

# Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



Dear Families,

This is our final Newsletter for the year with Christmas and summer holidays right around the corner. You will soon receive your child's developmental portfolio for you to keep. When you look at the record of progress in skill level, development and growth for your child over the past 12 months you will be amazed at how far they have come. It is also time to reflect upon the amount of development that occurs in children during ages 3 to 5 and how important it is that children are given every opportunity to extend their knowledge, challenge their own thinking, develop social skills and confidence in themselves in a safe and caring environment.

We are so pleased for the children heading off to school next year. They all, individually and as a group, demonstrate independence, kindness to each other and a love of learning and we wish them all the very best for their start to school. To our returning children, we look forward to seeing you again in the new year, as our leaders and helpers as we welcome new children and families to Preschool.

I cannot let this opportunity slip by without thanking the teaching team for all their efforts during the year. It has been a crazy year to say the least. On top of Accreditation Visits, staff changes and other extenuating circumstances the team has worked tirelessly in planning, observing, recording, supporting and extending your children and they do this with a great deal of passion and enthusiasm.

I know the teaching team have also greatly appreciated the many ways in which our families have provided support this year and we all feel very blessed to be a part of the very special Mt Colah Preschool community.

*On behalf of the teaching team, I would like to thank you so much for your support this year and wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe and relaxing summer break.*

Warmest regards,

Annette



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## *Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review*

**Sweetpeas:** So here we go! The last few weeks of the year are upon us and we are going to have a busy but wonderful time before we pull the year to a close. The Sweetpeas have been very enthusiastic in our Christmas Concert rehearsals and we are ready to perform for you next week! This shows us just how much our youngest preschooler's have learned over the year as the concert requires them to learn new songs and remember these, add in some actions and on top of that to have the confidence to stand up in front of everyone to sing - we hope you're as proud of them as much as we are! Deon and Steph would like to wish all our Sweetpeas a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all on your return next year!

**Bluebells:** How quickly has this year flown by. As we enter the final weeks of Preschool, we are starting our Christmas crafts and doing our final preparations for the Christmas concert. The Bluebells are really excited to perform in front of an audience and excited for our special surprise visitor. The past couple of weeks we have been focusing on our self-help skills, creativity and emotional skills. The Bluebells really enjoyed Reuse, Reduce and Recycle week. They were very creative with craft that week which involved recycled materials that we had collected at Preschool. The Bluebells are continuing to give the teachers their yogurts lids, containers and other items we can turn into craft and reuse. Some of the Bluebells girls came up to me asking if we could save the yogurt containers and make them into stools and pots for our fairy garden, and in doing so informed me that we would be reusing rubbish and making less landfill. The Bluebells have come ahead leaps and bounds during group time and are doing a fantastic job at retaining information and transferring it into play which is wonderful to see. Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a relaxing summer break.

**Schoolies:** Wow! There's only a few weeks left of Preschool and soon enough our Schoolies will be starting Big School. The Schoolies are extremely excited and have really enjoyed their Big School orientation, they return to Preschool very enthusiastic and happily share everything they did during their time at Big School. Lachlan loves playing with our old Schoolie Jimmy and Matilda was brave enough to give her buddy a big cuddle. Noah carried the card his buddy made for him around all day, he even took the card down the slippery slide with him! All the Schoolies displayed amazing self-help skills during our transition observation week, they all knew and followed the routine independently!! Throughout the year the Schoolies independence, self-help skills and resilience have developed so much. They were also very kind and helpful to our new Preschool friends during our orientation time at Preschool. Thanks for your help Schoolies! Next week is our Christmas concert and we are all soooo excited!!!! Can't wait to see everyone in their Christmas best!



# Preschool Christmas Party

Friday, December 2nd

**The notes have gone home to families, Santa has been contacted and the children have been practicing their songs in readiness for our Preschool Christmas Party!**

Our Preschool Christmas Party is held in the Church. Children are to be dropped off to Preschool before 9am and parents enter the Church from the front of the building. Please note the parents entry to the Church will not be opened until **9.10am**.

Due to the building works on the Pacific Highway, parking in Amaroo Avenue has been taken up by builders of late. So please allow time to park your vehicle on the day of the Christmas Party.

Also, we are asked every year by parents, "Where will my child be standing" unfortunately, as we have 70 children to organise into lines on the morning prior to walking into the Church, we have no way of advising where each child will stand.

**A friendly reminder to please return your RSVP to the Preschool Christmas Party as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so. Thank you!**



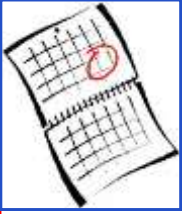
## Creative Art Fundraiser Helping Others

The children did a fantastic job with their creative artistry with lots of amazing works being created. The children raised \$773.85 for the Children's Ward at Hornsby Hospital.

The children happily presented the cheque to Liesl from Hornsby Hospital who visited Preschool on Tuesday, November 22nd.

Well done Mt Colah Preschool and thank you so much to all our families for their support.





## Preschool Accounts

Your final account for 2016 has now been sent out with all payments due by Friday December 2nd. This account includes all fees up until our closing day of December 16th. It also includes the refund of the \$100 holding deposit to those families whose children are heading off to school next year.

Therefore, could we please remind everyone, particularly those leaving Preschool to stop any automatic fee payments you may have set up to avoid your account going into credit. If your returning next year and your account goes into credit, the credit will be carried over to next year.

## Casual Days Book

As the Preschool accounts are being finalised in December please be aware that the Casual Days Book finishes operating at the end of November.

## 2017 Fees

Please be advised that the daily fee for 2017 will be \$86 per day.



## Christmas Pudding Truffles

### Method

Step 1 Break up the Christmas pudding or fruitcake in the bowl of a food processor and blitz until it forms coarse crumbs.

Step 2 Place the dark chocolate and butter in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan half-filled with simmering water. Stir until the ingredients melt together and the mixture becomes smooth. Add the melted chocolate and brandy to the Christmas pudding or fruitcake crumbs, and stir to combine.

Step 3 Line a tray with baking paper. Roll large tablespoonfuls of the mixture into balls, and place on the lined tray. Transfer into the fridge to chill for 45 minutes

Step 4 Meanwhile, place the white chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan half-filled with simmering water. Stir until the chocolate has melted and becomes smooth. Use a teaspoon or piping bag to drizzle the melted white chocolate over the truffles, and decorate with the slices of cherries.

### Ingredients

- 750g Christmas pudding or fruitcake
- 100g dark chocolate, chopped
- 30g Unsalted Butter
- 2 tablespoons brandy (optional)
- 200g white chocolate, chopped
- 12 red glacé cherries, quartered and thinly sliced
- 12 green glacé cherries, quartered and thinly sliced

Enjoy!





## We had lots of fun in Little Endeavours in the past month!



With Christmas just around the corner it is hard to believe this is my last Little Endeavours report for the year. The time has flown and it has been wonderful to watch all the children as they are involved and enjoy themselves in LE activities, with them not realising how much they are learning and developing while having fun.

Goodbye to the Schoolies – I will miss your help during the sessions and at clean up time (it is rare there is not a mess at the end!) and I know you will all enjoy the next chapter in your lives at “big” school. For those returning you will be a big help to me, as we introduce Little Endeavours to our new friends.

Thank you parents for the opportunity to work with your children. I am privileged to be able to be involved as the children grow and develop during their years at Preschool, and as they become independent little people learning skills that will help them to move on to school.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year break.



### In the know....

Sebastian said *"My mums friend said Santa isn't real"*. Lachlan D *"He is, we just don't see him cause we're sleeping"*. Sebastian *"Yeah, you're probably right"*.



Ethan exclaimed ... *"I opened it like a boss"*. While opening something from his lunch.



# Big School Week!

28th November — 1st December

Children heading off to school next year are very welcome to wear their school uniform during this week. During Big School Week we will be having visits from local schools. A teacher and several kindergarten students visit and talk to all the children **about school, show off their school uniforms and read our preschooler's stories.**



The teacher also introduces our children to a book called "Big School". This book was produced in collaboration between local schools and local prior to school services and offers the preschooler's a great pictorial guide to all the different places in our local schools. This book is then left out for our Preschool children to look at for the remainder of the year. We have been conducting Big School Week in collaboration with local schools for a number of years as it provides another Important transitional link for the children heading off to school

## Scholastic Book Club

Book club leaflets are out just now and orders will be delivered in the next week or two. Thank you for your continued support with the book club over the year! We have been able to purchase some fantastic books for Preschool with the commission we have earned and the children are enjoying these new resources.



*Thank you for your continued support of the book club!*

## December Birthdays'

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

*Mackenzie 5yrs*

*Noah 5yrs*

*Olivia 5yrs*

*Koby 5yrs*

*Willow 5yrs*

*James 5yrs*



# fun with phonics

## It's been another busy month for our Phonics Programme



I can't believe we have reached the end of the year already. I have been so impressed with the Schoolies continuous enthusiasm around the phonics programme this year. The children have been so willing to learn and get involved in all aspects of the programme and have retained so much knowledge around the sounds of each of the character's they have met in Letterland.

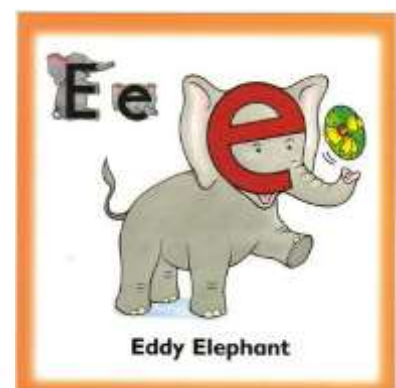
We have met some of our final friends this year

**Walter Walrus** and **Golden Girl**.

Walter Walrus brought with him a game of Chinese Whispers where the children used their best quiet voice and listening ears, although at the end each time we never quite ended up with the same sentence. We also really enjoyed one of our favourite dances at Preschool 'Wombat Waddle'. This is a fun song which encourages the use of gross motor skills including balance, body movement and coordination.

Golden Girl was lots of fun. We adapted the game of 'Duck Duck Goose' to 'Goat Goat Goose' at Leo's suggestion. The children also played a game of Stop and Go where they had to dance to some music and when the red texta was held up they had to stop and when the green texta was presented they were able to GO!

We are finishing up With **Eddy the Elephant** this week.



## Quality Improvement Plan (QIP):

The teaching team is currently finalising the areas within our environment that we will be focussing on improving during 2017. Watch this space!



## Dates to Remember!

28th Nov - 1st Dec -

Big School Week

2nd December -

Preschool Christmas Party

16th December -

Last Day of Preschool

16th January 2017

First Day of Preschool



### Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten

Cnr Amaroo Avenue and Pacific Highway

Mt Colah NSW 2079

Preschool: Ph: 9476 4101

Email: [info@mtcolahpreschool.com.au](mailto:info@mtcolahpreschool.com.au)

Annette: Ph: 9943 0731

Email: [annette@freelancer.net.au](mailto:annette@freelancer.net.au)

[www.mtcolahpreschool.com.au](http://www.mtcolahpreschool.com.au)