

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



Child Care Subsidy Reminder

Dear Families,

Hopefully you will all have received our recent email outlining the steps you need to follow to transition to the new CCS.

Families if you haven't already, you need to complete the online assessment to transition to the new Child Care Subsidy System as soon as possible. If you don't you will miss out on receiving benefit entitlements.

For information go to: www.education.gov.au/ChildCarePackage and there are also information brochures on our Parent Info Table.

Do you know how the new child care subsidy will affect your family?

Use the Child Care Subsidy Calculator on the Human Services website to see what the changes mean for your family.

www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy/payments/how-much-you-can-get

Call to Action

Mt Colah Preschool is required under the Family Assistance Act as part of the transition to the CCS to have in place a Complying Written Agreement for every child enrolled.

Very soon you will receive a letter explaining this and form to sign. It would be most appreciated if you could return the form to Preschool as soon as possible. Thank you :)



**June
2018**

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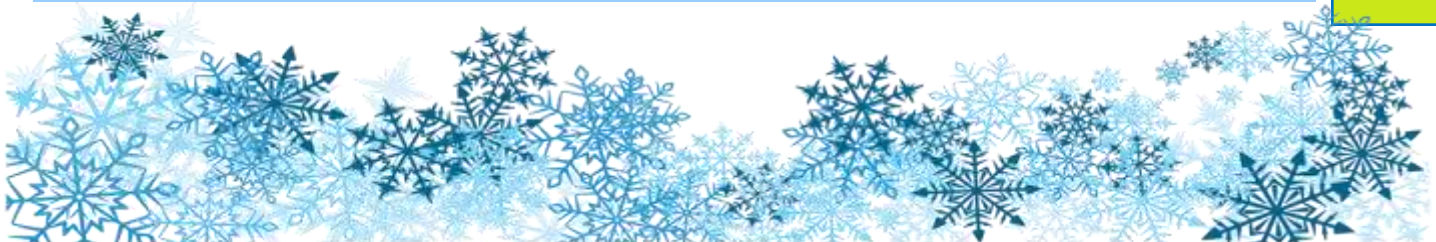


Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas It is good to see everyone back from their holidays and ready for the new term. We have had an interesting time with the holiday program keeping the children busy and engaged, doing special activities that were organised. With a lot of enthusiasm and concentration the Sweetpeas have continued practicing cutting skills with wonderful results and satisfaction. The children are also enjoying music group especially with Nick visiting with his guitar from time to time. It is lovely to watch how otherwise quiet children get involved expressing themselves through singing and doing actions to music and songs. They aren't self-conscious about their ability and most are eager to let their voices roar. They like songs that repeat words and melodies, use rhythms with a definite beat, and ask them to do things. Singing and music play an important role in many aspects of our lives. Exposing children to music stimulates all areas of a child's development, social and emotional, motor and language skills, as well as helping the body and mind work together. Most importantly music is enjoyable and beautiful and provides us with joy.

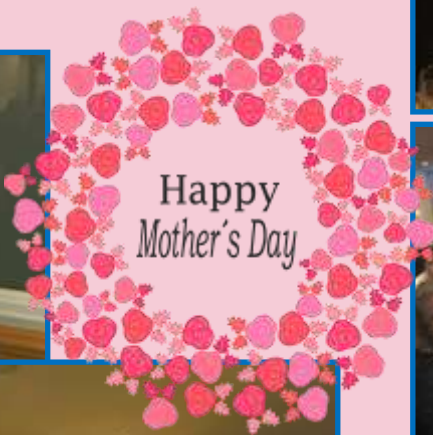
Bluebells: The Bluebells have had another wonderful, busy month. This month we have been talking about road safety, in particular being safe in the car and crossing the road. We have talked about the car seats that we need to be in and the importance of wearing a seatbelt. The children enjoyed some role play using seat belts from our road safety kit and we made cars for adventures to the beach, the shops and holidays! It was fantastic to hear the children talking about how they need to "Click Clack Front and Back". Being safe in our car park is of huge importance to us and we have spent a lot of time talking as a group about how we need to take care in the car park. The children are aware of what they need to do – Saige told us we need to hold Daddy's hand in the car park, Harry S said we need to stay beside our parent and Luca told us we can't play in the car park. However, we need mums and dads to remember this too so please hold your child's hand in the car park and keep them safe beside you. We have been practising crossing the road using the STOP LOOK LISTEN THINK system and this is something you can practice with your child while out walking.

Schoolies: During May we hosted our annual Walkathon where we raise money for the children at Hornsby Hospital by walking around our outdoor environment. Our Walkathon led educators and the children to explore other areas of fundraising. We looked into various fundraising and charity organisations such as; the Smith Family, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the charity bins. We discussed how these organisations help those who need it. The Schoolies were engaged during the conversations and identified ways in which they can and have helped others. Natalie proudly said "My Dad gave his old work shirts away". Alex F said "My Mum gave away old pillows". Thomas suggested "We can give our shoes away". We continued discussing these ideas and suggestions for some time. It was lovely to see and hear the children's passion for helping others.



Mother's Day Dinner

A big thank you to all of our wonderful mums who came to our annual Mother's Day dinner. We hope you enjoyed spending time with friends, making some new friends and having a well-deserved night off. It was a fantastic night full of conversation and laughter.



June Birthdays'

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

Max—5yrs

Oliver-4yrs

Kara— 4yrs

Thomas 5-yrs

Leah— 5yrs

Deon & Adele ???



Happy Birthday



WALK-A-THON



Walking For A Good Cause!

During the week of May 7th the children participated in our annual Walkathon to raise money for the Children's Ward at Hornsby Hospital.

This experience was an important lesson in helping our local community and giving to those less fortunate. The children were great participants as they walked, cheered and held up lap numbers. It was an opportunity for us to show empathy and sportsmanship as we learn to give back.

A big **thank you** for all the wonderful donations we have received, we are currently tallying up your contributions. It's not too late to donate if you haven't already.

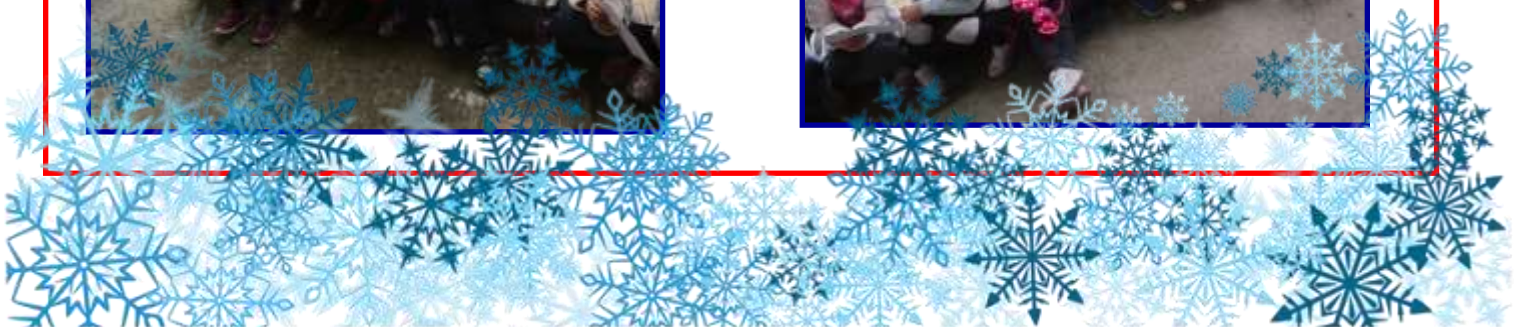


Post Office Excursion 16.5.18

The Schoolies embarked on an excursion to the local Post Office today. Prior to the excursion we all wrote a letter to a loved one ready to mail when we arrived. We discussed postcodes, stamps and the postal system. We were all ready to go as our wonderful parent volunteers arrived. We used our road safety knowledge as we walked to the Post Office, holding hands the whole way.

When we arrived our parent volunteers helped us put stamps on our envelopes and then we were each able to post our letters in the big, red post box. This was a great opportunity and learning experience for the Schoolies as they broadened their understanding of our local community and explored our local surroundings.

A big **thank you** to Kimberly, Lily, Jess, Naomi, Noni and Amie for volunteering to help with the excursion. We appreciate your time and effort.



Morning Tea for Zoe Friday, June 29th @ 9.45am

Please join us for morning tea as we get together to give Zoe a happy send off as she nears the commencement of her maternity leave in early July.



Please bring a small plate to share amongst other parents. The children bring their usual morning tea. The morning tea will conclude at 10.30am.



Schoolies Excursion—Nature Walk and Picnic Monday, July 16th

Information will be coming home to you soon. This excursion will provide the children the opportunity to explore our community. We plan to walk to the park where we will make sure there is no litter to be found as we exercise our knowledge on caring for the environment. We will also collect natural objects we find on the ground to take back to Preschool to make a group collage. After all that activity we will stop and enjoy our morning tea together.



Parents and family, if you are able to come along to help supervise this excursion we would really appreciate it. We only go ahead with excursions if we know every child has an adult hand to hold, so we do rely on your help.

Many thanks.





Policy Review

Our Fees Payment policy is currently under review to ensure it complies with the Regulations as we transition to the new Child Care Subsidy System. It will be displayed at the entry to the Preschool for all to refer to once completed. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Scholastic Book Club



Thank you for the book orders for Issue 3. These have now been delivered and distributed and we hope you are enjoying these stories with your families. The preschool purchased an Aaron Blabey story collection with the rewards from this order and we're sure the children will enjoy these stories about a unicorn, piranhas, a koala and a hedgehog! Issue 4 should be in your communication pockets in the next week or so. Please remember that 20% of everything you order comes back to the preschool as rewards for us to use in the brochure and we deeply appreciate this support which allows us to keep our books and resources up to date.



Care and Concern

Emily and Lara were talking about Melbourne and Lara said that her parent's were going to Melbourne on the weekend. Emily turned to Lara with a concerned look and asked "Who is going to look after you?"



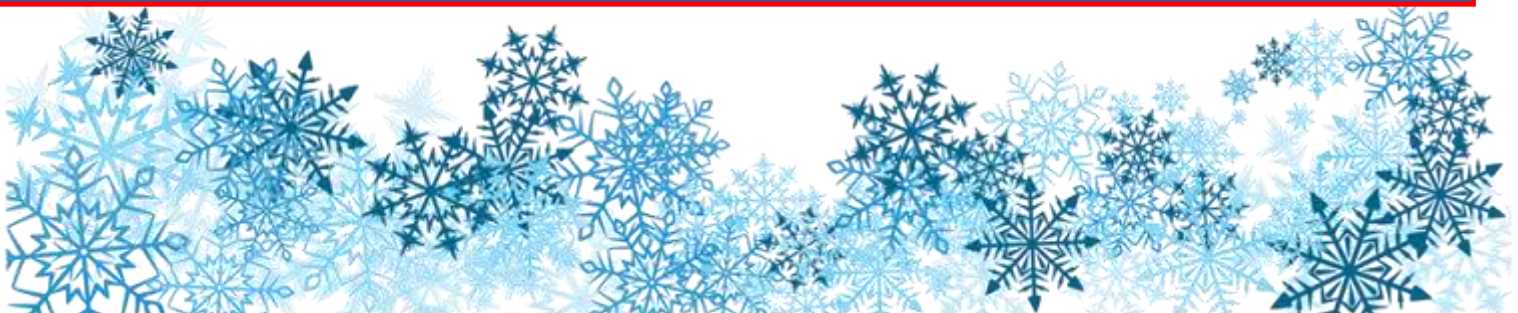
Can you please look to see if you have a Preschool hat at your place?

Recently we have been running out of our spares and were wondering if some were accidentally taken home. Please also remember your child is to bring a hat with them each day even during winter months. On that note, please remember to pack some warm clothes for your children as the days are starting to become chilly morning and afternoon and we look forward to our play times outdoors.



Ink Cartridge Recycling

Did you know we have a recycling box for ink cartridges and photocopier toner? This is situated next to the interactive screen so please feel free to bring in any ink cartridges you wish to recycle.



Phonics Programme

The Schoolies are really enjoying their time visiting Letterland and the characters they meet there.



This week we introduced **Harry Hatman** and the Schoolies practised whispering his special **'H'** sound by placing their **Hand** over their mouth so they could feel the **Hot** breath on their hands.

After this the Schoolies were encouraged to draw their own **Hopscotch** on the pavers. The Schoolies collaborated with one another as they planned and drew their **Hopscotch** to perfection. Some of the Schoolies went one step further and decided to write numbers in each box. Each of the Schoolies spent a considerable amount of time drawing their **Hopscotch**, some being **Huge** and some being small. Once everyone was finished they invited their friends to look and have a turn **Hopping** through each other's **Hopscotch**. The Schoolies thoroughly enjoyed this activity; however, the educators noticed a few of the Schoolies were experiencing difficulties when **Hopping**. Families it would be wonderful if you could do some **Hopping** activities at home to further your child's gross motor skills. For Show and Tell Charlotte brought in **Hungry Hippo's** which the Schoolies had a great time playing during Letterland.



The children were very excited to meet **Munching Mike**, who has a really catchy song that the children are singing at various times of the day at Preschool. He loves eating **Mangos** and drinking **Milk** all day long. We are going to get our bodies **Moving** and blood pumping as we play **Musical** chairs. We will also be making **Maps** and participating in a treasure hunt and explore the rhyme **Mary Had A Little Lamb**.





This month we have done group activities as well as some individual craft work. When the children work on their own it gives me time to have a good chat with them and they are always happy to talk to me about themselves and things going on in their lives, as well as sharing information related to what we are working on.



ANZAC Biscuits: Sorry but there are no photos of the biscuits we made as they were eaten before I thought of taking a photo!! We were lucky to have Oscar's mum Jacqui helping us to put all the ingredients together which made the process a little more organized. If you ever have some spare time the children and I love having you come in to join us for the LE sessions during the holidays.



Road Safety: There were some fantastic cars collaged as we talked about road safety. No two were the same and the children showed great creativity with the materials provided with some asking for specific items to use that were not out.

Pyramids: After the children showed interest in Steph's trip to Egypt we made our own pyramids which looked very similar to the ones in her photos. There were also library books to look at while you waited for your turn, and there was lots of discussion about the pictures in the books that showed us what it was like inside the pyramids, things they put in them and showed us how they think



Walkathon: In groups of three the preschoolers worked wonderfully together to make the lap numbers for our walkathon. We also made streamers to cheer the walkers on as they did their laps.





Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): We are still working through the full review of all quality areas



under the regulation to identify areas where improvements can be made. This is a huge process, but well worthwhile. Coming to light so far is a need to re-write position descriptions for educators as it is time for an update. We are lucky that our educators stay with us for a long time hence the need for review. Another area coming to light is the way in which we ensure our environment is welcoming to different cultures particularly children and families where English is not their first language. We hope to soon be finished our review and share our findings with you.

Dates to Remember!

June 11th

Public Holiday Preschool Closed

August 9th

Transition to School Parent Evening

August 16th

Wildlife Show



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