

## Mr V-Ts TOP TIPS FOR SCHOOL READINESS!



We recently held a School Transition Night with Mr V-T, Principal of St Patricks. Below are some of his top tips for helping your children transition to school and what skills we can support them to achieve.

### Independence, independence, independence!!!!

- \* Go to the toilet (including using toilet door latch)
- \* Dress themselves.
- \* Pack and unpack their bag.
- \* Take care of their things (lunch box and drink bottle, hat and jacket).
- \* Unwrap or open items

### Emotional Skills

- \* Regulate emotions- has the social and emotional language to navigate life.
- \* Resilient- learn how to lose.
- \* Enjoys challenges and has perseverance- be determined, take on a challenge, be ready for hard thinking.
- \* Have a growth mindset- I don't know it.. yet!

### Social Skills

- Being socially competent maximizes children's opportunity to engage with learning.
- \* Share and take turns, negotiate and resolve conflict, listen to others and respond appropriately.
  - \* Socially confident.

### Physical skills

- \* Learning gross motor and fine motor skills coordinated run, jump and tumble and hold a pencil well and apply pressure on the page.
- \* Use scissors to cut in a straight line unassisted.
- \* Use a glue stick including taking off and putting on the lid.

### Cognitive and Language Skills

- \* Know the names of letters.
- \* Know some numbers (count in sequence, recognise and name the symbol, know the value).
- \* Understand patterns.
- \* Basic shapes- names and properties.
- \* Understand positional concepts e.g. go to the front of the line.
- \* Understand and follow rules and instructions

# Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



## September Review 2024

### Inside this Newsletter

- ♥ Educator Reports
- ♥ Discovery Topics
- ♥ Plant Bug Excursion
- ♥ Phonemic Awareness Report
- ♥ Little Endeavours Report
- ♥ Mini Moves Report

# Our Preschool Programme in Review

**Sweetpeas and Bluebells:** Term 3 is quickly coming to an end and we are looking forward to another holiday programme, filled with fun activities. Make sure you pick up your copy of the programme so you know what's happening each day your child attends.

Over the past month, the Sweetpeas and Bluebells have been engaging in various activities that support their fine motor skills. We have used the easel many times, not just for painting but also for drawing using crayons, pencils and oil pastels. There have been some beautiful pieces of artwork created! We have used tweezers to pinch and grab to pick up little vehicles, and this takes practice to squeeze hard enough to make the tweezers work. This is a great activity for little hands to build strength and coordination, and you can do this at home, perhaps using tongs and dry pasta. A favourite activity is threading, using a lace and varying sizes of beads. This again encourages the children to pick up small items and then engage their hand-eye coordination to thread them onto a lace. This often leads to the children making bracelets, using smaller beads, and practising this beforehand with larger beads supports the children's abilities to do this independently. We have also been practising pencil skills using pre-writing drawing activities. This involves following lines of shapes to begin getting the idea of how letters and shapes are formed, a precursor to writing. The children have also been practising their cutting skills, with the educators providing activities that support each child's abilities, whether they cut straight lines, or are ready to move onto something more elaborate such as cutting out shapes. These are all great activities, preparing for Bluebells or Schoolies next year, and you can practice these at home too.

**Schoolies:** Over the past month, the Schoolies have been working towards their language and literacy skills in preparation for big school. They have been introduced to rhyme through a variety of books, board games and songs; working on positional language/ concepts through our daily routine and board games and working on their descriptive language when in conversation with their peers and educators as well as developing this skill through Show and Tell time. All of these activities have contributed to the development of the children's comprehension skills and overall vocabulary. We have been able to incorporate these skills into activities surrounding their interests and have been able to expand the children's vocabulary this month through the phonics programme. Over the fortnight, the Schoolies have been working on an /e/ word challenge, having the challenge to work as a team to come up with as many /e/ words as possible. We have found that through this challenge, the children have been on the search for new words during play and sharing new words as they come into preschool in the mornings. Educators have placed a focus on ensuring the children are developing literacy skills such as from left to right, with educators making a conscious effort to point to the words as we read as well as encouraging the children to make predictions before reading a story. All of which contribute to an enriched literacy environment and expose them to the tools they need for their future literacy development. Early literacy is important as it helps children develop a rich vocabulary, self-expression, and reading comprehension. These skills allow a young child to enter kindergarten with a love of books and a readiness to learn. So families, a book a day can make a world of difference for your child's progress.





# National Child Protection Week

2nd September

This week the children learned all about boundaries, consent, body autonomy and other strategies to keep themselves safe. They began by completing their 'Safe Hand' where they identified five trusted adults that they would feel comfortable going to for help if they ever felt sad, scared, embarrassed or unsafe. Children learned to recognise 'safer strangers' which are adults whose job is to protect people (Police Officers, Firefighters, Paramedics etc) that they could go to if they needed help and couldn't find one of their trusted adults. Most importantly children learned that their body belongs to them and they always have the right to say 'NO' if something or someone is making them uncomfortable. We found that the children were highly engaged during this topic and enjoyed learning about their personal rights and body autonomy which strongly links to the EYLF Learning Outcome 3.3: Children are aware of and develop strategies to support their own mental and physical health and personal safety.



Some great books aimed at children to talk about Child Protection

# Exploring Space

**Space was such a strong interest of the children's that we explored this** topic for 3 WEEKS! The children guided their own learning by asking inquisitive questions about planets, dwarf planets, the moon, the sun and meteorites. We created our own lunar cycle, adding to it every few days based on how the moon looked the previous night (sometimes even spotting it during the day). We also went on a journey through life in space, learning all about astronauts and gravity! We even had an astronaut read us a story from the space station! Finally, we explored space science which involved many fun and engaging experiments that allowed us to further explore concepts such as gravity, force, motion and chemical reactions.





# Exploring Space





# Schoolies Excursion to The Plant Bug

Tuesday 10th September



The Schoolies went on an excursion to our local nursery The Plant Bug! The children were paired off with their assigned adult helper and given a photo of what they had to purchase for our sensory and veggie gardens. This included tomatoes, cucumbers, basil, curry plant, pineapple sage, parsley, lemon and orange thyme, along with some flowers to brighten up our garden. When we arrived back at preschool everyone helped Janet and Jo to plant these.

A BIG THANK YOU to our family volunteers Jess, Vani, Danielle, Sally, Lisa, Nat and Janice. Also to the lovely staff at Plant Bug who set up a beautiful morning tea for us and donated some of their produce. We are grateful that we get to promote a sense of community within our Preschool and further build these connections with our local community.







**Planting our purchases with Janet and Jo!**





# Little Endeavours with Jo

Term Three is done and in LE the preschoolers have shown how much they have developed, especially in their fine motor skills and socially, as we work together on the LE activities. The children often ask to be my helpers and are even happy to help clean up the inevitable mess that results from whatever we do.



Superdads – Our Superdads are always fun to make and the preschoolers came up with some great ideas for why their Dad was super, further developing their sense of identity. This was a great activity for fine motor skills with the children's hands and fingers colouring in, using the sticky tape dispenser and glue sticks, and placing all the individual parts together to make their



Lavender Lemonade – Thanks to our families and community we had plenty of lavender and lemons provided for this activity. The children used their mathematical skills as they weighed and measured the ingredients. They collaborated as they worked together to follow the recipe to make our lemonade. The children were able to try our lemonade for afternoon tea with many surprised that they liked it, coming back for more.



# Little Endeavours with Jo

Fruit Rockets – A variety of skills were used by the children as we made their rocket fruit skewers. The children developed their fine motor skills, using our child safe knives to cut their fruit. They also used numeracy skills as they counted the correct amount of fruit on their skewer and receptive language as they followed instructions and sequencing. A great hands on experience to extend the space experience, which also made healthy eating fun and exciting!







# Phonemic Awareness Programme

## Lucy Lamp Light



As we explored the /l/ sound with Lucy Lamp Light, we focused on the placement of our tongue (tongue touching top of mouth behind teeth) while producing /l/ words. We continued to practise this sound production while making lavender lemonade with Jo. We also engaged with written text, tracing the letter l using foundation font (no flick at end) as this is the font that we will learn to write at big school.



## Eddy Elephant



What a fun week full of songs, games and stories to explore the /e/ sound with Eddy Elephant. Writing the letter e can be tricky however with lots of repetition, the children displayed a significant improvement. We also broadened our vocabulary as we took part in an E Word Challenge! The children were excited to share all the /e/ words they knew including the long vowel and short vowel sounds.





# Mini Moves



## Galloping

By the end of the fortnight we had seen lots of progress with the children's galloping skills and they enjoyed participating in relay races, games and equestrian challenges as they demonstrated their new skills. Well done Sweetpeas and Bluebells!

## Stationary Dribbling

The children have been showing off their basketball skills this month as they practice bouncing a ball at waist height, using their fingertips to push the ball. Stationary Dribbling tied in perfectly with our space science topic as we practiced using different amounts of force to create the perfect bounce! This skill has presented quite a challenge however the children have shown their persistent and confident learning dispositions as they continue working towards achieving multiple bounces in a row.

## Next Up - Revision





## QIP—Cultural Responsiveness



Xin chao cac ban! (Hello friends). This month we have been exploring the Vietnamese culture. We were so lucky to have Yen (Sam's Mum) come in and teach us more about their culture.

Yen taught us all about Vietnam (where she was born) including the language (counting and greetings), songs, animals, food, landmarks and the different way of living in Vietnam. Sam wore his traditional Vietnamese clothing which is worn during Lunar New Year and weddings.

We are so grateful to our families who take the time to further develop the children's knowledge of cultures within our Preschool.

Thank you Yen!

L.O. 2.2—Children respond to diversity with respect. Principles—Partnerships.







**Steps (4 year old) Vision Screening—**

Monday 21st and Thursday 24th October

**Christmas Concert—Friday 29th November 9am**

**Big School Week— 2nd December**

**Schoolies Graduation—Tuesday 10th December 5pm**

**Last Day for 2024—Friday 20th December**

## October Birthdays

**A big Happy Birthday to all of our children having a birthday this month!**



Leo—5 years  
Ralph—5 years  
Lola—4 years  
Stella—5 years

