thank you to Hamish and his family for kindly lending us their Mrs Honey doll and Mrs Honey's Hat book.



SUSTAINABILITY

We have stocked our loose parts trolley with very interesting recycled bits and pieces. The children have been very innovative using cardboard tubes, corks, lids etc in creating dramatic dinosaur and jungle scenes as well as using it for construction. We have also recycled large cardboard rolls to make our didgeridoo display at the front door.



Our return and earn collection of bottles is building up nicely and we have now reached \$30 towards our target of \$100. Please keep your recyclable bottles coming, we would like to donate the money earned to the rescue organisation looking after wildlife that was so badly affected by the recent bush fires.



SUSTAINABILITY

The old gumboots, that have been donated to us, have been put to good use decorating our garden as we replanted plants from the garden.



The planting of vegetables in our garden has yielded some success and we have harvested carrots, which we enjoyed for afternoon tea. We will continue to experiment with other crops like tomatoes and lettuce. This teaches the children about the cycle of seed to plant and gives them a little insight to the importance of healthy eating and an awareness of where our food comes from. This also gives the children an appreciation of the works the farmers do in providing the food for us to eat.

Sustainability Activity at Home

It is easy to help your child plant inside items such as old gum boots, tin cans, old coffee mugs, the list is endless. It is a great project where you can talk to your child about what a plant needs to grow. It is also a great ongoing project for your child to learn how to care for the plant so it continues to grow. Planting herbs is also a fantastic way to then use what the children have grown in some great cooking experiences. Have fun!



Quality Improvement Plan (QIP):

We continually reflect on our health and safety policies and practices. With COVID-19 this has increased our scrutiny and we have taken added measures to ensure we provide the safest environment possible. A new addition to our practice is the purchase of a digital infrared thermometer so that we can take the children's temperatures on arrival in a very simple way. It has also been wonderful to see the support we have received from families who have not hesitated to keep their child at home if they are feeling a little under the weather. This is a huge help in keeping our environment healthy and we really appreciate it. We are also asking families to let us know as soon as they can if they are keeping children at home because they are unwell and we may advise that you need a GP clearance certificate to return to Preschool. We continue to do all that we can to keep our children and families healthy and happy. Thank you for your support.



Dates to Remember!

Due to social distancing laws we are unable to proceed with planned excursions, incursions.

As the Walkathon is an internal event it will still be held week commencing June 22nd.



Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten

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