

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!). 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 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 26th.

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



October 2018

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Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas: With the weather warming up the Sweetpeas are enjoying being outside. They have enthusiastically participated in gross motor activities by completing obstacle courses, weaving around witch hats, balancing, climbing over and crawling under and through obstacles. It has been wonderful to watch how each child found their own unique way as they negotiated their way around the course. Not only are the Sweetpeas developing gross motor skills, they are also developing spatial awareness and different concepts understanding where things are in relation to something else, as they learn words like, beside, in front of, behind, over, under, around and through. The children are doing so well and we are very proud of their efforts. We have also been busy looking after the carrot and bean seeds that have been planted in the garden tubs. Unfortunately, since Bush Turkeys' visited and scratched up all the precious seeds we planted, bird net has been installed over the tubs and we have had to replant carrot seeds, celery seedlings and tomato plants. The children are enjoying the job of watering the seeds and we hope to enjoy fresh vegetables, from our garden for afternoon tea, soon.

Bluebells: We have had a busy exciting month and we are looking forward to the fun days coming up in the holiday program. Will you be coming to help out one day? We would love to see you if you can make it! Over the past month we have seen the children's building and construction skills standing out. The children have been busy exploring the big blue box outside which is full of wonderful, different shapes and sizes wooden blocks. The children have been working collaboratively in making their ideas come to life in this area – we have seen bridges, castles, huge towers, a ramp for cars and a road that took over the whole pavers area! This is also a good area for the children to work independently if they choose and some children take this opportunity to spend some quiet time on their own. These building blocks have so many great benefits to children. We see early maths and engineering being explored through hands on learning. Fine motor skills are supported as the children pick up and move different shape blocks. Hand eye coordination develops as the child has to learn to place the block on whatever they are building in a way that it doesn't topple. Also working with another child or in a group encourages great social skills. Please feel free to have a look at the blocks and see what fantastic things the children have built.

Schoolies: Over the past few weeks our program has been enriched with the exploration of a wide variety of new and old nursery rhymes. Exploring and expanding the children's knowledge and understandings of nursery rhymes has stemmed from 'Book Week' which took place several weeks ago. Nursery rhymes are an engaging and playful way for children to hear, identify, manipulate, and experiment with the sound of language. An array of different learning experiences and group time experiences have been implemented across all areas of our program including, open ended drawing/ pre-literacy focused experiences, interactive group experiences where the children have been encouraged to learn a wide variety of nursery rhymes through imaginative play, hand actions and words. Arrays of texts and felt board stories have been made readily available as well. During group time experiences the children were encouraged to simultaneously practice pitch, volume, and voice inflection as well as also explore the pronunciation of words by saying them over and over again whilst enjoying the company and pleasures from their fellow peers and educators. Some of the materials and nursery rhymes used during group time and transition periods offered opportunities for the children to play an active role in their learning where they can explore words that described size, weight, as well as using math related words to define concepts, as well as counting sequence, for example, 'Five currant buns', and 'Five little firemen'. The joys and pleasures of language through play appeared to have been thoroughly enjoyed by all the children. Nursery rhymes will continue to be imbedded within the program to encourage further opportunity for all children to foster the significant benefits they provide for our growing little minds here at Mount Colah Preschool.





Preschool Policies Reviewed this Month

Guns and Superhero Policy – no changes however families are reminded no toy guns or weapons are to be brought in to the Preschool. This includes for show and tell.

Handwashing Policy – no changes however families encouraged to have children wash hands prior to preschool and to use hand sanitiser on entry to Preschool.

Hazardous Plants Policy and Equipment Policy—with no change

Sun Protection Policy – No changes however parents please ensure to send broad rimmed hats and appropriate sun safe clothing. Parents encouraged to put sunscreen on their child prior to attending preschool and will be re-applied by educators throughout the day.

Infectious Disease Policy – After a discussion with NSW HEALTH children who present with vomiting or diarrhea are to be excluded for at least 48 hours after their last symptom.

Please feel free to browse our Preschool Policies kept at the sign in table :)



Friendly Reminder

Please do not send toys from home with children to Preschool. Children have

been bringing in a variety of their toys and these are getting lost and broken leaving children heartbroken. This practice also creates sharing problems amongst the children. In line with our policy, children are not to bring in toys from home. A soft comfort item to be used at rest time is the only item permitted. *Thank you.*

October Birthdays'

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

Hugo—4yrs

Georgia—5yrs

Michael—5yrs

Jack—5yrs

Dylan—4yrs

Teon???

Annette ???



Father's Day Breakfast

August 29th

We had a fantastic turn out to our Father's Day pancake breakfast as we celebrated our wonderful dads and granddads.

We had our very own photo booth, a variety of activities and of course some very yummy pancakes to share with our Dads.



Needless to say the children loved having their dads at Preschool!





Farmer Week

August 20th

The children have all shown an amazing amount of empathy for our farmers who are experiencing an unfortunate drought. Our Dress as a Farmer Week was a great opportunity to educate the children on the importance of conserving water and helping our fellow Australians who are struggling at this time.

This discussion continues to be had with the children. Eadie has shown a great sense of empathy and concern to this cause and continues to ask to leave a container out so we can save the rain water for our plants here at preschool and do a rain dance for the farmers. Whenever we get some rain the children mention how the farmers will be so happy.

What amazing little people we have!

We are so proud of our children and families who raised a total of \$363.70 in support of our drought affected farmers.



Educator News...



Deon and her lovely family are off overseas to visit her homeland of Scotland. It is an exciting time for her as she has not seen her family in years! Deon will be away from September 27th to October 22nd. During this time Lara and Adele will be looking after Deon's group of children. We are looking forward to Deon's return and hearing about

Let's continue our support for our farmers....

Please keep sending fruit to Preschool for your child. Please just cut it up! Simple!

CUT 'EM UP,
DON'T CUT 'EM OUT.



PLEASE CONTINUE TO
SUPPORT AUSSIE
FARMERS ESPECIALLY
THROUGH THESE
BERRY-TOUGH TIMES.



Great ways to support fine motor skills...

BUILDING FINE MOTOR SKILLS

- MANIPULATING PLAY DOUGH
 - THREADING OBJECTS
 - GETTING DRESSED UP WITH BUTTON/ZIPS
 - COLOURING OR PAINTING BETWEEN LINES
 - USING CLOTHES PEGS
 - STRETCHING RUBBER BANDS OR LOOM BANDS
 - USING POP BEADS
 - SQUEEZING SMALL GLUE BOTTLES
 - PULLING OBJECTS OFF STICKY PAPER
 - PICKING UP MARBLES
 - PAINTING WITH COTTON BUDS
 - TIGHTENING NUTS ONTO BOLTS
 - USING TWEEZERS OR TONGS TO PICK UP OBJECTS
 - BENDING PIPE CLEANERS OR WIRE
 - USING STAMPS ON PAPER OR PLAY DOUGH
 - TEARING PAPER
 - USING LEGO
 - HAND SEWING
- ideas for play*
- USING SCISSORS
 - TRANSFERRING WATER BEADS
 - USING STICKERS
 - PUSH PINS THROUGH PAPER
 - SQUEEZING PAINT PIPETTES
 - USING HOLE PUNCHES



Funny Things Kids Say!



Luca and Elliot were discussing the boss at preschool when Elliot said "Lara is the boss of the preschool" Luca replied "No actually it's Annette". Elliot looked a bit perplexed and replied "Yeh, but Lara is cooler". Lara was nearby and couldn't help agree with this statement :)



Nika was walking around outside yesterday singing Twinkle Twinkle, beautifully and word perfect. Deon told her that was such lovely singing and she smiled and told Deon "I know, Nika learned it".

Educators made a mud area in a tyre. Emily and Hazel were really excited about it and ran over sitting down beside it. "I love mud" Hazel said. "Me too" said Emily. "But I don't actually like touching it" said Emily. "We can just look at it" replied Hazel and they stayed there, just looking at the mud and admiring how nice it looked!



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.**



Phonics Programme



What a busy month we have had meeting *Firefighter Fred*. *Firefighter Fred* is *Famous* in Letterland for putting out *Fires* in a *Flash*. Whenever there is a *fire*, he rushes to help and puts them out with *Foam*. The Schoolies have been working on

making the special '*F*' sound *Firefighter Fred* makes. The schoolies Cat and Steph decided to have some fun with shaving *Foam*. The Schoolies were encouraged to draw pictures in the foam of things starting with *Firefighter Fred*'s sound. We had, *Fire*, *Flamingo*, *Face*, *Fire engine* and many more. The Schoolies showed their creativity and imagination during this activity. They also displayed good fine motor skills as they drew in the *Foam*. This activity challenged their co-ordination of the small muscle group and also the synchronization of hands and fingers with the eyes. Parents please encourage your children to engage in fine motor activities at home to further their development in this area.



The Schoolies have also been introduced to *Jumping Jim* who lives in a *Jigsaw* house which he put together himself. He loves *Jumping* and *Juggling* the most. We will be exploring the Rhyme *Jack and Jill* and making our very own *Jelly*. *Jumping and Juggling* are also fun ways to explore *Jumping Jim's* special sound!





*This month we did some individual work when the children baked their gingerbread men and group work when we put our scarecrow together and made a display evolving from the children's great interest in *The Three Little Pigs*.*



The Three Little Pigs - This story is a favourite and our three pig houses on the display look fantastic. Plenty of involvement by the children who decided how to 'build' each house and there were plenty of windows and doors designed to add to the houses. There is even a black cat which was added although I had never seen one in the story!



Our Scarecrow - A lot of time and effort went into the preschoolers planning and constructing of our scarecrow. He was much bigger and heavier than we thought he would be and we are still working out the best place to put him, but he is already in the yard watching over the veggie patches.



Gingerbread Men - Baking is one of our favourite activities and everyone is always keen to have their turn but very understanding of the fact that they need to wait. Afternoon tea is keenly awaited for on our cooking days.



Quality Improvement Plan (QIP):

As you will have read earlier in the newsletter one of the policies we have recently reviewed is our sun-safe policy. As the weather now warms up it is timely to remind ourselves how easily we can be caught out and that preventative measures to protect from sunburn are really important. Please support our sun-safe initiatives so that your child can freely enjoy all on

offer outdoors. *Please remember to dress your child in a top that covers their shoulders, provide a bucket hat with a brim wide enough to shade the face and ears. Please use the sunscreen at drop off time or feel free to ask an educator for assistance. It is also important to do these things at home and talk to your child about why being sun-safe is so important.*



Let's enjoy our great outdoors!

Dates to Remember!

October 1st	Public Holiday
October 2nd—12th	Holiday Programme
October 18th	Plant Bug Excursion (Schoolies only)
October 22nd onwards	Creative Art Fundraiser
November 1st	Kindifarm Visit
November 5th & 8th	StEPS Vision Screening

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