

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow

Transition to School

It has been lovely to see how our Schoolie' group has blossomed this year and how confident and independent they are becoming on their journey towards big school. At the beginning of fourth term we are implementing some little changes to the educational environment for the children who are heading off to school next year. These changes are designed to further strengthen their self help and independence skills.

Our curriculum will include but not be limited to:

- Encouraging independence asking children to unpack their morning tea, lunch, Show and Tell item in the baskets and choose their locker with minimal assistance. (Of course the educators will be there to provide support!). It will be helpful to have Schoolie children to Preschool by 9am.
- At lunch time Schoolies will be encouraged to open their lunches themselves and to finish their lunch within a set time.
- A focus will be placed on encouraging our Schoolies to participate appropriately at group times by putting up their hand to speak and listening to the speaker.
- Schoolie children will be encouraged to complete tasks and activities they choose, to practice the discipline of persistence.
- Schoolie children will be encouraged to use their expressive communication skills when needing something from an educator or when playing co-operatively with friends.
- We will be doing some concentrated work on rhyming words through games, nursery rhymes and singing along, and of course during our Phonemic Awareness Programme. It is so important for your children to play with sounds as this is a great foundation for learning to read and spell.
- Fine motor skills will be a focus and children will continue to be encouraged to hold their pencil and scissors correctly and to sit at the table correctly when drawing.
- Schoolie children will be encouraged to pack their own bags before going home.
- Visits by Big School Teacher and students - in November.

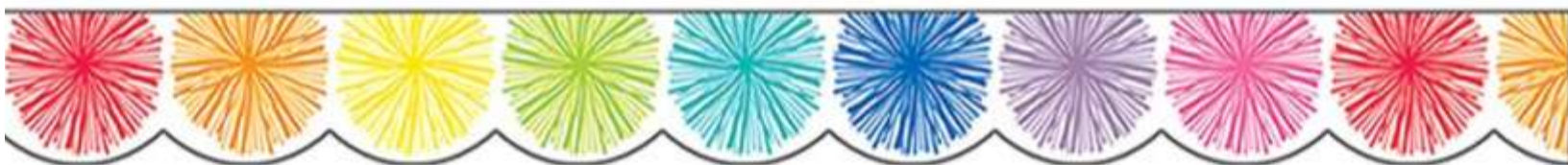
Most of all the Schoolies will be encouraged to have fun with their friends, fun with the programme and have fun learning!



October 2020

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- **Upcoming dates**
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- **Teacher Reports**
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Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas: We are continuing to develop social goals by encouraging children to interact and participate in group games and experiences. The sandpit has been a very popular area for the Sweetpeas who have all enjoyed working together moving sand with diggers and loaders, cooking up a storm in the sandpit kitchen or working really hard seeing who can dig the deepest hole. I have seen some good social skills emerging with children beginning to branch out, joining in and playing with new groups of friends for the day. By giving support and examples of words to use, educators have encouraged children to try and solve problems that may arise. From wanting to join in with play, sharing or simply needing a friend. Other fun group activities and games the children have enjoyed together are games like, Duck Duck Goose, Bug in a Rug, What's the time Mr Woolf?, Hide and Seek, as well as soccer and hoola hoop games. Construction and dramatic play areas have always been popular where children can interact and learn to make friends by simply sharing the same interest.

Bluebells: The Bluebells are looking forward to another holiday programme filled with a great range of fun activities. This time we will be celebrating Spring, making some accessories such as bracelets and exploring the world of camping. We will also be having the Mt Colah Preschool Olympic Games where the children will have the opportunity to engage in lots of physical play games. The Bluebells will be able to put into practice lots of movement skills they have been learning over the past few weeks. Recently we have been learning the tricky skill of skipping. To lead up to this, we practised galloping and the children enjoyed activities such as pretending to be ponies, galloping around the garden. This movement introduces the step hop rhythm that is needed for skipping. The children have all made great attempts at this and are enjoying skipping around the garden as they further develop this skill. There are many health benefits to skipping such as making the heart muscles stronger as well as increasing concentration and memory. You can practice this one at home too, try having some skipping races up and down the garden!

Schoolies: This has been a busy month for the Schoolies as we put their independence and resilience to the test by engaging in various problem-solving experiences. Through engaging in discussions, stories, role play and group games educators have introduced the children to strategies and steps to take when confronted by a problem. The children have learnt that they first need to identify the problem, think of possible solutions and then give their solution a go. Educators have been asking open-ended questions such as, "What will happen if...?" and "What other ways can you think of...?" to further prompt the children and further their thought process in this area. The earlier children begin solving problems, the more ready they are to deal with bigger challenges as they mature. We encourage families at home to engage in fun problem-based activities, as "too often we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve" – Roger Lewin. (a popular interactive board game is 'The Floor is Lava')





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.

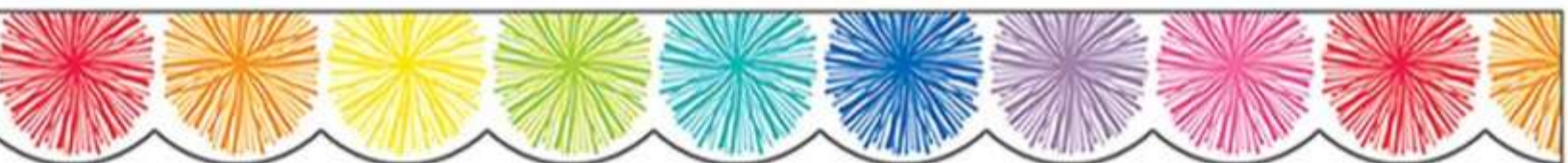


Upcoming Events!

Lot's of fun heading the children's way with our Holiday Programme running from September 28th to October 9th check out the programme guide coming home to you.



Kindifarm is Coming!—Wednesday, October 21st. A note will be coming home soon to families. The children always love getting up close to the animals and learn so much from this experience.





Emergency Evacuation Procedure Update

We have recently signed an agreement with Anthony from Bite Me Bakehouse who has given us permission to use the outdoor area of the Bakehouse as a meeting point should we need to evacuate the children in an emergency. Thank you Anthony! We are so lucky to be situated in such a wonderful supportive community.

Scholastic Book Club Thank you for the orders received over the past term. This issues orders have arrived and ready to be collected. The preschool children chose to order a big book of Thelma The Unicorn as this is one of our favourite stories and also supports our interest in rhyming. The preschool receives 20% of every book order placed and this is used to update our books and resources at preschool so every order is welcome.



Up, Up and Away..... Easton, Adele and Kosa were outside together. Easton looked up and excitedly pointed to a streak across the sky. Drawing in a sharp breath he said, 'Look there is a rocket ship going up to space!' Kosa thought it might be a plane. 'No' said Easton with conviction. He pointed up to a crescent moon in the sky 'See, there is the moon, it's going to the moon'.

Children see magic because they look for it' - Christopher Moore

October Birthdays'

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

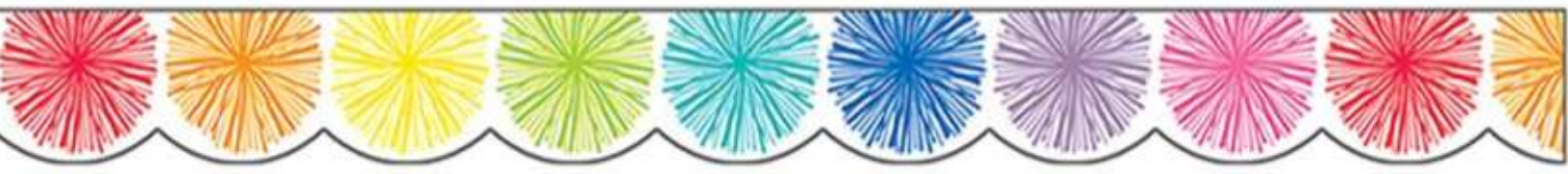
Nicola—4yrs

Claire—4yrs

Sam Rod—4yrs

Liesel— 5yrs

and Annette????



Phonemic Awareness Programme



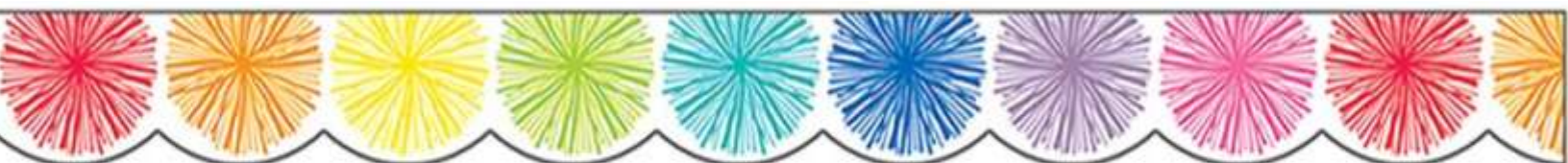
Firefighter Fred: The children loved meeting Firefighter Fred. Our new friend from Letterland is a very busy man as he is in charge of putting out all the fires in Letterland. The children discovered so many things start with Firefighter Fred's sound—food, fruit, fire, fish, farm, fence, fun, flower and friend plus many more. We set up an emergency office where the children were able to role play what happens when someone rings 'ooo' in a fire situation.



The children also really enjoyed playing Go Fish card game and singing some favourite songs such as Five Fat Sausages and Five Green Speckled Frogs.



Jumping Jim: Jumping Jim has so much fun as he jumps his way through Letterland, whilst juggling! We decided that Jumping Jim should jump through the jungle. The children had the opportunity to discover the jungle through making jungle animal masks and playing in our jungle inspired play space. Songs like the Lion Sleeps Tonight and "Ooga Chuga (In The Jungle)" by the Hooley Dooleys soon had the children dancing to the jungle beat too! We also moved our bodies the way Jumping Jim does and had lots of fun exploring jumping!





Increasing our cultural knowledge Jewish New Year

Shanah Tovah

'May you have a good sweet New Year''

As the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah started last Saturday Adele shared, with the children, the New Year traditions of eating something sweet (honey), where God is asked to bless all of humanity with a year of good health, joy, and sweetness. The children enjoyed helping bake delicious honey cake and for afternoon tea we all enjoyed the tradition of dipping apples in honey.

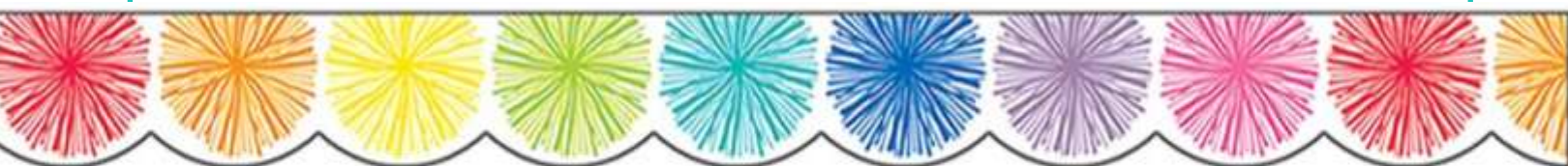
Honey Cake

Ingredients.

2 eggs
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup oil
3/4 cup honey
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon bicarb
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 tablespoon cocoa
1 cup self-raising flour

Method (Preheat oven to 180 degrees C)

Beat eggs and sugar. Add oil and honey and beat together. Add remaining ingredients and mix. Add boiling water 1 cup boiling water and beat.
Bake at 180 degrees C for 1 1/4 hr



SUSTAINABILITY

Preschool Garden With a lot of care and watering our vegetable garden is doing so well. The children have enjoyed watching tomato plants, beans, carrots and lettuce growing. There is nothing better than picking vegies fresh from the garden to eat. The tomatoes plants have done well with so many flowers, promising to bear lots of tomatoes for afternoon tea. Since adding soil to the lemon tree we have also notice new buds which hopefully will produce some lemons for the first time. The sensory garden is looking good with the children enjoying the different smells and textures. They have enjoyed picking mint leaves to flavour their water bottles.



Return and Earn Our Return and Earn bin is filling very well we have now earned \$60 towards our target of \$100 to donate to the animal hospital fund. During group time we spoke about importance of making sure the animals have a safe environment in which to live since the fires burnt the bush so badly. The children demonstrated a good understanding of the need to plant new trees for the animals to have homes and food to eat. Thank you for your continued donations of cans and bottles to the Return and Earn Project.

Book Exchange Please remember to take books home from our book exchange basket in the afternoons to enjoy at home. A return box will be available in the mornings in order to sanitise book before being placed back in the exchange basket for someone else to take home.

General We continue to do whatever we can to save our precious planet. Please remember that we have a box where you are welcome to dispose of your ink cartridges. We would like to encourage families to minimise the use of packaging by dispensing foods like yogurt, biscuits, crackers etc. into reusable containers. Should this be unavoidable the children use the soft plastic bin to dispose of soft scrunch plastics from morning tea and lunch.

***“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”
- Robert Swan, Author***





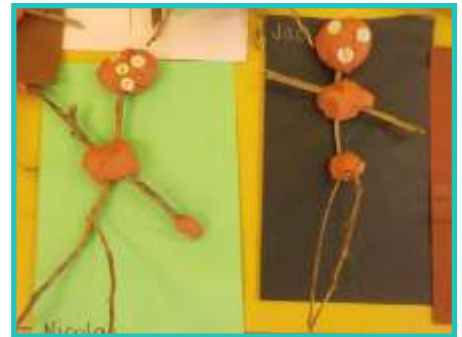
It has been a busy month again in LE. Lots of different activities that used the children's fine motor skills and their listening skills as they follow instructions.

Fathers Day - The preschoolers loved telling me about their Dads as we made a certificate for them. We also talked about the dried pasta we used and how we would cook it to make dinner. Their fingers worked hard to place the pasta in the right position on the paper.



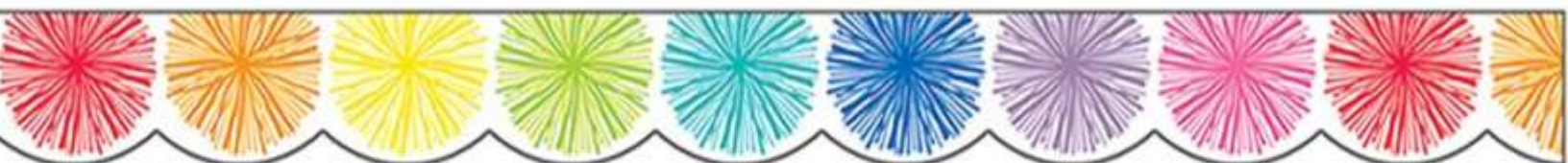
Dr Seuss – I heard about so many favourite Dr Seuss stories as we worked on our 'One Fish, Two Fish' scene. The children loved reading out the rhyme printed on their sheet and their cutting skills were needed to make a fish out of the patty pans.

Stickman – I had never heard of the Julia Donaldson's book Stickman but I now know all about it as the preschoolers told me the story as they created their own Stickman out of sticks and clay. So many different Stickmen were created out of the two materials used, and hands worked hard as they softened the clay and then manipulated it to attach the sticks and make a head.



Juggling Balls – Lots of words starting with the sound J were heard as we made juggling balls, as this was the sound the Schoolies were focusing on this week. It was hard to get the balloons over the rice centre of the juggling balls but we worked together to make it happen.

Highlight of this month has been the children coming in telling us how their beans that we planted last month have sprouted, but sadly they haven't grown as fast as 'Jack and The Beanstalks' did. It was great to see the photos the preschoolers brought in.

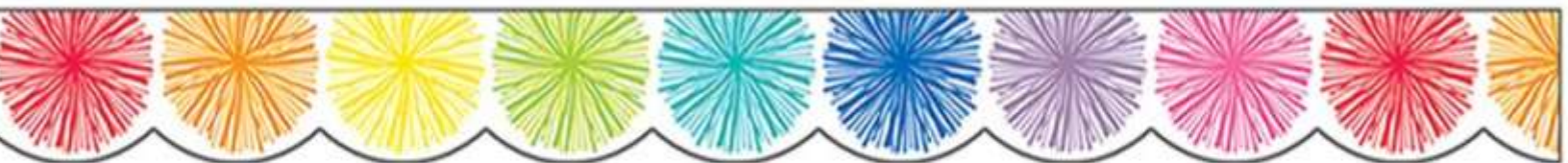


Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): When children in our care have a medical issue such as asthma or anaphylaxis we keep a medical management plan on file from the GP and a risk minimisation report is then created from this information and information from family, which the family then authorises. We have now extended this process to include a communication log. This will track any conversations that have been had between family and educator including change to medications such as replacement of out of date medication. The family member will be asked to sign off on the communication record as items are communicated. This further strengthens our support for children with medical issues and ensures our communication records are kept up to date.



Dates to Remember!

October 5	Public Holiday Preschool Closed
28 Sept—10 October	Holiday Programme
October 21	Kindifarm



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