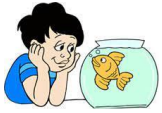
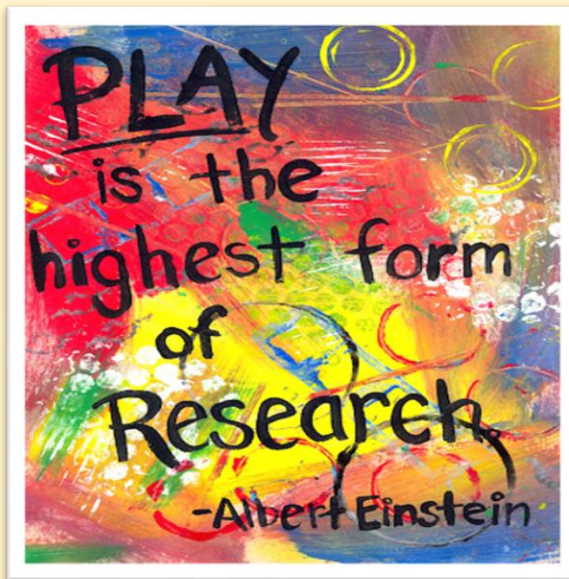


Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



it's not "just play"

Play is an essential part of early learning.

It is the lifeblood of the learning process.

As children play they are developing the cognitive, socio-emotional and physical skills they will need to take them into a successful adulthood.

They are developing their curiosity, problem solving, intentionality, flexibility, and verbal & non verbal skills.

Socio-emotionally they are developing their emotional intelligence - learning confidence, cooperation, negotiation, sharing, empathy and how to communicate appropriately.

Physically their fine motor and gross motor skills are being practised and developed.

It's not "just play" they are skills for life!



October 2021

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Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas: We have been talking about special people in our lives who keep us safe and read the story *'I'll Catch You If You Fall'* by Mark Sperring. This is a story that reminds us that there are all kinds of people out there who look after us. By introducing the Safe Hand strategy, the children were encouraged to think about 5 people in their lives who they can share thoughts, feelings, or concerns with and most importantly share secrets that don't make them feel good. It was lovely hearing how families play such an important part in the children's lives with Mums, Dads, Nannas and Grandads being named. We also had conversations about people in the community who help to keep us safe, and the children quickly named, policemen, firefighters, and ambulance officers. It is so important to help children build awareness about safety, their bodies and how they can protect themselves from an early age.

'You are Braver than you Believe, Stronger than you Seem, Smarter than you Think and Loved More than you Ever Know.' - Pooh Bear.

Bluebells: It's hard to believe that we are now heading into Term 4 and into the last few weeks of the year. Over the past few weeks, some children have been showing an interest in Auslan, the Australian Sign Language. We decided to spend some time looking at this more and learning more about it. We discovered who uses Auslan and why, which led to discussions about, if we all knew a bit of Auslan, then everyone could feel included. We learned the alphabet, in particular the first letter of our names and the children did a fantastic job of recognising their own letter as well as being able to demonstrate this. Music has a great ability to help children learn and retain new information, so we learned some songs in Auslan, such as the Rainbow Song, Twinkle Twinkle, 5 Little Monkeys, ABC and I Am Australian. We watched stories from the City of Sydney Library which were also in Auslan, and we learned some new signs during this such as the sign for numbat. You can carry on with this learning at home, Emma Wiggle uses Auslan many times in her songs and the City of Sydney Library has story time in Auslan, as well as using the signs for hello, please and thank you, which we have been using at preschool.

Bianca, Isaac, Nicholas and Maddie.L all sign the first letter of their name in Auslan



Schoolies: This month the Schoolies have had a strong interest in immersing themselves into our natural environment. The children have been found climbing trees, digging in dirt, smashing sandy rocks, watching worms wriggle through the soil, listening to birds sing and spotting our local preschool Kookaburra sitting on the back fence. All these marvellous outdoor experiences foster children's intellectual, emotional, social and physical development. Nature play is any activity that gets children active or thinking actively outdoors, with the end goal of building skills and ability to play without the need for parental or adult control. This can be in any setting, so long as it's outdoors. With the world quite closed off lately, we love getting busy outdoors in nature every day, seeing what we can find and how we can incorporate the natural world and use it as a tool for investigation and play.



CBCA BOOK WEEK

OLD WORLDS, NEW WORLDS, OTHER WORLDS

21-27 AUGUST 2021



Book Week at Preschool...

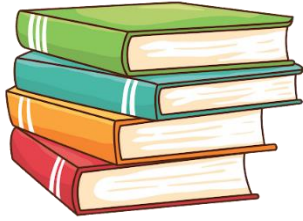
This year's book week theme is Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds. It was wonderful to see how the children embraced this with enthusiasm, bringing their favourite characters to life by dressing up and sharing favourite books with everyone. We had Unicorns, Princesses, Superheroes and even Paddington Bear made an appearance with many more characters joining us at preschool.

The children had fun participating in role play with some favourite books, *Belinda*, and *Wombat Stew*. We learned about the roles of author and illustrator and discovered that with a good imagination story can be written. We explored how books are made and the role trees play in this process. The children had many questions to ask about visiting the library. We talked about how books are borrowed and importantly how to look after them, so that someone else can also enjoy reading them, much the same as our own book basket at preschool. We spoke about the importance of storytelling in Indigenous cultures and how this is the way knowledge is passed onto younger generations.

The children have discovered the value of reading books, as it sparks imagination and curiosity. Children have also found a connection between the spoken and written word, as well as developing new vocabulary and comprehension.

We all agreed that the best times are spent with someone snuggling up and reading stories together, building positive relationships and encouraging a sense of wellbeing.





What's your favourite book?



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our favourite book list of Book Week 2021. Here is the list of our favourite books.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Adelina

Miss Kraken by Nikki Greenberg – Maddie B

Too Loud Lily by Sofie Laguna – Lily W

The Book with No Pictures by B.T. Novak – James L

Animal Builders by Sharon Rentta – Kai

Beautiful Butterflies by Sue Whiting – Layla

ABC/DC by Jessica Chiha – Jack

Charlie and Lola, I Absolutely Love Animals by Lauren Child – Amelia

We're Going On A Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen – Matthew

Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty – Maddie L

Do Not Open This Book by Andy Lee – Zac

Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling – Edan and Jordan

Pandarina by Matilda Rose and Tim Budgen – Lucy

I Need A New Bum by Dawn McMillan – Callum

How Do You Dance by Thyra Heder – Maddie S

Bluey -The Pool by Bluey – Nash

Animal Books – Nyvah

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr Seuss – Zoe

Pig The Pug by Aaron Blabey

The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson – Educator Deon

Dr Seuss stories – Educator Maddie

Wacky Wednesday and Fish Out Of Water by Dr Seuss – Educator Emily

Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson and Possum Magic by Mem Fox – Educator Lara

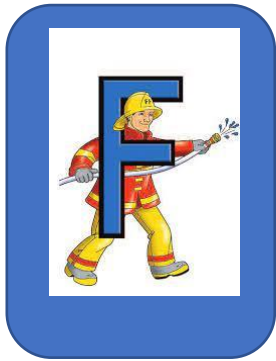
The Little Red Hen. Wombat Stew by Marcia Vaughn. Belinda by Pamela Allen. Imagine by Alison Lester.

The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper – Educator Adele.

Three Little Pigs. Chicken Licken. This Is A Ball . The Little Red Hen – Educator Shruti.

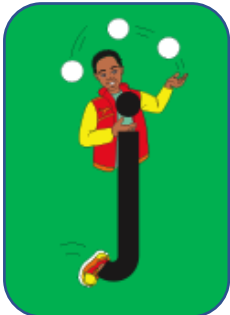
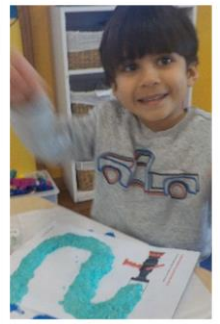
The Gingerbread Man. We're Going On A Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen – Educator Jo.

Letterland



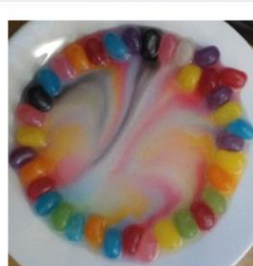
What FUN we had meeting the fantastic Firefighter Fred. Our new friend from Letterland is a very busy man as he is in charge of putting out all the fires in Letterland. The children were provided with a range of emergency service and fire fighter dress ups having the chance to step into shoes of a real fire fighter. Using role play and interacting in small and large groups the children had such fun engaging with the focus 'F' sound pretending to dial 000 and calling out 'Fire, quick go'. We also created some bright and colourful fire paintings and spent time playing with fire safety play dough mats, creating things like water for the fire hose, ladders, and wheels for the fire truck.

The children dressed up and pretended to be real life firefighters



The children also used firefighter themed playdough mats while listening to firefighter stories read by Emily.

The children were all introduced to our latest Letter lander 'Jumping Jim' and in preparation for learning about the sound 'J' Emily invited the children to bring in a funny joke to share with their friends. There was an overwhelming number of jokes shared by the children and so much laughter spread across the preschool as each joke was shared with the group and later throughout the day with one another, even if at times the punchline wasn't quite reached, we all still had a big laugh 😊. With an ever-growing interest for experiments here at Preschool, the children had the opportunity to witness, hypothesize and experiment with different coloured Jellybeans. We put jellybeans into different liquids such as oil, vinegar, coke, and milk as well as discovering what happens when you mix water with different coloured jellybeans. Finally, we got to make some yummy Jelly fruit cups with Jo, this special experience did not disappoint and as the children helped pour, stir and chop they all practiced their 'J' sound.



Scholastic Book Club

Thank you for the orders received for Issue 6. With the commission from this order, the children chose a Bluey Search and Find Book which is already very loved! Issue 7 will be in your communication pocket early Term 4 and this is where the Christmas books start to arrive.



Sun Safety Reminder



As the warmer weather is upon us, please ensure:

- You are applying the sunscreen provided to your child each morning upon arrival to Preschool.
- Your child has a correct wide brimmed hat and water bottle
- Sun safe clothes are worn (ensure shoulders are covered)
- Ensure safe footwear (please no thongs)

October Birthdays

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

Nicola 5 yrs

Nicholas 4 yrs

Isaac 4 yrs

Callum 5yrs

Claire 5 yrs

Sam Rod 5yrs

Rymon 5yrs

Annette 



Dates to remember

Preschool Photos – Tues 26th and Thursday 28th October

TBC due to government restrictions.

More details to come

Sustainability

Parent Book Exchange:

We have started a small parent book exchange basket alongside the children's book basket which has been so successful and is growing rapidly. This has been a good alternative with lockdowns restricting trips to the library. Please feel free to pass books on to someone else by placing them in the basket or browse and find a treasure you can relax with at home.



Return and Earn:

We have a mountain of 900 bottles waiting to be delivered to Berowra Post Office as soon as lockdown restrictions are lifted. Our July target of \$100 was reached with money being donated to animal rescue. We are now well on our way to smashing our new target of \$100 by December which will be donated to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation to help deliver culturally appropriate books to remote Indigenous communities. Thank you for your ongoing support of this initiative.



RETURN AND EARN WITH US

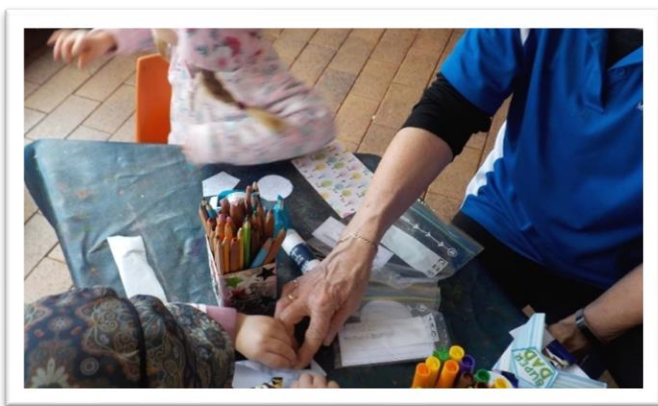
Little Endeavours



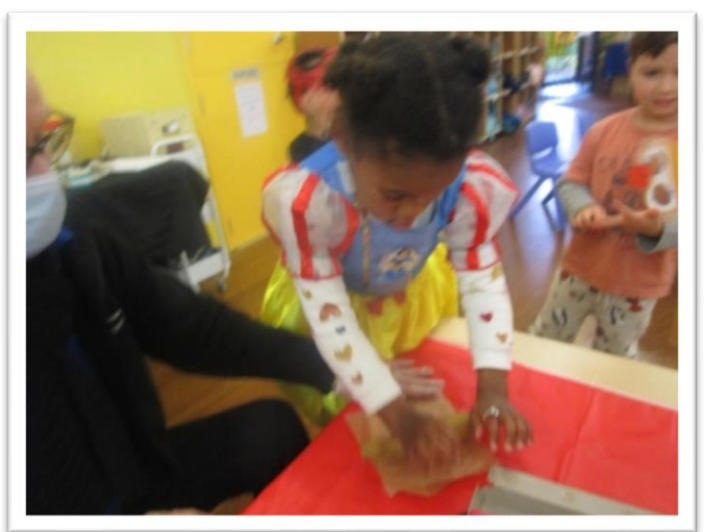
We had lots of fun last month as the preschoolers made food to have for afternoon tea, a present for Dad and they learnt more about our worm farm. The children are always happy to help each other and me during Little Endeavours time and often make suggestions on how I could do things better!



Super Dads – Although some children did comment that their dad's weren't a real superhero, they loved making a special present for Dad and were sure that their Dad would share the frog with them. Fingers worked hard to put our present together showing how their fine motor skills have developed this year.



Gingerbread Men – Baking is the favourite LE activity and the children showed how strong they were as they rolled out their dough, judging if it was big enough to fit the cookie cutter on it. Icing their gingerbread man used fine motor skills as they squeezed the icing tube and then placed it on the right spots on their biscuit.





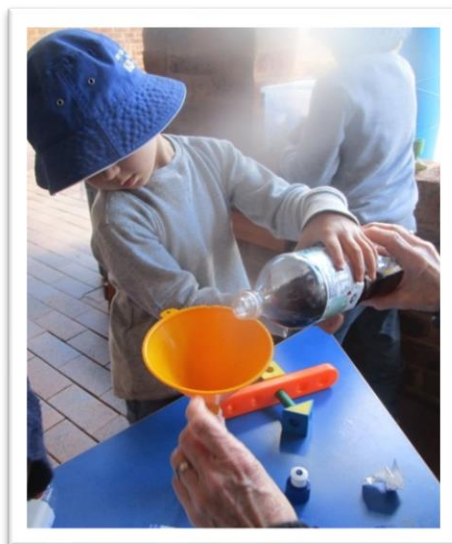
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J is for Jelly – I didn't realise how much discussion there would be when we made our jelly. The preschoolers were very involved in the process as we discussed safety with hot water and the child safe knife, we used to cut the fruit, and they worked well in teams through the jelly making process. The reward was jelly for afternoon tea.



Worm Wee – Using bottles saved from the Christmas Concert party last year we bottled wee from our worm farm to take home. The preschoolers were surprised that the wee didn't smell and we discussed how the worm farm works using our food scraps and the benefit of worm wee for our gardens.



HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

CRAZY HAIR DAY 😊

What fun we had on crazy hair day making our own CRAZY hair cups using recycled coffee cups with Educator Maddie. The children also had their hair coloured, braided and done up in all different ways as well as a sprinkle or two or three of glitter. 😊 The children had an absolute blast.



SUPERHERO DAY 😊

Tuesday called for ALL superheroes at Preschool with real life superheroes included! We had Flash, Wonder Woman, Spiderman, Ant Men, Thor, Super Girl, Doctors, Builders, Teachers and many MORE. We played fun games such as Captain America's Shield toss game and made our very own Doctors Kits with Jo to use for role play.



FAIRY LAND DAY 😊

Fairy Day was filled with treasure hunts, Fairy Crafts, Dancing and party games as we transcend into Fairy Land for they day. A very enjoyable day, imaginative day.

PJ DAY 😊

PJ Day was a cozy day at preschool, the children rolled out of bed and arrived at Preschool in their jammies and a big smile followed. The children brought in their favourite bedtime stories, and we read them as a group.



TUCK SHOP DAY 😊

Wow! Tuck Shop Day was very much loved and enjoyed by all. The children had their very own tuck shop come to Preschool for the day. They used pretend money to shop for an array of treats and fruits, as well as making their own sandwiches for lunch and banana muffins for afternoon tea. 😊



SPRING DAY 😊

We got our thumbs green, as we planted our very own take home beans to watch grow. We also rejuvenated our veggie patch with some tomatoes and capsicums with Jo. Enjoying our natural world and all the delights the season of Spring brings.



CINEMA DAY 😊

Since the Cinemas are closed, we brought the cinema experience to Preschool. Children role played being at the cinema, selling tickets and buying popcorn. We enjoyed a movie and popcorn in the afternoon as a special treat.



Anecdotes

Deon and **James B** were chatting about Father's Day. James B asked Deon what she was giving her Dad for Father's Day and Deon replied that her Dad lived very far away and she wouldn't see him that day. James replied **"Wait, you don't live with your Dad?"** and Deon said that was right. James said **"Well, who takes care of you then?"** Deon replied that she was the Mum in her house and James said **"So you take care of everyone at home and at preschool? That's a big job"**. 😊

One warm and sunny afternoon **Ava** came and tapped Emily on the shoulder **"Emily we found a walking leaf"**. "A walking Leaf!", Emily exclaimed. Show me!" she added with a very puzzled but interested look. **"See! Right there its small and green"** Ava said as she pointed to a small little 'Katydid' leaf insect. 😊 "You're right it is a walking leaf indeed," said Emily.



We are now on Instagram!

Please follow us at **mt_colah_preschool** for see all of our fun learning experiences



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