

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



Sustainability



Mt Colah Preschool has a strong sustainability focus, please feel free to chat to our teachers about our sustainable practices. We encourage the children to recycle craft and paper items no longer useful and when planning activities the teachers look at ways to re-use items we have collected. During the year you may receive a call to action, asking families to save up things like yoghurt cups as we plan special craft projects.

We also love to teach the children about our garden where we grow fruits and vegetables. We have a worm farm which feeds the plants rich nutrients and the children learn which food scraps can go into the worm farm to feed the worms.

Next to the sign in desk we have a recycling bin for all your old printer and toner cartridges. Please feel free to recycle your old cartridges using this bin.

Throughout the year we discuss the importance of recycling and so you may soon find your children sharing this information with you at home!

Safety Concerns

Following on from our email to all families regarding the traffic situation around the Preschool, we again urge you all to slow down and especially keep a look out for pedestrians on entering and exiting the Preschool. We are in the process of placing road signs at the entry driveway to remind drivers to slow down. It goes without saying that we do not want any accidents and as our Preschool day generates traffic, especially at pick up and drop off times, we ask that you take care of each other and of our neighbours.

We are hopeful that our contact with Local Council will benefit traffic flow and safety for all concerned.

Thank you for your support



March 2017

Inside this

Newsletter

Open Day

Teacher Reports

Phonemic Awareness

Health Habits





Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas The Sweetpeas have had a fantastic month and everyone is settling in very well. We are starting to see friendships develop and the teachers are supporting our young friends as they learn the dynamics of these relationships. Thankfully it has been a bit cooler recently and the children are enjoying exploring the Preschool garden. We started our developmental program this past month and the children have been enthusiastic participants so far. We have been working on our colour and shape recognition. We also had some fun practising our ball skills, throwing, catching and kicking! Through our planned developmental time Educators are able to observe the development of each individual child and plan how we can support and challenge their learning. The children are learning so much already through the play activities they are involved in and we will continue to encourage and support this over the year.

Bluebells: The Bluebells are all doing a great job of further settling into the preschool environment. They are showing an understanding around the routines and rules as they become more confident in approaching new situations and friendships. The children have taken a strong interest in our 'Friends' week. Through this we have been discussing the 'Fill Your Bucket' concept. This metaphor encourages children to fill each other's buckets through kindness, helping and inclusion. The Educators have been encouraging positive interactions with our peers, families and friends outside the Preschool environment. We have been acting out role play scenarios and getting the children involved in showing how they are able to treat their friends positively through different situations. It has been fantastic to see the children take on board what they have learnt through this concept and adapt it within the Preschool environment, as we see kindness, empathy and respect in our daily interactions. This metaphor is a great idea to use at home also.

Schoolies: The Schoolies have all started to settle into their Schoolie leadership role. They are doing a wonderful job at unpacking their bags in the morning by placing their morning tea and lunchboxes in the correct baskets. We are trying to encourage all the children to sign-in in the morning to help further develop their name writing skills. The Schoolies really enjoyed and immersed themselves in the weekly interest of 'Sports'. I observed a lot of the children discussing the food that they had in their lunch box and if it was good food to give them energy to run around. Cade said, "Dairy is good for our bones it makes them strong, we have to eat dairy foods so we don't hurt our bones when playing sport". The children suggested different sports they wanted to know more about such as gymnastics, diving and soccer. We also had a close look at our heart and why it beats faster when we are doing physical activity. The children were running around one afternoon then suddenly stopped to feel each other's heart beat and whose was beating the fastest. They are showing great ability to transfer their new found knowledge and incorporating it into play and social interactions.



Enrolments

Dear families, a quick reminder to submit your waiting list form for any younger children you wish to attend Preschool in 2018 or even 2019. You are no doubt aware that we always have a healthy number of enrolments that usually sees all placements booked so it is wise to be on the waiting list as early as possible. If you have any friends in the same situation you may like to let them know!

Open Day

We will be holding an Open Day at Preschool on **Thursday, March 30th from 10am to 12pm.**

The purpose of the Open Day is to invite new families to look around the Preschool and experience the educational environment we provide. It also provides the opportunity for new families to explore any questions they have about starting Preschool, gain understanding around our Philosophy and see how our educational programme is delivered as well as an opportunity to meet our lovely Educators.

If you know anyone who is interested please invite them along.

Many thanks.



March Birthdays'

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

Zoe 3yrs

Oliver 3yrs

Educators

Jo ???

Zoe??





Week of March 6th is Story Time week at Preschool. This is a great week for family participation at Preschool. Please feel free to talk with your Educator about coming in to Preschool

to read a story to the children. You can read a story from our books at Preschool or you are welcome to bring your favourite story from home. We would love to see you!



Scholastic Book Club

Thank you for the orders we received for the last order period. With the commission we earned from this order, the Preschool was able to order a fantastic book set on Life Cycles, a Dinosaur Snap card game and some new CD Stories. Issue number 2 will be out in the next week or so. Placing an order is easy - you can return the form with the payment to Preschool or you can order via the LOOP app.



Getting Bossy!

Elissa asked teacher Zoe "who is the boss of you?" Zoe replied "I don't know.. my mum?" and Elissa said "NO Lara is the boss". Ella chimed in "Yeh Lara is the boss of all the teachers"

Clarifying Show and Tell

There appears to be a little confusion with Show and Tell. Your child will be given the Show and Tell bag to go home and bring Show and Tell back to school generally on **that same day in the next week**. The way to check is to read the card inside the Show and Tell bag which will confirm the day of the **next week** your child has been allocated time for Show and Tell—thank you.





Welcome to our new Newsletter segment—**Healthy Habits**. Each month we will be bringing you health news, tips and suggestions to promote healthy ideas for you and your children to consider and try.

This initiative is to support our Quality Improvement Plan item - *focussing on family and child health*. Today we are talking about healthy food and ask you to reflect on food items packed for your child's morning tea and lunch.

DID YOU KNOW?
Healthy Eating

Healthy snacks for growing children include:

- Fruit and vegetables,
- Dairy such as milk, yoghurt and cheese (reduced fat for over 2 years),
- Wholegrain breads, cereals or crackers.



DID YOU KNOW?
Healthy Eating

A child needs to try a food between 8 and 14 times before they decide if they like it or not! Try to serve the food in different ways to tempt them.



Do you regularly pack pre-packaged foods?

What is the ratio of fresh foods to pre-packaged foods packed for your child?

Have you ever read the full ingredient list on pre-packaged foods?

Lunch Box Questions



From nature or supermarket?

Max brought a cucumber from his garden for Show and Tell. Deon asked him if he grew it in his garden. Before Max could reply, Ashton piped up *"No Deon, he got it from Aldi of course!"*



Building Pre-Literacy Skills

Phonics knowledge is one of the key predictors of later reading success. Without learning this crucial principle, a child would never successfully be able to master speaking and reading words fluently. Prior to starting school and formally learning to read it is important to raise phonemic awareness to support the further development of reading skills.

It is through phonics that a child just beginning to read learns to first identify the letters, then associate each letter or groups of letters with its correct sound, and soon after, through the process of blending they learn how to merge the sounds together to form a complete word. This step, when mastered, will help beginners to become proficient readers. When these are combined together it helps the child decode basic to complex words, articulate new words clearly and correctly, spell the words right, and become adept at reading full sentences, paragraphs and pages smoothly.

For our 4—5 year old Preschooler's who are heading off to school next year, now is the time to introduce them to sounds—create phonemic awareness. The individual letter sounds that we work with over the coming year are really important but also teaching your children nursery rhymes, reading rhyming books such as Cat in the Hat to them regularly, singing and making up funny rhymes and songs are also

other great ways of stimulating their phonemic awareness and boosting their pre-literacy skills. Of course we strongly advocate reading to your child every day and getting them involved with the story through the pictures or answering questions or saying out loud their favourite parts!



Families, you can further support our Fun with Phonics Programme by talking with your child about the sound, asking them to tell you all about the sound character we are focussing on, asking your child to find items in your home environment that start with the focus sound. Involve them in an activity or game at home that may correspond with the sound eg. make a robot from recycled materials and paint it red, in the week we introduce Red Robot!

You will notice with our Fun with Phonics Programme that we have a systematic approach through the use of the Letterland Characters. The Letterland programme does provide us with many great resources that help us introduce the focus sound in a really fun way. As we progress past the introduction phase we adopt an holistic approach and invite the children to involve themselves with the sound via tactile, physical, social, fine and gross motor activities, which also caters for children's different learning styles, to reinforce and expand their knowledge of the sound. Our aim is to have as much fun as possible with the focus sound.

The aim of our phonics programme is to provide our Preschooler's an opportunity to understand and extend their phonemic awareness whereby actively supporting their transition to school, where they formally learn to read.

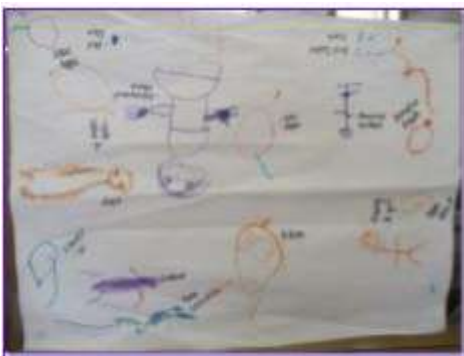


Fun with Phonics

The Schoolies have really enjoyed their introduction to Letterland and meeting their first Letterland Characters, Annie Apple and Sammy Snake. The children have been keen participants in the fun activities linked to each sound and have done a great job identifying and engaging with each sound.



Annie Apple is a clever talking apple who lives in an apple orchard in Letterland. Annie Apple makes the special sound that you can hear at the start of her name. The children loved to hear Annie Apple's Letterland story and sing her song and enjoyed the activities linked to exploring the 'a' sound. The Schoolies especially enjoyed identifying items in our environment and other items they could think of that began with the 'a' sound and did a great job drawing pictures of these items. They also played a great whisper's game where they had to whisper a word to another child that started with the 'a' sound—too much fun!



Sammy Snake proved to be a great favourite with the children. Sammy Snake introduced them to so many words starting with the 's' sound. The children played charades and pretended to be something that started with an 's' sound. Ella and Charlotte acted out a snake and Cade held his arms out pretending to be Superman.



Next we will be meeting Clever Cat and Bouncy Ben.





It is wonderful to see how our new friends have settled at Preschool and are already enjoying Little Endeavours activities, as well as all the wonderful help I receive from the children who have returned for another year.



Already we have:

- Made our Getting to Know You bunting which the children go to during the day to find themselves and their friends. Plenty of chatting as we worked on this and I found out more about the children and their families.
- Created our own dinosaur eggs. All the dinosaurs were very colourful and the Preschoolers loved putting them into the eggs we made from paper plates.
- Made some great patterns while stringing our tennis racquets for sports week – everyone showed great fine motor skills putting the thread through all the punched holes.
- Worked together with our friends to make the wonderful Friendship Tree that hangs now at preschool. All the children showed great patience waiting for their turn to have their hand painted and then had to decide where to put the handprint.



Lots more fun times ahead and I look forward to learning more about your children as we work together.





Quality Improvement Plan (QIP):



Our 2017 focus areas for continuing improvement are: promotion of family and child health, integration of technology within the educational programme and learning outcomes, continued professional development opportunities for educators and continued discovery and review of early childhood theorists. A copy of the updated Quality Improvement Plan will be available at the sign in table from mid March. Please feel free to take a look and pass on any comments or questions you have to our team.

Dates to Remember!

Wednesday March 8th	Excursion to Post Office (Schoolies Only)
Thursday March 30th	Preschool Open Day (New Families to Preschool)
April 10—21st	Holiday Programme
Friday, April 14th	Easter Friday—Preschool Closed
Monday, April 17th	Easter Monday—Preschool Closed
Tuesday, April 25th	Anzac Day—Preschool Closed



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