

# Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



## Have you heard about the New Child Care Package?

From 2 July 2018, there will be a New Child Care Package. The Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit will be replaced by a single **Child Care Subsidy (CCS)** and it will be paid directly to services.

Under the new arrangements, families earning less than \$185,710 will have no annual subsidy cap on the amount of child care they can claim, while those earning over \$185,710 and under \$350,000 will benefit from an increase in the current cap of \$7,613 to \$10,000 per child, per year.

The level of **Child Care Subsidy** that family's may be entitled to will depend on the family's combined income, the activity level of both parents, or the sole parent in a sole parent family, and the type of child care the family uses. The Package will also include a safety net to ensure that children in Australia's most vulnerable families and communities have the opportunity to access quality early learning and child care.

Information brochures are available at the Parent Information Table. For more information and access to an online estimator that families can use is found at <https://www.education.gov.au/ChildCarePackage> .



## The Same Language??

Last week Leah asked Deon what she had for morning tea and Deon told her she had some grapes. Leah said she wasn't sure what Deon meant so Deon showed her and she said "Oh, grapes" and Deon agreed "Yes, grapes". Leah replied "You're not saying it properly" and Deon explained that her accent doesn't allow her to say it the same way as she does. "That's ok" she said, "I'll teach you to say it properly".

## March 2018

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## Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

**Sweetpeas** This has been a very exciting start to the year.

Our one-on-one developmental times have been met with enthusiasm and we look forward to all the new fun things we have in store. The Sweetpeas are coping so well with settling into all the new challenges and routines at preschool. We all have so much to learn about each other and it is lovely to watch how the children are bonding with friends and teachers. We have been reinforcing empathy and the importance of being kind. The children are beginning to understand this concept and I have witnessed some wonderful acts of kindness from giving each other hugs, making sure friends are included in play, to helping someone in need. *'A warm smile is the universal language of kindness'* – William Arthur Ward.

**Bluebells:** The Bluebells are settling into preschool life very well and we are happy to see friendships forming and confidence building. We have started our developmental programme where we will work with our groups on a one to one basis each day. So far everyone has been enthusiastic and keen participants in the learning experiences! Each day the children have been participating in a fundamental movement skills exercise. Each activity will be carried out every day for 2 weeks which allows us to observe how the child manages that skill then support them in developing it when needed. We have practised jumping so far which everyone did with great energy! Although we are practising skills that the children need to learn, we make it fun so we had lots of pretend play which included jumping kangaroos and rabbits all over the garden! This week we are practising kicking a stationary ball which everyone is enjoying and we are seeing spontaneous games of football in the garden. These are easy to follow at home, just check the daily diary to see what skill we are working on and encourage your child to practice at home or at the park. If you have any concerns regarding your child's gross motor abilities, please come and chat to us.

**Schoolies:** It has been a fantastic start at Preschool for the Schoolies; they have all settled in well and bravely start their day by exploring the resources on offer. Before investigating the available experiences that have been set-up, it is a great idea to have your Schoolie child sign in in the morning just like their family member does. The children are provided with sheets of paper that encourage them to find their name, trace their name and then write it. This is a great opportunity to further name recognition, name writing and most importantly at this time of the year, develop a dominant writing hand and a tri-pod grasp. The art and craft that is set-up every morning is also another way to further your child's dominant writing hand and work toward a tri-pod grasp. We have observed a few of our Schoolie children haven't formed a dominant writing hand or a tri-pod grasp yet, this is really important as without these your child's hand will tire very easily. Not to worry. we will be working on building finger and hand strength and writing skills via lots of fun experiences. If you have any questions please ask 😊. The Schoolies LOVED discovering new colours during our colour mixing experiences!



## Open Day

***We will be holding an Open Day at Preschool on  
Wednesday, March 21st from 10am to 12pm.***

The purpose of the Open Day is to invite new families to look around the Preschool and experience the educational environment we provide. It also provides the opportunity for new families to explore any questions they have about starting Preschool, gain understanding around our Philosophy and see how our educational programme is delivered as well as an opportunity to meet our lovely staff. If you know anyone who is interested please invite them along.



***Many thanks.***

## Scholastic Book Club

The Scholastic Book Club leaflet comes out to families twice a term. Every order received earns 20% commission for the preschool and we use this to buy books and resources for the children and staff. Thank you for all the orders this month, these should be delivered within the next week. There appears to be some confusion when asked to select your child's class when using the LOOP app.

If you are prompted to enter this, please put in the group your child is in eg. Sweetpeas, Bluebells or Schoolies.

Issue 2 should be out in the next couple of weeks.



# FAMILY

***Please feel free to contribute to our Family Stories Book. All you need to do is record an activity, trip, family visit, excursion or anything your family has***

***been up to. You can draw pictures, stick in photos or other items and create a story that all the children can look at. It is a great way for the children to share their home and family with all at Preschool. Any questions, please see your teacher.***





## Sustainability

**Mt Colah Preschool** has a strong sustainability focus, please feel free to chat to our teachers about our sustainable practices. We encourage the children to recycle craft and paper items no longer useful and when planning activities the teachers look at ways to re-use items we have collected. During the year you may receive a call to action, asking families to save up things like yoghurt cups as we plan special craft projects.

We also love to teach the children about our garden where we grow fruits and vegetables. We have a worm farm which feeds the plants rich nutrients and the children learn which food scraps can go into the worm farm to feed the worms.

*Next to the sign in desk we have a recycling bin for all your old printer and toner cartridges. Please feel free to recycle your old cartridges using this bin.*



*We are now also a collection point for Coles redcycle Programme. You can bring in any soft plastic items that can be crunched into a ball. For more information see the posters at Preschool.*

Throughout the year we discuss the importance of recycling and so you may soon find your children sharing this information with you at home!



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

Jed—4yrs

Ivy—3yrs

Zoe—4yrs

Luca—4yrs

Grace—3yrs

Joshua—4yrs

Jo and Zoe

Oliver—4yrs



# Great News

Dear Families,

We are pleased to let you know that Zoe and her partner Harry, have announced they are expecting a beautiful addition to their family in August. We are all very excited for Zoe and Harry and their extended family. Zoe is planning on taking maternity leave from July. We wish them all the very best and look forward to meeting the new arrival.



Alex F and Natalie were outside building when Natalie said to Alex ***"You will come to my house and build a hundred blocks for me"***. Alex said ***"I can't, that will take ages"***



## ***Parents please note....***

You are responsible for the supervision of older and younger siblings who accompany you at pick up and drop off times. Siblings should remain in your company at all times. Please ensure siblings are not running around or playing on the equipment and that they follow any rules we would ask of the Preschoolers'. This ensures that we continue to provide a safe environment for our Preschool children. Thank you :)

## ***Fostering Independence at Meal Times***

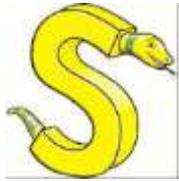
To support the children's independence at meal times it is a great idea to think about what you pack for your children and how you can go about making it easy for them to unwrap, unpackage and open. Here are just a few tips to consider:

- Easy to open lunch boxes
- Break the seal on twist tops of yoghurt pouches
- Consider what you wrap sandwiches in
- Make a small tear in packets
- Break the skin on a banana



# Phonics Programme

The Schoolies have enjoyed participating in our Phonics Programme guided by the Letterland programme. For two weeks we focus on one sound, using a variety of activities and resources. These activities can be anything from stories, games, craft or short information clips from the iPad. The purpose of this programme is for the children to have lots of fun exploring the foundation sounds of pre-literacy. Please feel free to speak to either Zoe or Steph if you have any questions surrounding the programme.



The Schoolies have been really excited to get to know our first Letterland character. This month we met **Sammy Snake**. The children loved visiting Letterland and listening to **Sammy Snake's** story. They also enjoyed participating in the various activities linked to this character's sound such as the '**Silly Sausage Dance**' and learning fun facts about **Snakes** through short clips on the iPad.



The children then met **Annie Apple**, who has a really catchy song and the children have been singing this song spontaneously at various times of the day at Preschool. We are planning further fun to explore **Annie Apple's** sound by making paper **Aeroplanes** and investigate how they fly and learn some fun facts about **Astronauts**.

## THE RULES

Lara quickly walked out of the office to show Steph something and Eadie ran up to Lara and very sternly said **"You need to put your hat on"**





We have had lots of fun and learning in Little Endeavours in February. I have enjoyed getting to know our new preschoolers and those returning from last year have been a great help in our sessions.



Banana Bread – Cooking is a favourite activity in LE and everyone helped to measure and mix our ingredients. Some were so keen that there was a bit extra of some ingredients but it still tasted great. We also fed the banana skins to our worms and some of our brave preschoolers held the worms on their hands.



Worm Wee – Our worms have been working hard eating our scraps and the preschoolers were very excited to be taking home some of the worm wee to put on their gardens. We used bottles we recycled from the preschool Christmas party to put the worm wee in.



Chinese New Year – To celebrate Year of the Dog the children collaged a dog face and no two dogs looked the same!! It was good fine motor skill practice choosing the pieces and sticking them down to create their own dog.





**Quality Improvement Plan (QIP):** To support our endeavour of continuing improvement of the service the Preschool provides, last week



the teaching team got together to learn how to use Penelope Care. This software will be guiding us through a complete review of all the National Quality Standards. This review will enable us to see where the preschool strengths lie and also identify areas in need of further improvement. At the completion of this extensive review we will be able to create our Quality Improvement Plan indicating the areas identified for improvement over the next 12 months or so. The review is very time consuming and each staff member will be assigned to review a different quality area. We are aiming to complete the review over the next couple of months.

## Dates to Remember!

Wednesday March 21st

Friday March 30th

Monday April 2nd

April 16th—27th

April 25th

Preschool Open Day (New Families to Preschool)

Easter Friday—Preschool Closed

Easter Monday—Preschool Closed

Holiday Programme

Anzac Day—Preschool Closed



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