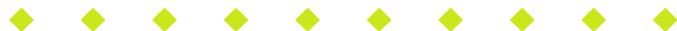


Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



Get Ready Now for the New Child Care Subsidy

Earlier in the year we provided information to you regarding the Child Care Subsidy that comes into effect on 2 July 2018. This new Child Care Subsidy will replace the current Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate.

Important to Know

It's essential that you complete an online assessment to receive the new payment.



The Department of Education and Training is hosting three family information webcasts to help you understand what you need to do to transition to the Child Care Subsidy.

You will be able to ask questions through the live chat functionality.

The sessions will be held at the following times:

- Thursday 19 April 2018 - 7.00pm - 8.30pm AEST
- Thursday 3 May 2018 - 2.30pm - 4.00pm AEST
- Tuesday 15 May 2018 - 8.00pm - 9.30pm AEST

Further information on the New Child Care Package is available at

education.gov.au/childcare

Please go online to register your interest if you would like to participate.



May 2018

Inside this Newsletter

- Living Eggs
- Mother's Day Dinner
- Walkathon





Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas The Sweetpeas have had many new challenges over the past few weeks and they have embraced these with enthusiasm. During our one-on-one developmental times we have been practicing fine motor skills, including pencil grip by doing drawings and tracing our names, as well as scissor skills. This is a new experience for some children and is important as this helps develop small muscles in their hands, hand-eye co-ordination and bilateral co-ordination, using the two sides of the body for the same action. This can be quite challenging trying to co-ordinate left and right hands to work together and hold the scissors correctly without twisting hands. The children have enjoyed these challenges and are determined to master this. We have been practicing cutting play dough and with a lot of concentration have done really well cutting along lines on paper. We will continue developing this skill through the year during craft experiences.

Bluebells: It has been another busy month, made even more exciting by our little chick visitors! The Bluebells loved being able to watch eggs hatch, see the chicks grow then farewell them back to the farm. We enjoyed holding the chicks each day and gave them lots of names. April also saw the Commonwealth Games take place. What does the Commonwealth mean? We discovered the many different countries that make up the Commonwealth, some we knew of and some we had never heard of – we found these on our globe. We spent some time learning about the different sports that take place at the games and we learned that some sports need special protection equipment such as mouth guards, shin pads etc. We had lots of fun trying out our own events such as races, long jump, gymnastics and we even tried beach volleyball with balloons! It was exciting to talk about the medals each day and add medals to our tally – we ran out and had to make some more! We also talked about sportsmanship and how it is important to cheer on our friends which helps fill their buckets and we were lucky enough to be able to watch some events live on our interactive screen. It was a very exciting time!

Schoolies: Wow term one is nearly over and what a fantastic year it has been! The Schoolies have had a great start to the year and have all enjoyed getting to know each other and their educators where lovely and trusting attachments have been formed (EYLF, Lo.1). The Schoolies social skills have really progressed these past few months where they are confident and able to express themselves in large group scenarios and at times even directing group time with their own ideas and interests. The Schoolies ideas have led us to explore the weather. In particular where rain comes from, how and why thunderstorms and lightning occur? We were able to link this to our sustainability focus as we explained the process of rain and how it is a precious commodity (EYLF, Lo.2). We are all so proud of the way the Schoolies look out for our Sweetpeas and Bluebells and even teach them a few things with Sophie W saying "Don't waste water" to one of our younger Sweetpeas.



WALK-A-THON



Week of May 7th (will be postponed if wet - fingers crossed!)

Understanding that everyone, no matter how old or small can make a difference in somebody else's life, is what our Walkathon is all about!

Each year the Preschool organises a couple of fundraising events. The purpose of these events are for the children to actively participate in fun ways to raise some money, so they can learn about helping others. We spend time during the week of the Walkathon to talk with the children about the many different ways they can help others and participating in the Walkathon is just one of them.

All monies raised by the children, during our fundraiser, are donated to the children's ward at Hornsby Hospital, to help provide care for sick children in our community. We will be holding our Walkathon in the week of May 8th and you will receive a note with the details. Please see your teacher if you have any questions.



May Birthdays'

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

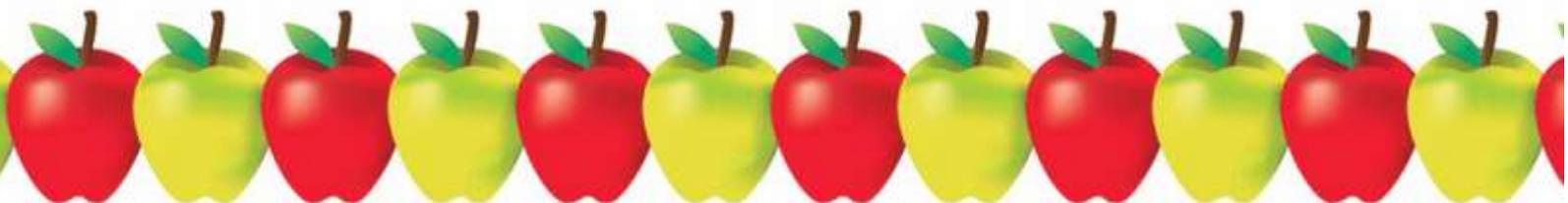
Sophie—5yrs

Harry K—4 yrs

Mahlia—4yrs

Saige—4yrs

Harry S—4 yrs



Mothers Day Dinner - Thursday, May 10th

Information is being sent home to all families inviting our mums to get together to celebrate Mother's Day. We look forward to seeing you at the dinner. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Thank you!



Scholastic Book Club

Thank you for the orders received last term. With the commission from these orders, we were able to buy some Easter books, books about looking after our planet, books about sharing and a very popular PJ Masks story! The new leaflets for Term 2 should be in your communication pockets in the next week or two.



Asthma and Anaphylaxis Policy—This policy has recently been reviewed and changes have been made. As per the existing policy all children who require an epipen must provide one to the Preschool on their days of attendance. In the updated policy, parents of children with anaphylaxis have been asked to sign a new health plan that now approves the administration of their child's epipen to another child in distress in the event that the epipen provided by the other child is inactive or if ambulance personnel instruct another dose. Both children will then be taken to Hospital by ambulance as a precaution.



Manners Maketh Man!

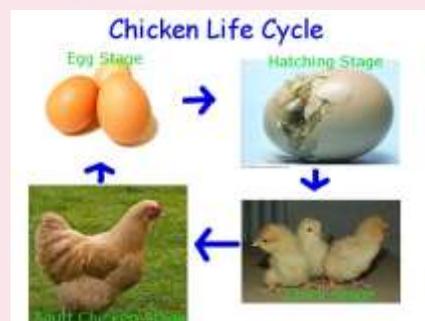
It is important to teach your child good manners. It provides them with much confidence in social situations. At Preschool we consistently encourage the children to use their manners.

Top 5 manners to teach little children:

1. *When asking for something say "please"*
2. *When receiving something, say "thank you"*
3. *If you need someone's attention right away use the phrase "excuse me"*
4. *Say kind things about other people or nothing at all*
5. *When you are not sure about doing something ask permission first.*



So Much to Learn from our Chicken Friends!



We had such a great time caring for and learning about our 'Living Eggs'. The children eagerly awaited their arrival and were so excited once they started hatching. We noticed how the chicks were all different colours and sizes which allowed the children to name a few, we had Fluffy, Goldie and Jack. What a special treat it was to hold and care for our baby chicks. We learnt so much about the chicks using a hands on approach and also by reading stories about life cycles and researching what chicks like to eat. Everyone sadly said their goodbyes and wished them well when it was time for them to leave.



Phonics Programme

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



This fortnight the Schoolies met **Dippy Duck** who lives by the pond in Letterland. He makes the special sound 'D'. It is such a beautiful pond that **D**ogs, **D**eer's and **D**onkeys come along to have a play. The Schoolies' enjoyed using the Letterland software programme to do an activity where they employed their sound recognition skills. They had to listen to five different sounds and then had to identify the sound only **Dippy Duck** makes. The Schoolies' noticed that **d**ancing starts with **Dippy Duck's** special sound, so we utilised **d**ancing as an opportunity to incorporate physical activity into our Letterland programme, further strengthening our gross motor skills.



Over the Holiday Programme we will be reviewing all of the sounds we have learnt this term. So we will go back and visit Sammy Snake, Annie Apple, Clever Cat, Bouncy Ben and of course Dippy Duck. We will be singing songs, playing games and reading books to further our sound recognition skills. Various Letterland songs can be found on YouTube. Please feel free to practice singing the songs with your children at home and doing activities relating to the character's sound, as the best way to learn is *repetitive fun!*





In Little Endeavours this month we have done a variety of activities from baking to craft to gardening and had many great experiences together.



Living Eggs – To celebrate our chickens that had hatched we iced cupcakes to look like chickens. As they worked the children told me about the chicks hatching and how they held them and looked after them. They also showed their great icing skills.



Pyjama Day – We should all sleep well after making our dream catchers. Apart from looking good they will catch all our bad dreams. All the children showed how well their fingers work as they threaded the wool through the punched holes.



Pirates and Princesses – After coffee staining our paper (I heard how many of our parents love to drink coffee!!) we made our own treasure maps which were then used during the Treasure Hunt. After following the clues real treasure was found in the sandpit!



Earth Day – What a fantastic time we had outside celebrating Earth Day. We planted a new vertical garden with succulents and flowers and then added more plants to our sensory garden. We now have more to look at, smell, touch and feel and the children loved talking about working in their gardens at home.





Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): We regularly review all our policies and procedures, at least annually, to ensure they are current, meet regulation and continue to be meaningful. Included in our monthly newsletters from now on will be communication highlighting any policy that has undergone a change as a result of policy review. Earlier in this newsletter you will read about the changes we have made to our Anaphylaxis Policy. Please feel free at any time to talk with educators about any of our policies. All Preschool policies can be located at the sign in desk and you are free to access them at any time.



Dates to Remember!

May 7– 11th	Walkathon (please return notes as soon as possible)
May 10th	Mother's Day Dinner
May 16th	Post Office Excursion for Schoolies
June 11th	Public Holiday Preschool Closed



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