The children have been practicing so hard for our Christmas Concert so we hope that you enjoy our morning together on December 4th. All things Christmas have been embraced by the children and they are enjoying the special activities in the lead up to Christmas.

It seems like five minutes ago that we were welcoming our returning families to Preschool and helping our new friends settle into Preschool routines. This year’s group of children have contributed to their own learning and extended the learning of others as they have engaged wholeheartedly in all the educational opportunities on offer during the year.

We wish our Schoolies a wonderful transition to big school, they will be truly missed. The developing leadership skills of the Schoolies has created a wonderful environment for all, especially for the younger children who really look up to our Schoolies. We are sorry to see our Schoolies move on but know they are very ready for the new road ahead of them.

A huge “thank you” from every one of the Preschool teaching team to our wonderful parents and extended family members for all your help and support during the year. All the wonderful things you do support and strengthen our learning environment. I cannot let this opportunity pass without thanking the wonderful teachers at Mt Colah Preschool. It is clear to see the effort they put into the care and educational environment they provide, but what goes unseen is the small gestures and work behind the scenes they do to support children and families, all due to the passion they have for their work. Thank you to all of them for the wonderful work they do.

On behalf of the teaching team, we wish you all a magical, happy and safe Christmas. Farewell to our wonderful Schoolies and we look forward to welcoming back our returning children in 2015.

Warmest regards, Annette
**Sweetpeas:** It is nearing the end of a fantastic year for the Sweetpeas during which we have had a lot of fun exploring the indoor and outdoor environment where we have been provided with a variety of resources to further enhance our learning, build on our strengths and extend our interests. Together we have further developed our knowledge about numerous topics such as: road safety, people who help us and ways we can make a difference in our environment. The Sweetpeas have really enjoyed discussing road safety ideas among one another and often incorporate these into their play when exploring the cars and road signs. The Sweetpeas enjoyed learning about people who help us within our community and were especially excited when we had a visit from the fire brigade. The Sweetpeas love using the recycled lids and bottle tops for craft and are learning how to care for our environment by watering the plants and treating them with care. It has been wonderful learning from and teaching the Sweetpeas throughout the year.

**Bluebells:** Wow, December already! It's hard to believe that Christmas will be here in just a few weeks. Over the past month, we have enjoyed visits from the fire service and the police who both chatted to us about how to keep ourselves safe. We have been learning about patterns and rhyming words. This proved a bit tricky for some children so practising these at home would be beneficial. Everyone is making great progress with name writing and we are continuing to develop scissor skills. We are putting the final touches to your child’s developmental portfolio and these will be coming home very soon. In this you will see just how far your child has progressed this past year and how much they have learned! We are incredibly proud of each one of them and we know they will continue to go from strength to strength as they move into the Schoolies group next year! Merry Christmas everyone, we hope you have a fantastic break and we'll see you next year!

**Schoolies:** I can't believe the Schoolies are heading off to big school in only a few weeks! They can't wait to go and have been talking very excitedly to their friends and teachers! They have grown up so much over the year and have prepared well for the transition to Big School. We have some fun weeks coming up, with Big School week and Christmas being our final focus interests of the year. The Schoolies are looking forward to the special visits from the local primary schools, where the children get to learn a little more about the Big School environment and the exciting things they will learn. During Big School week the children are also very excited to wear their school uniforms. Christmas craft will start soon and we will be sending home some lovely Christmas decorations and beautiful artworks for you to display at home in the lead up to Christmas! Have a fantastic break and best of luck for all of our lovely Big School Schoolies!!!

**Out of the Mouth of Babes:** Deon was doing a work sheet with Sameer “All About Me”. Deon asked Sameer if he knew what his phone number was and he replied “Deon, I don’t have a phone!...I’m 3!”
Orientation

Our Orientation Programme for new children commencing in 2016 will be held from November 23rd to 26th. If you happen to meet up with some new parents on these mornings, please make them feel welcome.

Developmental Portfolios

Your child’s developmental portfolio will be coming home to you from week commencing December 7th. You will be amazed at how much they have grown and how their skills have developed over the past year. If you have any questions after reading your portfolio, please ask your teacher. For those heading off to school it is advisable to provide the information in your portfolio to your new school as it provides assistance to them as they put supports in place for your child for the start of the new school year.

December Birthdays’

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

Sienna F.S. 5yrs
James 4yrs
Ellie 5yrs
Daniela 5yrs
Suren 5yrs
Helping Others….

Another Outstanding Effort by our Preschoolers!

The children put a lot of effort into their paintings for the Creative Art Fundraiser with funds raised going to Hornsby Hospital Children's Ward. They may be little, but were enthusiastic participants, creating some wonderful pieces of art. The children have again embraced the ethos of helping others and that there are many ways in which they can give others a hand. It has been lovely to see the enjoyment this concept has brought the children. Thank you to our wonderful families for their support of this fundraiser, the children raised $645.00!

We recently sent out to families, via email, a request to complete a very short feedback survey. We are seeking your opinion of your time at Mt Colah Preschool this year. Please be assured that the survey responses are completely anonymous. If you wish to extend the response to some of the questions (we purposely kept the survey as short as possible) then please feel free to speak to your teacher or if you wish to do so, leave an anonymous note in our payment box. We value your feedback as it helps us to address concerns you may have and supports our continued focus of improving all areas of our service.

Thank you so much for your assistance with this request.
Phonemic Awareness Programme

Our Phonemic Awareness Programme is drawing to an end. The Schoolies have retained so much knowledge from this programme throughout the year. It has been great to see them so keen and interested with each letter friend we met and their participation in all the fun activities we have done together to explore the new sound. We would often be getting asked throughout the day "is it Letterland time?" or "what letter are we learning?"

We met Golden Girl and Vicky Violet this month. With both we looked at their story, song and the computer programme and activities.

Golden Girl linked to our Outdoor Week so we did a big group drawing of Golden Girls Garden, the children added flowers, animals and people. We also did a collaborative build-d-garden activity listening to wonder nature sounds as we went. One of our favourite stories at Preschool is The Gruffalo so we included this tape story in our activities and the children were encouraged to find other words in the story that started with the G sound.

With Vicky Violet we brainstormed some V words - we found this a bit trickier as there weren’t as many as some previous letters. The Schoolies got some toy vegetables from home corner and we used these to draw Vicky Violet’s vegetables which we displayed.

We have had so much fun this year playing with sounds and know it will be a great platform for the children as they start Big School and commence with the formalities of learning to read and write. Over the break please keep reading to your children, playing with sounds, reading and singing nursery rhymes, play name games and talk about words they don’t know the meaning of, to extend their vocabulary. Keep it fun, you will continue to be amazed by what they know!
Preschool Accounts

Just a reminder that all final outstanding fees are to be paid by Friday, December 4th. Your final invoice will be distributed to parents week commencing November 23rd.

Also, as a reminder: please remember, especially for those leaving Preschool, please stop your automatic fee payments to avoid your account going into credit and to avoid more payments being made during and after December.

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.

2016 Fees

Please be advised that the daily fee for 2016 will be $82 per day.

Big School Week - November 30th - December 3rd

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 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.
Preschool Christmas Party

Yes, it is that time of year! Please pop this date in your diary. Our Preschool Christmas Party will be held on the morning of Friday, December 4th. The event 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. 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.

Please ensure your RSVP has been handed back to your teacher as soon as possible.

If you are able to bring a plate of food for the children’s or adult’s table, please see the lists at the sign-in table to nominate

The Best Grandma!

Jo was talking to Matilda S. and Matilda asked who gave Jo her rings. Jo explained it was Wayne her husband and that she had 4 children. Matilda then asked if Jo was a grandma too. When Jo replied yes Matilda told Jo “That’s good 'cause I think you would be a good grandma!!”.

Scholastic Book Club

Thank you to everyone for your support of the Scholastic Book Club this year.
It is hard to believe that this is the last Little Endeavours report for 2015. In your child’s portfolio you will find a summary of all the projects we have done during the second half of the year. Our activities for November were:

- The fantastic display boards hanging outside decorated with the lids families had collected and recycled for us. The children’s creativity can be seen and we will definitely do this again next year.
- Our photo frames decorated with pasta. The children thought a lot about the patterns around their frames and used their fantastic fine motor skills to place the pasta carefully down.
- The threaded plates on which we used the yogurt lids to collage the children’s first initial - more fine motor work.
- Our road safety worksheet. The children enjoyed comparing their hand size to the adult hand outline - noting that they should hold a grown-ups hand when near roads and cars.

Thank you for letting me work with your wonderful children. I think we have all had a great time this year in Little Endeavours, learning and practicing skills while having lots of fun. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and relaxing New Year. Goodbye to those children who are heading to big school - I will miss your help cleaning up my ’messy’ activities - and I look forward to working again with the families returning next year.
Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): With the year coming to a close it gives us the opportunity to reflect on some of the improvements that we have made to our educational environment. The new security system, the renewal of furniture and resources, strengthening of our sustainability programme, focus on improving the displays of children’s work, the community connections we have strengthened and created. Along with this are many behind the scenes systems that the teaching team have put into place to improve the ways we meet regulation and further strengthen the educational programme and environment. It has been a very busy and rewarding year. We are currently making plans for where to focus our energy next year so if you have any ideas, please let us know. Thank you to all our families for the wonderful support you have given the Preschool this year.

Dates to Remember!

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<td>November 30th</td>
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<td>December 3rd</td>
<td>Big School Week</td>
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<td>December 4th</td>
<td>9am Preschool Christmas Concert and Party</td>
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<td>December 4th</td>
<td>Final Account Payments Due</td>
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<td>December 18th</td>
<td>Last Day of Preschool</td>
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<td>January 18th</td>
<td>First Day of Preschool</td>
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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