

# Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



*a caring place to learn and grow*

## Why Dress Ups are Important

This month at Preschool the children have loved engaging in dress ups. Through dress ups the children develop a range of skills.

**Brain Building**—Dress-up engages your child's brain and memory.

**Vocabulary Building**—Dress-up play builds vocabulary as a child decides what his or her character would say. It gives them a chance to expand their vocabularies.

**Problem-Solving**—Who's going to be the doctor? Who's going to be the patient? Children must make decisions when they engage in dress-up play.

**Empathy**—When a child is engaged in role-play, it helps them see the world through another's eyes which increases empathy – whether pretending to be a parent nurturing a baby, or a doctor.

**Emotional Development**— Children process their fears through play, which helps them make sense of the world, and overcome their feelings of helplessness. By allowing children to act out their fears through dress-up and role playing, we are helping their emotional development.

**Motor Skills**—Children develop fine motor skills by putting on dress-up clothes, whether buttoning a shirt, zipping up pants, or tying on a pirate's bandana. They use their large motor skills when engaged in role-play, whether they are jumping like a superhero, running like a baseball player, or twirling like a ballerina.

**Socialisation**—Dress-up play encourages cooperation and taking turns. Children learn how to negotiate as they agree on stories and rules.

**Imagination**—When children engage in dress-up play their imaginations are given free reign. There is no limit to who, where, or what they can be.

**Imitation**—Children are naturally imitative creatures. They learn about the world by imitating the lives of the adults and others around them. Through dress-up and dramatic role-play, children explore the lives of other people by imitating their actions, feelings and words.



## May in Review 2022

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## Our Preschool Programme in Review

**Sweetpeas:** The children have had a wonderful month learning so many new skills. We have taken every opportunity to promote self-help skills by encouraging everyone to have a go. It has been wonderful to see how well the Sweetpeas have managed with the morning drop off routines, needing very little assistance to get organised for the day. First finding name tags, choosing a locker and then unpacking lunch and morning tea boxes, making sure to put them in the correct baskets for the day. Depending on what the weather is doing the children put on hats and take drink bottles outside, or if staying indoors choosing activities to engage in for the morning. Throughout the day there are many opportunities to follow instructions as we transition from one activity to the next. Toilet routines, putting on and taking off shoes and clothing are good learning opportunities to develop these important self-help skills. By giving encouragement and support the Sweetpeas are learning to be independent, but not afraid to ask for help.

*'The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence'* - Denis Waitley

**Bluebells:** May is behind us and it has been another busy, lovely month. This month we learned about our bodies and how these work. We discovered the names of our bones and we now use these names in games! The Bluebells have been enjoying spending time together as a group as we work on developing stronger social skills. This group enjoys games such as Duck Duck Goose, Bug In a Rug and simple games of passing the ball, using each others names as we do so, developing a knowledge of each other too. These games are a lot of fun and also encourage the children to share, think of others and fairness. When we play these games, we talk about making sure everyone has a turn and not always picking the same friends and the children are developing a good understanding of why this is important. Games such as these also encourage our counting skills as well as our gross motor skills. If your child is talking about a particular friend at home, we are happy to support you in organising a playdate outside of preschool, please just let us know.

**Schoolies:** We are very fortunate here at Mt Colah Preschool to have such an adventurous, stimulating and welcoming environment both inside and outside. Contemporary theories and research informed by the Reggio Emilia approach recognise and value the environment as a 'third teacher'. Over the past month, our Schoolies have been particularly interested in our outdoor environment including our bottom garden which consists of the fort, mud kitchen, pirate ship, climbing frames and trees for climbing. The climbing equipment has been very popular as the children have enjoyed challenging themselves as they coordinate their bodies up and over the A-frames, across the beams and onto the stepping stones. They have continued to develop their gross motor skills through climbing and hanging from the trees, strengthening their upper body strength. Behind educators and families, physical spaces hold the potential to influence what and how children learn, including allowing them to take healthy risks. The children have emerged themselves in nature as they cooked delicious meals in the mud kitchen, painted the tree trunks with water and collected flower petals to make flower perfume.





# OUR NEW COMMUNITY BOOK LIBRARY

## THANK YOU CRESWICK FAMILY!

Last year we asked for family feedback on our book exchange library. The majority ruled in favour of a fixed street library box. After noticing the feedback results, the Creswick family kindly offered to make this for us.

They spent weekends working on it, sourcing materials and the final result is beyond what we could of imagined. Whilst we are still adding some finishing touches, the library is being used to it's full potential already. We are seeing families donate books, borrow books and the children are loving being able to open the doors, turn the light on and utilise all the amazing features which have been added to our library.

You may also notice two small plaques on the library—one for the Creswick family and the other in loving memory of our mentor and leader of many years, Annette.

We know that the community will be enjoying this for many years to come. Thank you once again to the Creswicks.



# SUSTAINABILITY

## RETURN AND EARN TARGET REACHED!

We are pleased to announce that we have already reached our 2022 \$100 target for our Return and Earn Initiative, which means we have collected 1000 bottles!

We will be attempting to now double this as we continue to fundraise for our chosen charity—we will be putting out a feedback form for families to decide which charity we donate to so stay tuned!



## USING RAIN WATER

We have been using all our collected rainwater this month to further our sand play experiences to make wet sand, allowing us to construct and create. We have also been watering our garden, adding worm wee to help our garden to grow.



## GARDEN CLEAN UP

The sensory and veggie gardens needed a little TLC after all the rain. The children helped to weed, mulch and water our herbs and vegetables as they continue to show growing appreciation and care for our natural environments.





# Phonemic Awareness Programme

During the month of April, the children have been learning about the focus sounds /h/ and /m/. The Schoolies have been engaged in a variety of songs, stories, activities and craft experiences with the Letterland characters Harry Hat Man and Munching Mike.

## Harry Hat Man



While learning about the letter/sound H, the children explored different houses from around the world as well as constructed houses of their own using recycled materials and loose parts. The children also enjoyed utilising Google Maps to see an aerial view of their home. Harry Hat Man hide 'n' seek was a fun activity for the children to repetitively produce the name Harry Hat Man as they hid him throughout the playground, taking turns hiding and seeking. Lastly, the children role played different characters as they tried on a variety of different hats.

## Munching Mike



While learning about the letter/sound M, the children discovered how magnets work, including their ability to attract and repel. The children sorted different materials into magnetic and non-magnetic baskets. We also explored different foods starting with /m/ including macaroons and mangoes. This led to making our own play dough macaroons and selling them at the macaroons shop. For a special treat, the children made mango milkshakes! Leaving them with a mango milkshake moustache! This was very funny.





# National Road Safety Week May 16th

During the week the children explored 'Road Safety' in various forms. Educators used visuals of real life road signs which allowed the children to actively engage and contribute to group discussions on road and car safety. Children were provided with role play scenarios, around seat belts, bike safety and pedestrian safety. It is important that we continue to educate the children to understand the importance of these.

We ask that all families, continue these discussions at home with your child and are putting these safety messages into action when leaving the Preschool. We encourage you to use the orange road safety mat and remember the importance of safety on our driveway, holding hands when leaving the Preschool and when crossing the driveway to get to your car.



Please use our  
orange road  
safety mat!



# Little Endeavours with Jo



Term 2 already and the preschoolers this month have done some group activities as well as individual tasks. They have shown how they are increasingly able to co-operate and work collaboratively with their preschool friends, and were able to recognize their individual achievements in the group work, as well as when they worked on their own.



**ANZAC Biscuits** – To commemorate ANZAC Day the children made Anzac Cookies. Cooking is not just cooking. For the children it involves numeracy (counting out and measuring ingredients), literacy (following the recipe), science (watching the mixture change as we add ingredients) and collaborative work, to name a few areas. However it's always lots of fun and a great way to incorporate learning.



**Mother's Day SUPERWOMEN** – The preschoolers became aware of similarities and differences in families as children spoke about who they would give their superwoman to. They discussed who was in their immediate family and also shared why their person was super. All the children were sure they would be able to eat the chocolate frog!



# Little Endeavours with Jo



**RECYCLED PEOPLE** – The children openly and clearly expressed ideas on how they wanted their people to look and confidently asked for any extra items that they needed. They showed pride in their work and initiated conversations with friends to tell them about their person. We celebrated the fact we were using recycled items.



**RECYCLED CITY AND ROADS** – Even without the buildings attached the children loved our flattened cardboard box, that we stuck recycled leather strips onto to make the roads. We made our recycled buildings and the preschoolers also suggested other features that we made, that they had seen in the community. When looking at our finished city we all agreed it was a great group project we had all contributed to and the children loved driving cars around the city. We were proud that everything we used for this activity was recycled.





# Mother's Day



On Wednesday 5th May, our preschool Mums had a dinner to celebrate Mother's Day and the wonderful job they do! The children had made their mums artwork that was placed around the tables, sparking lovely conversations. It was great to see so many of our mums come together, make new friends, catch up with old ones and enjoy this time together.

Part of our Philosophy is that we foster an environment that supports the development of relationships between families. We are so glad to be able to do this with our wonderful preschool.



## Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

### Can you help?



We mentioned in our March Newsletter that we will be proceeding with working on a Reconciliation Action Plan for Mt Colah Preschool. A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a formal statement of commitment to reconciliation. We aim to include educators, children, families and our local community to help contribute to our RAP.

We would love to have some family and community members join our RAP working group. Also if you know any members of the local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community that we can get in touch with, please let us know.

If you would like to be part of this or know someone who may be interested please speak to Lara or Deon.

## Winter Reminders

We encourage you to keep active over the cooler months to support overall health and wellbeing. At Preschool we will still be going outside to play and remind families to ensure that your child has warm clothes at Preschool so they can fully participate and enjoy our outdoor experiences at any time.



## Staying Healthy

As we head into the cooler months of the year and to potential cold and flu season we would like to remind families of ways they can support the Preschool environment to stay healthy. If your child is presenting with any of the following symptoms you must keep them home and seek doctors advice if necessary: • severe, persistent or prolonged coughing • breathing difficulties (e.g. noisy, wheezy) • yellowish skin or eyes • irritated eyes, eye lining red, pus from eyes • unusual spots or rashes • vomiting and/or diarrhoea • temperature over 37.5 degrees celsius • behaviour exhibited that is not 'normal' for the child (e.g. sleeping, being unable to participate in the daily activities as usual).

We ask that you do not bring any unwell child into the service and you do not enter the service if you are unwell.





**7th June —Tuesday Schoolies excursion to Post Office**

**13th June —Queens Birthday Public Holiday**

**18th July —Feature Creatures Reptile Show (more information to come)**

## 2023 Enrolments

During the month of July we will commence our enrolment process for the start of 2023 by asking our current families what days they would like their child to attend next year. We ask you to return your responses in a timely manner as we then move to our waiting list to fill the remainder of the placements. If you know of anyone who may be interested in attending Preschool next year, it would be wise to ask them to submit a Waiting List as soon as possible

### June Birthdays

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



**Abba—4 years**

**Theo—5 years**

**Judah— 5 years**

**Emel—4 years**

**Lily W—5 years**

**Grace—5 years**

**Harper—4 years**

**Adele**

**Deon**

