

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



Transition to School

It has been lovely to see how our Schoolies 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 into 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:

- The sign in table will be placed outside the gate and Schoolie parents will be asked to sign your child in, then pass your child through the gate. It is then up to them to unpack their morning tea, lunch, Show and Tell item in the baskets and choose their locker. (Of course the teachers will be there to provide support!)
- At lunch time Schoolies will sit with their lunch on their lap - just like at school. They 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 a teacher 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 with 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.
- Schoolie children will continue to be encouraged to hold pencil's 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 - week commencing November 27th.



October
2017

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Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas: Book week, what a magical time we had sharing all our favourite stories together. So many characters came to life with the children dressing up and bringing in all their favourite books to read. How lucky we were to have some special Mums make time to come and read stories for us. A very big thank you from all, **as the children enjoyed stories like 'Jack and the Flum Flum Tree' and 'The Detective Dog' to name a few. We also had Charlotte Tippins's Grandmother, Jenifer Govett, the author of Scat Cat, come to visit. After reading the story she explained how books are written, published and printed and the roles authors and illustrators play in producing books for us to read. The children all have a very good understanding of the importance of respecting books so that they will always be there for everyone to enjoy. We also explored the way stories were written and told over the ages, particularly the way Aboriginal people recorded stories and important events long ago by drawing and painting on cave walls, rocks and bark. Books open up a world of make believe. Being read to, develops listening, concentration and memory skills as well as imagination which are so important for transition to school. Albert Einstein - "Imagination is more important than knowledge"**

Bluebells: Over the past few weeks, we have observed the children showing a lot of interest in the **teacher's cameras that we use daily at Preschool. During Photography Week, we decided to explore this a little deeper, learning about different cameras such as the ones on phones, ipads, tough cameras that we use at Preschool, SLR cameras and Polaroid cameras. The children were given the opportunity for hands on experiences and were able to use a camera to take their own photograph then invited to share with their friends what their photo was. Many children chose to take photos of the Preschool playground as this is where they like to play and we also saw lots of photos of special friends. You can also see some of the children's photos displayed on the wall. Do you let your child take photos at home? Research tells us that photography can help develop a child's voice, vision and identity as it pertains to their family, friends and community. You could let your child take a photo on your next bush walk of something they find – we would love to see it!**

Schoolies: What a fun filled month the Schoolies have had, they are really enjoying playing with sensory activities such as playdough and the kinetic sand and engaging with water play on the hot days we **have been having. The Schoolies took a strong interest in 'Weather' week. We made a list of all the various types of weather on the board, Cade and Joss then brought up tornadoes. They both stood out the front and informed their friends of facts they knew on tornadoes. They discussed the eye, the hot and cold winds forming together and what bunkers are used for. The children were then curious with many questions so we used YouTube videos and watched a science experiment on how to make a tornado in a bottle. We then decided to make a weather chart using the thermometer. I held the thermometer up and asked the children what they thought it was, they were unsure. I said it was to measure temperature. Rocky then put his hand up and said, "Yeah like the one you put under our arm if we are sick". We monitored the temperature each morning and afternoon. The children were very interested in this thermometer and how it worked, so much so they took it outside and moved it in and out of the sun to investigate how it worked and to watch the red line go up and down. They sat in a circle talking about the numbers running up and down and what temperature they thought it maybe at the end of the day. Ryder said, "Wow its 30, we might need more sunscreen Steph ". The children were all active participants during weather week and demonstrated wonderful curiosity and a love of learning.**



Toy Catalogues—Out Now

Just a friendly reminder that all orders need to be returned or ordered on line by Wednesday, October 9th . All orders go towards raising "Toy Shopping Dollars" for the Preschool and helps us purchase new resources. It is a great way to get some Christmas shopping done! Thank you for your support!

Scholastic Book Club

Thank you for all the orders we received in the last issue. For Preschool, we bought a HUGE Paw Patrol Look and Find book which the children are really enjoying. We also bought some numeracy cubes which are being used in many different ways from counting to building towers. These were bought with the commission we received from the orders in the last issue, so thank you for continuing to support the book club. The next issue will be out early Term 4.



Thanks for your continuing support of the book club!



Deon had her hair in a braid. Adelaide said *"Oh you have your hair in a braid"* and Deon replied, *"Yes I do. Do you like it?"* Adelaide said *"Mm, looks a bit weird actually! I've never seen a braid in your hair before!"* She walked away then came back and said *"Deon, aren't you a bit old for an Elsa braid?"!*

October Birthdays'

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

Clio—5 yrs

Rocco—5 yrs

Sophie T—5 yrs

Zahra—5 yrs

Jardy—5 yrs

Michael—4 yrs

Annette ???



Friendly Reminder

Please remember that the children are not allowed to bring their own toys from home to play with at Preschool. The reasons for this is it creates sharing problems and it is devastating if the toy becomes broken or lost at Preschool. The only exception to this rule is a comforter that a child may rely on during separation or rest times.

As our focus this month is on Sun Safe Practices, we would like to remind everyone that all children need to bring a **wide brimmed hat** to Preschool for outdoor play. Please do not send your child with a cap. Also remember that shoulders need to be covered so please do not wear singlet tops. THANK YOU :)



Sophie W was running around outside on a hot day. She stopped in the corner at the bottom of the playground where a kitchen play area was set-up.

Zoe stopped Sophie and chatted to her and Sophie explained

"It's hot I stopped to get a drink of water".

Woolworths Earn and Learn Has Ended (September 19th)

Please bring any Earn and Learn Stickers you may have to Preschool as soon as you can so we can tally up our final numbers and send them off.

Based on the number of stickers we collect we are then able to use them to purchase resources for the Preschool. *Thank you for your support.*

Earn & Learn
is on again
Starts 26 July 2017



Creative Art Fundraiser

Very soon you will receive information regarding the Creative Art Fundraiser that we are asking the children to participate in during October. All funds raised will be donated to the *Children's Ward at Hornsby Hospital*. Teaching kids the importance of social awareness and giving back to the community is a great way to ensure your child grows to be empathetic, compassionate and caring. Finding appropriate ways for kids to help out beyond the scope of their homes requires a bit of creative thinking and plenty of encouragement, but is an investment that's well worth the rewards that it brings. Last year during our Creative Fundraiser the children demonstrated their enthusiasm for helping others and really enjoyed engaging with the expressive art activity. *Thank you to our families for supporting our initiative this year and encouraging your child to think of others.*



During music and movement Zoe did the 'Tooty Ta' song as the children had requested it. Cassy normally does this song with the children. The children did a great job when Zoe led the sing-a-long and Joshua said *"Cassy will be soo impressed!"*





Our Healthy Habits initiative is to support our Quality Improvement Plan item - *focussing on family and child health*. During October we will focus on Sun Safety

Whatever the weather, if the UV levels are three or more, it's important to **Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide!**

Too much UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Overexposure to UV during childhood and adolescence is a major factor for future skin cancer risk. You can't see or feel the sun's UV so don't be fooled.

During the daily local sun protection times (issued whenever UV levels are three and above), use these 5 SunSmart steps – even if it's cool and cloudy.

1. Slip on a shirt - dress your child in clothing that covers as much skin as possible (e.g. elbow length tops with a higher neckline or collar and longer style shorts or skirts). Densely woven fabrics are best.
2. Slop on SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen – apply a generous amount of sunscreen at the start of the day and provide permission for sunscreen to be reapplied to your child before they go outdoors. This should be applied every two hours. From 3 years of age, please help your child apply their own sunscreen so they can start to learn independent skills.
3. Slap on a hat – one that protects the face, neck and ears such as a broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hat. Peak caps do not offer enough protection and are not recommended by SunSmart. Please help your child remember to bring and wear their approved sun hat.
4. Seek shade – choose shady spots for play whenever possible.
5. Slide on some sunglasses - if practical and approved by the service. Make sure they are labelled AS 1067 and cover as much of the eye area as possible.



Sun protection times Don't just wait for hot and sunny days to use sun protection. Check the sun protection times each day so your family can be protected when they need to be. Daily local sun protection times and weather details are available on the free SunSmart app or widget, in the weather section of the newspaper and on the SunSmart website at sunsmart.com.au. Sun protection times can also be found at the Bureau of Meteorology website and live UV levels are available from ARPANSA.



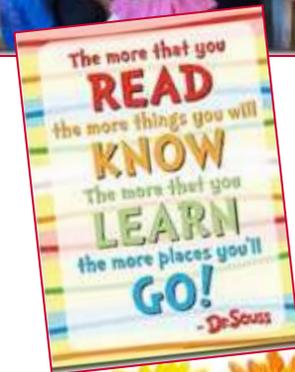
Fun with Phonics

We met Firefighter Fred who helped us remember fire safety and Jumping Jim who encouraged us to get active!



We met the highly anticipated **Firefighter Fred** this week and the Schoolies were very excited. We practised saying his special sound; some children experienced difficulty with the 'F' sound so please continue to practice it at home. We noted words that started with his special sound and had a great time engaging in various 'F' based experiences. We read 'Fox on Socks' by Dr Seuss which is a fantastic rhyming story that the children enjoyed and did a great job identifying the rhyming words. We drew Funny Faces on a large piece of paper which was a collaborative activity enjoyed by all. We read the 'Firefighter' book and practised 'Stop, drop, cover and roll' and 'Get down low and go, go, go'. We played a different version of Duck Duck Goose; Sophie T suggested we call it 'Fire, Fire, Fred' which we did.

After the popular Fighter Fred we met **Jumping Jim**. Jumping Jim jumps into words and we have already had a lot of fun learning about this special Letterland character. During the first week of Jumping Jim the children were encouraged to explore the software programme and matched the 'J' sound to the correct picture. We also played 'Jump Jump Joicy' as a large group activity. The Schoolies enjoyed this so much everyone had multiple turns. We also had lots of fun playing with a Juggling activity, read and acted out 'Jack be Nimble' and 'Jack and Jill went up the hill'.





In Little Endeavours this month we have done both individual and group activities. Even though an activity may be one the children do on their own it is great to see that their peers do often become involved as well, when helping out or making suggestions or even just conversing as they work.



Book Week - we made cupcakes from a recipe book that were inspired from the story 'The Three Little Pigs'. The children followed a recipe and assisted in measuring and mixing the wet and dry ingredients. It was a fun hands on experience with some keen participants even trying to crack an egg without assistance. We enjoyed these yummy cupcakes for afternoon tea.



Wind Vane - For weather week we made our very own wind vane using all recycled materials. We used the lids of coffee cups, old pins and dowel and recycled paper. The wind vane is to teach us about the direction that wind blows and the children were encouraged to place their wind vane in their backyard with a rock to hold it down.

The children were all curious and enthusiastic participants in this experience. I was so impressed with how well each child followed direction and showed a strong interest in the workings of the wind vane.



Father's Day - We made Dad a present which represented him as a superhero and included a yummy chocolate frog for his body. This was a great opportunity for the children to share with me some information about their wonderful Dads and why they think he is **SUPER!**





Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): Congratulations to Stephanie!

Steph has completed her Diploma in Children's Services.

This course is delivered over two years alongside full time employment, no easy feat! We are really proud of the hard work that Steph has put into reaching her goal, extending and deepening her knowledge and experience of early childhood education.



Dates to Remember!

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| October 2nd | Public Holiday—Preschool Closed |
| October 16th | Excursion to the Plant Bug (Schoolies) |
| October 23rd | Creative Fundraiser |
| November 6th | StEPS Vision Screening |
| November 7th | Kindifarm |
| November 27th | Big School Week |



Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten

Cnr Amaroo Avenue and Pacific Highway

Mt Colah NSW 2079

Preschool: Ph: 9476 4101

Email: info@mtcolahpreschool.com.au

Annette: Ph: 9943 0731