



Dear Families,

Can you believe we are at the end of the year! The educators are all so amazed at how far the children have come this year. We have seen growth and progress in all aspects of their development. The educational team know how important it is to extend their knowledge and ideas, challenge their thinking and develop their social and emotional skills in a safe and caring environment. It is our greatest privilege to be working with your children in this wonderful environment.

A big farewell to our Schoolies who are starting the next chapter of their life. We are so proud of how far you have come, the wonderful relationships you have built, the kindness you display and your ability to collaborate and work together. Also to the families who will be leaving us this year, and have been part of our Preschool family for many years, we will miss you!

To our returning children, we look forward to seeing you again in the new year as our leaders and helpers as we welcome new children and families to Preschool.

To my amazing team—the passion, enthusiasm and dedication you continue to display is truly extraordinary. You show up everyday and continue to go above and beyond. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them so much for the caring and stimulating learning environment they provide each and everyday.

On behalf of the teaching team, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe and relaxing break.



Lara

# Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



*a caring place to learn and grow*



## November— December 2024

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# Our Preschool Programme in Review

## Sweetpeas and Bluebells:

To our wonderful Sweetpeas and Bluebells - what an amazing first year of preschool you have had. You have learned so much this year, from finding your name tag and unpacking your bag independently, to making new friends. We have seen many lovely friendships develop this year and we hope you continue to see your friends over the holidays, ready for next year. Over the past month, the Schoolies have been doing lots of preparation for big school and many of you have been joining in, saying goodbye at the gate, trying to finish lunch in the allocated time, as well as practising skills such as name writing and cutting. All great skills to have learned so early! Sweetpeas and Bluebells, we are very proud of how much you have learned this year. We love to see how much you enjoy your day at preschool, playing outside, becoming more confident on the climbing equipment, climbing trees, as well as using your imagination in your play. Next year, some of you will be Bluebells and many of you will be moving on to the Schoolies group. We know whatever group you are in next year, you will be amazing, continuing to do your very best.


Merry Christmas Sweetpeas and Bluebells, see you all next year!

Deon and Belinda 

## Schoolies:

Wow, what a year it's been watching each and every one of you accomplish so much in just 12 months. Where'd all the time go? Over the past month, we have been supporting the children's school readiness skills through encouraging separation from loved ones at the gate to develop self-help skills as well as encouraging the children to open their own food packaging, put on their shoes independently and take off jumpers. We have been doing timed lunches of 20 minutes to encourage faster eating to ensure they get the most out of play time and physical activity at big school. Families, there are many things you can be doing at home to continue supporting your child with this new and big transition, some of which include practising the walk to big school or catching a bus (whatever your child will be doing next year), organise play dates using our parent contacts sheet provided by the educators (on parent information table), read through your child's developmental portfolio and follow any suggested activities or interests of your child's and regularly encourage self help skills through their daily routine, e.g. getting dressed independently, making their bed, brushing teeth, assisting with making lunches etc.

Now to wrap up the year of our 2024 Schoolies. We have witnessed many special talents and gifts, been taught so many new things and have experienced so much developmental growth from all children. Some of the Schoolies strongest interests this year has consisted of Lego, beyblades, imaginative games on the bark, dress-ups, going on bug hunts, treasure hunts, gumnut collecting in the yard, board games, drawing and more drawing! To our Schoolies of 2024, we are so proud of everything you have done and achieved within your time at MCPK and we're going to miss each and every one of you. We wish you all the best for the next chapter of your lives. Please don't be afraid to drop in at any time, we would love to see you again :)

 Maddie and Tegan





# Kindifarm

Monday 4th November

During our Kindifarm visit we met Mel and Kayden the farmers who introduced us to the animals - Honey the chicken, Marbles the cow, Daisy the duck, Manny the sheep, Cloud and Sunny the rabbits, as well as a goat, guinea pigs and some ducklings. The children were able to pat and feed some of the animals, ensuring that they kept their hand nice and flat. They also had the opportunity to balance a chicken on their shoulder or head! Through our Discovery group time, we continued to learn about farm animals including what they provide us, the baby names and their important roles. This was a great hands on experience that allowed the children to increase their understanding and interest of animals.





# Mt Colah Public School Band Visit

Thursday 28th November

We were lucky to have a special visit from Mt Colah Public School's Senior Band. The children were able to learn more about the different instruments that make up the band. The band played some of our favourite songs which we were able to sing and dance to. Two of our children were also able to be the conductor of the band as we learnt more about the responsibility of this important role.

The children are constantly developing a sense of connectedness to our local community and the people and places within it thanks to these important relationships.





# Christmas Concert and Party

After much excitement and anticipation the day had finally arrived for our Christmas Concert and Party! The children put on such a wonderful performance and all their practices and rehearsals paid off. We were so impressed with how well they all did! They most definitely deserved their visit from Santa which was no doubt the highlight. They also loved further putting their performance skills to use with our Bop Til You Drop Disco Party.

A big thank you to the families who brought in food for the party tables. It was also a lovely opportunity for our families to spend time together. What a wonderful community we get to be a part of!





# BIG SCHOOL WEEK 2nd December


The countdown is on to Big School for all of our Schoolies. During the week we were lucky to have visits from Mt Colah Public, St Patricks and Mt Kuring-gai Public School. Some of our former students also came and shared all about the school experience with us and what the children may expect when they go to school.

The children were able to wear their new school uniforms and we set up our very own canteen experience for the children to practice for when they go to school.





# Schoolies Graduation

What a remarkable celebration we had for our graduating Schoolies. We are so proud of how much they have achieved, grown, developed and the wonderful friendships they have made. We know they are ready for the next chapter in their lives, however we are really going to miss them. 

**CONGRATULATIONS SCHOOLIES!!!**





# Lifeline Giving Tree

A big thank you to all the families who kindly donated to our Lifeline Giving Tree. We were able to provide a lot of gifts for those in need. It was also a great lesson for the children in giving back and helping those less fortunate than us .





# Little Endeavours with Jo

The end of the year has come so quickly and so many great memories from the time I spend with the preschoolers in LE. We have all learnt new skills and refined others, while having fun together working individually and as a group. We finished the year making gifts for our families and the Schoolies prepared for graduation making mortar board caps and decorating the graduation cakes. Wishing all our families a happy Christmas and relaxing New Year.



## Packing Pellet Sheep and Incy Wincy Spider

All of these activities were done by the preschoolers individually and they all had high engagement as they worked. It showed how they have grown emotionally and socially as they helped each other to complete the tasks by asserting their capabilities and independence, while demonstrating an increasing awareness of the needs of others. Fine motor skills were used by the children - including cutting, colouring, applying glue and sticky tape and placement of pieces when making their crafts showing how far they have come since we started this year. They used problem solving skills when an issue came up, and persisted in their work without giving up, experiencing the satisfaction of achievement when they completed the activity.



# Phonemic Awareness Programme

## Golden Girl



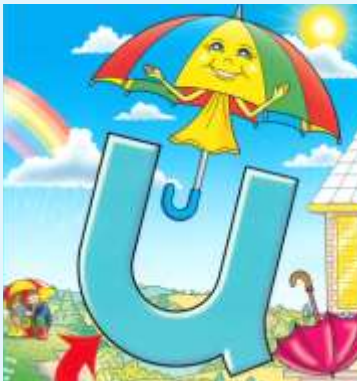
As we explored the /g/ sound with Golden Girl, the children had the opportunity to spray their hair either green or gold, becoming a Golden or Green Girl/Guy! The children also enjoyed engaging with the activity sheets, further developing their pencil manipulation while writing both the uppercase G and lowercase g.

## Bouncy Ben

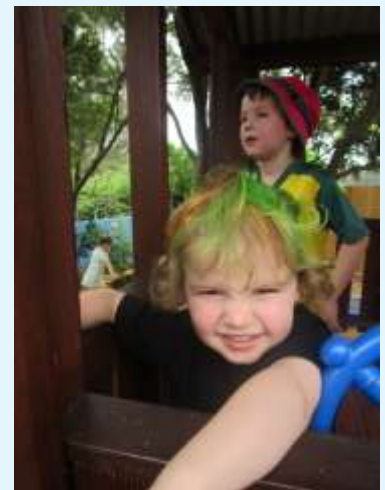


As we explored the /b/ sound with Bouncy Ben, we focused on the difference between uppercase and lowercase letters. The children were excited to discover all the B names at Preschool that require an uppercase/capital B. We then moved on to lowercase /b/ words, with the children broadening their vocabulary as we discovered the meaning behind new /b/ words.

## Uppy Umbrella



To wrap up Letterland for the year, we finished with the /u/ sound. We went on an adventure u u u underground and discovered dinosaur bones, tunnels and cicadas! The children requested to learn about both the long and short /u/ sound, meeting Mr U who is in words like unicorn and uniform where as Uppy Umbrella makes the short /u/ sound like in under and up.





# Mini Moves



## Skipping

Our final skill for the year was skipping and the children have all made great progress towards this very tricky skill. Practicing for this skill has included, 'long distance' skipping races, 'skipping tip' and lots of Mario jumps (to practice alternating our legs and arms). Children are not expected to have mastered this skill until around age six, however by practicing now, they are building the foundations needed to achieve this skill when they are developmentally ready.

## Revision

As the year comes to a close, the children have been revising all skills learnt throughout 2024 and it has been amazing to see the progress they have all made, with many of them mastering skills they had been working towards earlier in the year. We would like to say a big congratulations to our Sweetpeas and Bluebells for all they have achieved through our Mini Moves program and for the consistent hard effort they put into all activities this year! We hope our Sweetpeas and Bluebells who are moving up to the Schoolies group enjoy Letterland next year and we look forward to seeing some of our Sweetpeas take on another year of Mini Moves in 2025.



# QIP—Cultural Responsiveness Update

A big thank you to the families who recently gave feedback around our QIP area of Cultural Responsiveness this year. After feedback from families, children and educators we are happy to say we have successfully been able to achieve our purpose **“To embed cultural responsiveness throughout our programme, allowing the children to explore diversity of cultures as well as share their own culture with their peers and educators. Educators will work collaboratively with culturally and linguistically diverse children and families to achieve this.”**

We will continue to implement the practices we have embedded into our programme moving forward :)



## Culture of the Month

This past month we have learnt more about the Turkish culture.

The children have explored this through language, dance, and cooking in which we made some yummy gozleme. Eda taught us how to count and we also learnt a new game called ‘Korebe’ which we play in our afternoon group times.





## CHEATS GOZLEME



### Ingredients

- 1 piece of lebanese bread
- 1 tblspn butter
- 2 cups of baby spinach
- pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/2 cup grated tasty cheese
- Olive oil

### Method

1. Using a sharp knife, slide the tip of the knife into the edge of the lebanese bread.
2. Gently slide the knife to cut the bread at the seam
3. When there is a big enough opening for your hand, slide your hand in the middle and gently prise open the bread right to all edges
4. Now use the knife to slice all the edges of the bread
5. Lay the bread open so it's two flat pieces
6. Add the butter to a frying pan and over medium heat, melt the butter
7. Add the baby spinach and some pepper
8. Stir until the spinach just starts to wilt, then remove from heat
9. Using tongs, place the spinach all around one side of the bread
10. Sprinkle the feta over the spinach
11. Sprinkle the grated cheese over the spinach
12. Fold the other side of the bread over the top of the filling
13. Using the same frying pan (no need to wash), heat it over high heat
14. Add a splash of olive oil around the pan
15. Gently pick up the bread and place it into the pan
16. Cook for about 2 minutes. Whilst this side is cooking, add a splash of olive oil to the top of the bread. Use a pastry brush to spread the oil all around the bread
17. Use an egg slide to flip the bread over, and cook for another 1-2 minutes until it's browning
18. Remove from heat. Use either scissors or a pizza cutter to cut the gozleme into pieces
19. Sprinkle with lemon juice or serve with lemon wedges.



## PRESCHOOL ACCOUNTS

Your final account for 2024 has been distributed and all final payments were due Friday 6th December. Please ensure that your account is now up to date and there is no money owing. Could everyone, especially for those leaving Preschool, please stop any automatic fee payments you may have set up to avoid your account going into credit. Overpayment of fees by returning children will be retained as a credit in your account for 2025.

**Please note that our daily fee for 2025 will be \$115.**

## December Birthdays

**A big Happy Birthday to all of our children having a birthday this month!**



Aliyah—4 years  
Mia—4 years  
Jack H—5 years  
Hamish M—4 years





# Community Connections



**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec**  
**4 - 5:30pm \$5 per child**  
Crafts, games, songs and some things to take home

Christmas  
**CRAFTS**  
for kids



Mt Colah Uniting and  
Mt Ku-ring-gai RFS  
bring you...  
**Santa Claus is  
coming to town  
Church**

**Crazy Kids Carols 5-6pm Christmas Eve**

**It's all about community - Carols and a visit from Santa**