

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



A positive start to school...

How can you support a positive transition to school for your child.

- Encourage lots of conversations with your child about their school and the things you saw during orientation. Provide the opportunity for them to ask lots of questions and solve the answers together! Above all keep the conversation positive.
- Support the development of your child's independence and self help skills so they have confidence in their own ability to make decisions and look after themselves and their belongings. Provide opportunity for them to practice this, don't do everything for them :)
- Remind them about all the things they are able to do at Preschool that will translate into the new school environment e.g. make friends, play nicely, ask teacher if they need anything, sit and listen during group time, write their name, pack and unpack their preschool bag—there are so many things!
- Read to your child, get them involved in the story, ask them questions. Sing songs, read rhymes have fun with music and movement. Sit and draw and use scissors together, let them be creative.
- Keep up social activities during the Christmas break so your children continue their development and confidence in their social skills. Play board games with them, let them visit with grandparents or the cousins without you.

What does a positive transition look like for your child. Some key indicators are—you may already see some of these traits in your child from our Preschool environment.

- They have a constructive outlook about school and speak in a positive manner about their time at school
- They are keen to learn and can tell you about things they are learning at school
- Have a developing sense of self and are keen to participate

**November
2020**

Inside this Newsletter

- Upcoming end of year dates
- Teacher Reports
- Christmas Concert Info
- StEPS Vision Screening

.. And so much more!





Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas: It's hard to believe we are already into the last semester of the year. The Sweetpeas have gained so much confidence since the start of the year. The holiday program was especially fun with exciting theme days to participate in. Spring Day was a perfect time to practice our gardening skills. We had fun getting our hands into soil as we helped Jo fill the new pots and very carefully planted sunflower and bean seeds. The best part of this experience was collecting worm wee from our worm farm to feed the new plants. Some children enjoyed watching little worms wriggling on the palm of their hands while others backed away declaring, 'Ooh that's too yucky'. Tuck Shop Day provided the children with a little insight to 'big' school. The children enjoyed the opportunity to explore their independence and decision making, as they got to choose their morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Mini Olympics gave everyone a chance to explore gross motor skills, as the children learned about different Olympic Sports. As the children participated in our own mini games during group time they practiced good team spirit, enjoying different challenges with everyone winning gold medals. We all had so much fun together.

Bluebells: The children had a fantastic time during our recent holiday programme and thanks to Spring Day, we have some beautiful plants growing outside. There was lots of fun during camping day with stories and marshmallows and the children learned some new skills when it came to Tuck Shop Day. The children have also been demonstrating their numeracy skills over the past couple of weeks. Numeracy skills involve understanding numbers, counting, solving number problems, measuring, sorting, noticing patterns, adding and subtracting numbers and so on. Some of the children have shown an interest in measuring and using measuring tapes they have started recording the height of each other. Using nursery rhymes, stories and songs, the children have been working on their counting skills, developing their ability to count in sequence. The children also enjoyed participating in a game of Bingo which encouraged their ability to recognize written numbers and a game of hopscotch drawn on the pavers encouraged the children to write these numbers in order. You can encourage your child's numeracy skills at home – measuring ingredients for dinner, filling up a water bottle, counting how many steps from the front door to the car, singing songs such as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught A Fish Alive and stories such as One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr Seuss.



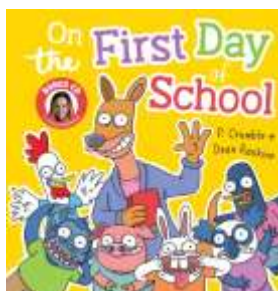
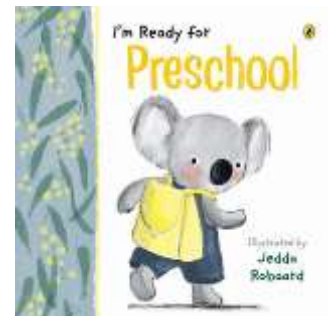
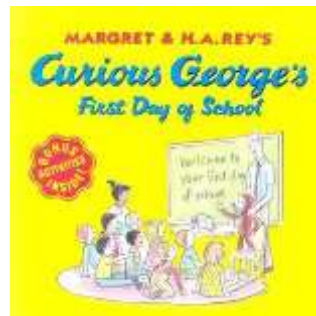
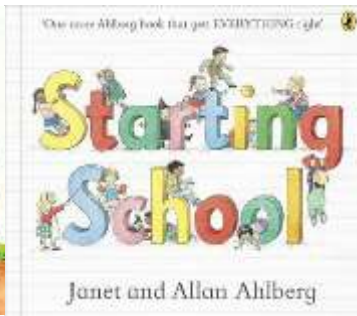


Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Schoolies: Big school week is nearing, and the excitement is building in the lead up to Big School itself for our talented Schoolies. From now to the end of the year, educators have been encouraging independence within the preschool environment, to build confidence and best prepare our Schoolies for a smooth transition to the school environment next year. Some of the practices that have been implemented this month are encouraging the Schoolies to complete the morning routine independently, which consists of selecting a locker, identifying their name tag and successfully unpacking their bag themselves, before they go to play. It is important that the children can follow 3-5 step instructions and tasks like this in the lead up to big school. Another area where we have been encouraging independence has been during lunchtime. The children have been urged to first try to open and close their lunch boxes unassisted before seeking help from an educator. The Schoolies have also been encouraged to eat their lunch within a 20 minute time frame, similar to what happens at big school. We encourage families to continue to further their children's independence skills at home through little jobs such as collecting the mail, packing and unpacking their school bags and dressing themselves in the morning.

'The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.'

Book Ideas



Some great titles to read with Preschoolers in readiness for starting school. A great way to start conversations about all that happens at school.



Preschool Accounts



Your final account for 2020 will be distributed 23rd November with all payments due by Friday December 4th. This account will include all fees up until our closing day of December 22nd. It will also include the refund of the \$100 holding deposit to those families whose children are heading off to school next year.

Therefore, could we please remind everyone to keep a close eye on their accounts over coming weeks to ensure that all payments are up to date and for those leaving Preschool, please consider stopping any automatic fee payments you may have set up to avoid your account going into credit, especially considering the refund of your holding deposit.

Casual Days Book

As the Preschool accounts are being finalised in November please be aware that the Casual Days Book finishes operating at the end of November.

Big School Week!



Week Commencing November 23rd

Children heading off to school next year are very welcome to wear their school uniform during this week. During Big School Week we will be having visits from local schools. A teacher and several kindergarten students visit and talk to all the children about school, show off their school uniforms and **read our preschooler's stories.**

The teacher also introduces our children to a book called "Big School". This book was produced in collaboration between local schools and local prior to school services and offers the preschooler's a great pictorial guide to all the different places in our local schools. This book is then left out for our Preschool children to look at for the remainder of the year. We have been conducting Big School Week in collaboration with local schools for a number of years as it provides another Important transitional link for the children heading off to school.





Preschool Christmas Concert and Party

Every year we hold a Christmas Concert, including the presentation of graduation certificates to the children heading off to school. With COVID precautions in mind we are going to proceed with the Christmas Concert and Party afterwards, however, it will look very different this year. We have decided to go ahead as we would still like for the children to have this opportunity to celebrate Christmas, their year at Preschool and for the children heading off to school to experience a proper farewell.

- We are required to comply with restricted seating numbers in the Church, observing social distancing rules, so this year we have decided to invite **one family member for each child who is graduating** (Schoolie Group) so they have a family member present to see them receive their graduation certificate. (Should there be an update to COVID regulations we will adjust accordingly).
- The entire Christmas concert will be recorded this year and every Preschool family will receive a copy. This will make for a great family popcorn and movie night!
- All Children will need to be dropped off by 9am to the Preschool.
- Those family members attending the concert will enter the Church from the front of the building at 9.10am and will need to vacate the building at the conclusion of the concert. Everyone attending will have temperatures checked and will be asked to complete the QR code and we ask you to be mindful of social distancing practices.
- We will still provide entertainment for the children after the Christmas Concert which will be held in the Preschool hall.
- The Preschool will provide the food for the children's Christmas Party and educators will be distributing the food to the children in COVID safe ways.
- Children who do not normally attend on the day will need to be collected at 12 noon.

A note will be coming home to you all very soon. For those with children heading off to school would you please advise the Preschool your nominated attendee by November 20th, as we will be checking names on entry.

It has been a very difficult year negotiating our new normal. We thank you for understanding the changes that needed to be made this year to allow the Christmas Concert and Party to go ahead.





2021 Preschool Enrolment

We are now enrolling for the start of 2021

If you know of anyone who may be interested in sending their child to Preschool next year, please invite them to get in touch with us.

Many thanks.

Scholastic Book Club

We hope you have enjoyed looking through the latest issue of the Scholastic Book Club. Please remember to submit all orders by Friday 30th October and these will be delivered to preschool. There are some great books for Christmas in this issue and you can order by returning the order form and money to preschool or ordering through the LOOP app.



It's all up here.....

Lara was talking to GG and asked if she was going to miss her next year when she goes to school.

GG replied pointing to her head *"it's okay I have all the memories in here"*

November Birthdays'

Wishing everyone with a birthday this month a very happy day!

Adelina—4 years

Tex—4 years





We had another fun filled holiday programme, our last for the year.

The children continue to show their developing confidence, creativity, and imagination. Most importantly we had FUN! And we laughed A LOT!



A few favourite days included **Camping Day**, where we had our own makeshift campfire. We shared stories, made damper and sung! Harry even brought his swag for us to look at.

Wacky Wednesday brought the laughter! The children loved arriving to Preschool to be greeted by a thong on the door and the room all mixed up. We had morning tea for lunch and vice versa. The children showed their fun-loving personalities today and their resilience in handling change.



Tuck Shop day gave us insight to big school, where we developed our autonomy and emerging mathematical



We got creative on **Spring Day**, creating our very own Cherry Blossom tree for our wall mural using recycled bottles.

We were gold medal winners with **Mini Olympic Day**! Our fine motor and gross motor skills were put to the test today!





KINDIFARM



The children had an amazing time during this hands on experience. It really consolidated the knowledge they had gained during our discussions about farms. It was also a lovely opportunity for the children to understand how much care and attention animals need.



Phonemic Awareness Programme



Holiday Revision

During the 2 week holiday programme the children revisited the Letterland friends they had met during the past term. Kicking King, Noisy Nick, Oscar Orange, Fireman Fred and Jumping Jim. The children had fun playing lots of games both inside and outside that enabled them to practice the focus sound each of our Letterland friend makes, work collaboratively and problem solve. The holiday revision period also provides educators with the opportunity to ensure each child is understanding the concept of phonics and their ability to process sounds.



Talking Tess Did you know the Schoolies know 50 words that start with Talking Tess' sound. Over the 2 weeks the children took turns to pull picture cards, with words, out of a bag and stick them on the count down chart. This exercise not only consolidated the focus sound, it also extended vocabulary as the children discussed each word that was discovered. We also had so much fun with Talking Tess—she does love to talk - and we did this by playing with the telephones and talking to each other on the walkie talkie's. The children had fun in a treasure hunt, looking for the treasure chest which contained other items start with the 't' sound.



SUSTAINABILITY

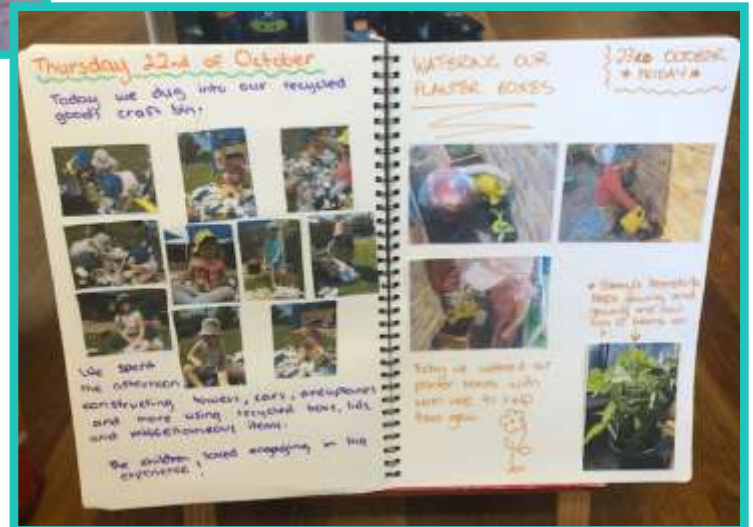
Cartridge Recycling Mt Colah preschool is a collection point for ink cartridge and toner recycling. In September, we returned just over 5kgs of cartridges and toner for recycling which is a fantastic amount of plastic saved from landfill. You are more than welcome to bring in cartridges from home and place them in the large recycling box next to the interactive screen.



Nature Craft The children have been displaying their creative skills using materials found in the outside area and donated items in our craft resources. Using sticks, wool and flowers, some beautiful nature wands were created.



Green Book Have you seen our Green Book? This large book is full of wonderful photographs of the work we have done this year to support our sustainability program. The children contribute to this book through drawings, describing what they see and helping glue the pictures. The Green Book is on display near the office.



SUSTAINABILITY

Preschool Garden The children have been very busy over the past month, planting, weeding and taking care of our garden. Many thanks to Madison and family for donating plant pots, these have been filled with sunflower seeds, beans, sugar snap peas and snow peas. The plants are loving the sunny position they have and are growing well. We also have a bumper crop of tomatoes growing at the bottom of the garden and some children have been lucky enough to already taste a few early ones! Our rosemary and basil plants continue to grow well, please remember you are welcome to take some cuttings to use at home.



Return and Earn Thank you to all the families who continue to donate their cans and bottles to the Return and Earn Project. The bucket for this is now at the front door so more accessible for everyone. We are working towards raising \$100 which the children have decided is going towards sponsoring an animal at the animal hospital.



Book Exchange The children continue to enjoy the book exchange and there is a great variety of books in the basket just now. The basket is situated near the lockers during afternoon pick up and the children are invited to choose a book to take home and bring back when they are ready. You are also more than welcome to donate any books you no longer need at home. In line with Covid safety, we ask that you return books into the box that is near the front door so the books can be sanitised before going into the basket and this also applies to any donated books.





October has been a busy, busy month in Little Endeavours.

Due to the school holiday programme we had two activities to enjoy every week rather than the usual one. The children worked together as well as individually and they used many of the fine and gross motor skills that they have been developing over the year to complete the activities.

Camping Day – Together we made damper to enjoy for afternoon tea. The children helped me follow the recipe by measuring, counting and mixing the ingredient

Spring Day – Using planters donated by the Rao family we planted seeds and beans, and our preschool beanstalks, after filling the planters with soil. Pop outside to see how what we are growing up on the paved area, and how well everything has grown.

Pet Day – The children made their own pet rocks to take home using a huge variety of craft bits and pieces. It was fun to see the finished results and they were all so different.

PJ Day – Using pens and spray paint the preschoolers decorated a pillowcase they had brought in and were all very pleased with their finished work.

Our New Scarecrow – Our scarecrow was falling apart and so for farm week we made a new one, recycling many items from our old scarecrow.

Farm Animals to Eat – With Kindy Farm visiting we decorated biscuits for afternoon tea, pigs and chickens. The children were given the items to decorate their biscuit and then used their observation skills to replicate the sample I had made.



Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)

We continue to provide the vital opportunity for educators and children to practice emergency procedures. The children have been participating in our lockdown emergency procedures this month. Educators have been practicing a variety of scenarios that would require an emergency response from snake sightings to medical emergencies. The children have all done a great job of following educators instructions. Please remember if you are at the preschool during one of these drills you are required to follow the direction of educators.



Dates to Remember!

November 16—19 ***Orientation Programme for 2021***

November 23—27 ***Big School Week***

November 23rd & 26th ***StEPS Vision Screening***

December 11th ***Preschool Christmas Concert***

December 17th ***Schoolie Graduation Morning Tea***

December 22nd ***Last Day of Preschool***

January 25th, 2021 ***First Day of Preschool 2021***



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