

# Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



*a caring place to learn and*



## Have a safe summer

This week we have been exploring and discussing the importance of Water Safety. During group time the children have followed character 'Boo' along on his adventures to the pool, beach, and farm and around his home and how he learns to be safe around all these places that have water. We have also learned a new song called 'Kids Alive do the 5', which teaches kids 5 easy ways to be keep safe around water.

We had a visit from Kids Swim at Mt Kuring-Gai, where Amanda, Simone and special guest Sammy Seahorse discussed with the children how to safe around water. They began by asking the children the main places where we find water. Children answered "pool, beach, bath and rivers". Our friends from Kids Swim also went through a series of scenarios with the children on what to do if they ever saw someone needing help in the pool. The children learnt the safest way to help someone is to throw in something that floats, such as a noodle, ball or ring, not to jump in!

It is important to continue discussions with your children around water safety at home. Below are some resources to help with this. [www.kidsalive.com.au](http://www.kidsalive.com.au) – books and songs; Bluey – Pool episode



## October 2019

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## Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

**Sweetpeas:** It is good being back at preschool after a long 3 weeks away. I was so happy with the warm welcome I received. The children have had a wonderful month of discovery in so many areas, climbing trees, investigating cause and effect and mastering Bingo. During outdoor play a group of Sweetpeas and Bluebells has been watching some of the older children climbing the tree next to the slide. After some failed attempts, at getting up the tree, the Sweetpeas and Bluebells have been determined to master this skill. To begin with they tried climbing up the same route. When this didn't work some very innovative Bluebells worked out how to clamber up the trunk and with good arm strength managed to latch onto the horizontal branch, swinging like little monkeys, satisfaction written all over their faces. Needless to say this skill has been practiced over and over inviting so much interest that we had to make a line in order for everyone to have a turn. The ramp set up outside has been popular and anything that rolls has been put down the ramp. The children have observed how fast some objects travel when they hit the pavers. Some cars travelled really well reaching the grass with some rolling only a few centimeters and others crashed causing much laughter. When balls were tried the children couldn't get enough of watching them hit the hedge and then take off along the stepping stones. It didn't take long and the cars were ditched as the balls had a much more dramatic effect. A group of children were interested in participating in a game of Bingo. As the spinner rolled the basket of balls everyone waited in anticipation for one to drop. Once the number was revealed, everyone showed great team spirit helping each other identify the number that was called, making sure that everyone had a marker on the correct number on their cards before the next spin. This sometimes took a little while, but given time and a little helping hand from a friend they all worked it out in the end. Discovery is a time of learning and through play it was lovely to see so much of that evident. - *'When you teach a child something you take away forever his chance of discovering it for himself.'* - Jean Piaget

**Bluebells:** It's hard to believe we are now approaching the end of term 3 and very soon we will be in the last few months of the preschool year. The Bluebells have had a busy month, working in the garden, expanding their social worlds through play, developing stronger fine motor skills through drawing, cutting and playdough experiences and becoming more confident in their gross motor skills by climbing trees, obstacle courses and learning some new skills such as skipping. This past month we have also been engaging with nursery rhymes. Nursery rhymes are something that we remember from our own childhood and it is a natural progression for us to teach our children these from a young age – the repetitiveness is soothing and often helps us get our little ones off to sleep after a big day. But nursery rhymes are not just a good way of calming your kids, they also teach them a few things and we have been discovering this at preschool recently. Nursery rhymes provide children with the building blocks of their first language and rhyming couplets found in songs such as Humpty Dumpty, teach children patterns in language that develop as they grow, teaching our children how sounds and sentences work. During our time looking at nursery rhymes, we listened and identified the rhyming words we could hear and using role play we were able to act out the nursery rhyme, bringing it to life for the children. So, keep singing those nursery rhymes at home and you could also encourage your child to make up their own rhyming songs too!





## *Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review*

**Schoolies:** The Schoolies have been busy bees this month working on their fine motor skills. Fine motor skills are the co-ordination of the small muscles and skills which involve smaller movements occurring in the wrists, hands, fingers, feet and toes. Learning experiences and resources have been made readily available within the early childhood setting allowing the children to strengthen their fine motor skills through fun experiences. These experiences include threading, cutting worm food scraps, pegging, engaging with playdough and using tweezers to move coloured pom poms from one jar to another, promoting hand eye co-ordination. During our discovery time around Dreamtime Stories, the children have been engaging in drawing experiences as they replicate Aboriginal symbols to represent the story they have read.

As parents, you play a critical role in your child's fine motor skill development. The most important thing you can do is to provide opportunities that are fun and interactive for your child to engage with at home, such as assisting in the kitchen; spreading their own spreads on sandwiches, helping hang things on the line whilst manipulating pegs and engaging in drawing and scissor experiences. Developing fine motor skills in early childhood helps build the foundation for important future skills like writing, self-care and will help your child to be more confident in their transition to big school.

### **September 30—October 11th Holiday Programme**

The holiday programme has been sent out to families and what a fun time we have planned!

We would love to have family participation. If you would like to come along and help with an activity or would like to suggest an area of interest for the programme please talk to an educator

***We would love to see you!***

### **Schoolie Excursion October 17th**

The Schoolies will head off to explore the Four Seasons Garden Centre and will bring back with them some fabulous new plants for our garden.

We will need parent volunteers so please keep this date in your diary!



# Scholastic Book Club



Thank you for all the orders for Issue 6, these will arrive soon. This month for preschool using the commission earned we purchased a sight words bingo game to support our literacy programs. There are only 2 issues left for the year and in the next issue, you will start to see some books for Christmas advertised. Please keep a lookout for this in your communication pocket early next term.

**Thank you**

## Friendly Reminder.....

As the weather heats up please remember to ensure your child has the following to protect them from the sun:

- A bucket hat
- Clothes that cover their shoulders
- Sunscreen applied on arrival—please ask educators for assistance



**Please also remember your child's water bottle. Playing and learning is thirsty work!**

## October Birthday's

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

Hugo—5yrs

Isaiah—4yrs

Dylan—5yrs

Annette???



# Sustainability Programme

## Return and Earn

We have again more than reached our return and earn target of \$60. The children were excited to see the target reach well above our poster with a whopping \$85. The children have all suggested that we try and reach the roof, so we will just keep going. The Schoolies will be visiting the Plant Bug soon and we have so much money to spend. Thank you for all your contributions. Please keep the bottles coming we really appreciate your efforts.



## Being Water Wise

With so much rain we managed to collect a tub full of water outside and were able to use the water on our vegetable garden. The children picked some fresh lettuce with Emily and enjoyed it for afternoon tea.



We have also been careful to use up the left over craft paint instead of washing it down the drain, making an effort to look after our precious water ways.

## Book Exchange

This continues to be well supported with new books being added and the children always enjoy looking for new books to take home. A great way for you to find a new story to read to your child!



## Home Grown Snow Peas

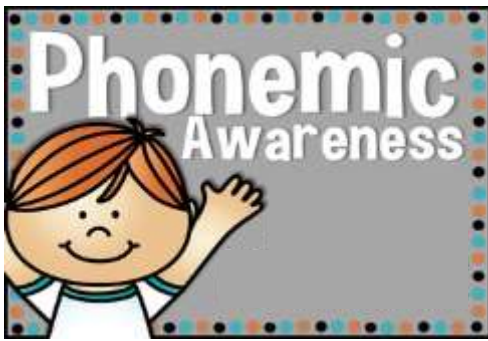


The children delighted in sending snow peas home for Dad to plant during our Fathers day celebrations.

Hopefully they will be growing very soon and we will have some yummy snow peas.







Over the past few weeks our Schoolies have been introduced to two new Letterland characters **Firefighter Fred** and **Oscar Orange**



To reflect **Firefighter Fred's** sound the children have made some wonderful contributions to our new phonemic awareness letter sound basket in our literacy area. Some of our school friends brought in **flowers, fairies, flamingo** and a **frog** linking beautifully to **Firefighter Fred's** letter sound. This led to educators showing and discussing with the children a video about flamingos. The children found it quite amusing how they can balance on one foot. We would like to encourage your child to bring in items from home that reflect our current letter sound. This basket provides opportunity for the children to extend their knowledge of letter sounds in the home environment. It also invites opportunity for parents and children to play 'Eye Spy' at home and have fun exploring phonemic awareness.



To get to know **Oscar Orange's** letter sound the children were given the opportunity to make their own delicious orange juice. An orange squeezer was used which the children took turns of manipulating the orange squeezer. This experience offered opportunity for the children to further develop and strengthen their fine motor skills as they twisted and turned the half cut oranges around and around on the orange squeezer. For afternoon tea the children were given the opportunity to taste the sweet flavour of freshly squeezed orange juice. They loved it! With many of them requesting seconds. Please see Jo's Little Endeavors contribution in the newsletter which focuses on the making of our amazing Orange Octopus. He looks fantastic and the children really enjoyed engaging in the various stages involved to create him.



*The children have really enjoyed exploring rhythm and rhyme and numbers whilst watching and listening to the story 'Over In The Meadow' story.*





We have had lots of fun this month in Little Endavours mostly working together in group activities. The children enjoy helping me, and each other, with lots of chatting as we work.



**Oscar Our Orange Octopus** Oscar took three weeks to create and make, and all the preschoolers were involved at some stage. The legs are made out of recycled materials with the children suggesting ways we could use the materials to make the legs. Oscar now hangs off the preschool ceiling with a great big smile on his face.



**Foam Fun** When the phonics programme was focused on the **F** sound we found a great way to practice more **F** words as we made **Foam** Playdough and **Sand Foam**. We talked about how it felt and one preschooler noted that the playdough was made out of **foam** and **flour**. It was lots of **fun** and there were lots of wonderful expressive words used by the preschoolers during the experience.



**Dreamtime Echidnas** Based on the book 'The Echidna and the Shade Tree' in LE we made our own echidnas out of clay and used twigs to make their spines. It was great work for their hands to build muscle strength as they molded the clay, and for fine motor skills as they broke the twigs up for the spines and placed them in the clay. We made some extra echidnas for preschool and Emily created a shade tree with the children so they can reenact the story.





# FATHER'S DAY

What a wonderful turn out we had for our annual Father's Day Breakfast. We had a fantastic morning engaging in a variety of experiences from self portraits, pancake making, construction and our very own photo booth. It goes without saying that the children loved sharing all aspects of their preschool life with their dads and granddads. It was also a great opportunity for the dads to meet other dads.





# LEARNING STORY

## Fire Truck Visit

Dear Tuesday children

Today our friend Nich the minister from the church came to visit us. However, this time he didn't bring his guitar. This time, he brought his friends Peter and Tiffany and a FIRE TRUCK! Nich also looked different as he was wearing his fire fighters uniform. Nich explained that he was a Chaplain in the Rural Fire Service and his job, along with Peter, Tiffany and other members of the Rural Fire Service, was to help protect the community from bush fires.



Nich spoke to us about the good ways that we can use fire such as keeping warm, toasting marshmallows and we discovered that some plants need fire so they can grow new plants. We also spoke about the bad things about fire such as when it is in the bush or in our homes.

Nich asked us if we knew what we had to do if we discovered a fire—"Get down low and GO, GO, GO!" we told him and we also showed Nich how well we could do this. We also talked about what number we call if there is a fire, what we do if we hear the smoke alarm or discover a fire and also where we should try to get to if there is a fire at home. We all agreed that going to our family mailbox is the best place.

Nich then brought out his uniform. There were lots of pieces and Nich explained what each piece was for. Nich also invited some children to try on different pieces of the uniform.



# LEARNING STORY

## Fire Truck Visit Cont...



Nich, Peter and Tiffany explained a bit about the uniform and what each bit was for. The helmet with a visor protects the head, face and eyes and the flap at the back protects the neck. Nich explained that his helmet was a bit different to Peter's and Tiffany's as he is the Chaplain so his helmet is purple with a cross. Nich asked the children what they thought the best thing to fight a fire was and everyone replied with WATER!

Then it was time to go outside and see the fire truck! We all walked outside up into the church garden where the fire truck was parked. Peter opened all the doors and explained what some of the equipment was. We saw hoses, axes, helmets and lots more things that firefighters need to use. We were then invited to climb up into the fire truck where there was so much to see!

Then, Nich, Peter and Tiffany got out one of the big hoses and we were all invited to have a try! We pretended we were putting out fires and shooting water all over the garden! Tiffany then demonstrated the biggest hose on the fire truck and that water went so high into the sky and all over the garden.

Finally, Peter sounded the sirens and put the lights on. Wow this was loud! We had a great time exploring the fire truck today and finding out more about the RFS!

**My thoughts on your learning:** Today we discovered more about the role of the RFS in our community. We learned about what they do to protect us and we discovered that we can play a role in protecting ourselves and families too. We realised that our learning disposition of curiosity enabled us to fully engage with this incursion and ask questions to find out more about the job Nich and the RFS do. *(EYLF Learning Outcome 1.1 Children feel safe, secure and supported. Reggio Emilia theory of the child as an active participant in learning. EYLF Learning Outcome 4.1 Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity)*

**Opportunities and Possibilities:** Recently we have been talking about fire safety at preschool. This visit today reinforced all that we had been learning such as 'get down low and go go go' and finding a safe meeting place if there was a fire at home. The children were given a fire safety information pack and by sharing this information with their families, conversations could take place at home regarding fire safety there and also talk about a family evacuation plan. We have talked about the other emergency services that help look after us and we will take this opportunity to learn more about the important roles these play in our community.





## Quality Improvement Plan (QIP):

The educational team have completed fire safety training enjoying the training session and opportunity to reflect on emergency practices.

Along with being shown the correct use of fire fighting equipment at Preschool we were given the chance to reflect on our emergency policy, procedures and practices.



## Dates to Remember!

Sept 30—Oct 11

School Holiday Programme

October 7th

Public Holiday Preschool Closed

October 17th

Schoolie Excursion to Four Seasons Garden Centre

October 21st

Creative Painting Fundaiser



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