

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dear Families,

Can you believe we are at the end of the year! The educators are all so amazed at how far the children have come this year. We have seen growth and progress in all aspects of their development. The educational team know how important it is to extend their knowledge and ideas, challenge their thinking and develop their social and emotional skills in a safe and caring environment. It is our greatest privilege to be working with your children in this wonderful environment.

A big farewell to our Schoolies who are starting the next chapter of their life. We are so proud of how far you have come, the wonderful relationships you have built, the kindness you display and your ability to collaborate and work together. Also to the families who will be leaving us this year, and have been part of our Preschool family for many years, we will miss you!

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.

To my amazing team—the passion, enthusiasm and dedication you continue to display is truly extraordinary. You show up everyday and continue to go above and beyond. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them so much for the caring and stimulating learning environment they provide each and everyday.

On behalf of the teaching team, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe and relaxing break.

 Lara



Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



November and December in Review 2023

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Our Preschool Programme in Review

Sweetpeas: It's that time of year again when we all say, 'Where did it go?' The Sweetpeas have come such a long way since starting preschool at the beginning of the year. What I love most about being an educator is witnessing all the amazing changes in these little people. From shy beginnings they have all grown and accomplished so much. Firstly and most importantly they have learned to be away from parents which may take time. I have watched new friendships grow as the children have learned to interact with kindness. It has been great to see children, with big smiles on their faces acquire skills which they thought they could not do. With practice the Sweetpeas are learning to be independent, but not afraid to ask for help, as they manage bathroom routines, pack away belongings, wash hands and apply sunscreen. We still have so many fun exciting things to do together over the coming weeks. Thank you all for our special times together and for the affection you all so readily share with us. I look forward to visiting with you all from time-to-time next year.

Wishing you all happy holidays and a safe return.

The greatest gifts we can give our children, are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence – 'Author unknown



Bluebells:

In the blink of an eye, here we are at the end of 2023, and what a year we have had! Bluebells, we have had a great year together and we are so proud of how far you have come over these last few months. Everyone participated in Mini Moves this year, developing some amazing fundamental movement skills. Do you remember how tricky you found hopping at the start of the year? Look how well you can do it now! You have all made some lovely friends and your educators love to see the games you play when you are together. You have become more confident in your learning, developing some new skills along the way and working hard at the things that haven't always come easy. We have enjoyed lots of fun events at preschool this year, such as our Walkathon, the chicks coming to visit, the Reptile show and a drumming workshop. Bluebells, we know you are going to love being Schoolies and we can't wait to share this exciting next step with you. Merry Christmas Bluebells!

Schoolies:

What a busy month it has been for all of our amazing schoolie children. So many big events and activities have taken place in the lead up to their graduation and final weeks of preschool. It is now time to celebrate all of our amazing children on all their efforts as they graduate and embark on their new adventures. The Schoolies have learnt so much about one another and themselves and they have been preparing for their next big chapter 'Big School'. Over the year the Schoolies have had many interests including construction, dramatic play, sensory exploration, physical activity, and lots of outdoor exploration. Over the year the children have been working one on one with their educators to accomplish their goals. They have all demonstrated their inquisitive personalities throughout discovery times by requesting to research so many different topics of interest. It has been such a pleasure to assist and support you all throughout the year and allowing us witness the milestones you have reached since the beginning of 2023. We wish each and every one of you all the very best at school and look forward to you popping back in for a chat or a cuddle every now and then. Families, it has been a pleasure getting to know you and sharing this very exciting time in your child's life working collaboratively with you in preparation for your child to head off to big school. Merry Christmas everyone and we hope you have wonderful break and a Happy New Year!



What an exciting day. It was lovely to see how you all enjoyed this experience as you interacted and contributed thoughts and ideas. A duck, chicken, cow, sheep and goat were some of the animals we met and the farmer told us some interesting facts about them. The best part of the day was when it was time to get up close with the animals in the pen. It was so lovely to watch you all listening to instructions as you quietly touched the animals very gently. Some children were not too sure about this and stood back watching for a while, but it looked like so much fun and they soon found courage to give it a go. We couldn't have been prouder of the way you all showed respect by listening as the farmer gave instruction and talked about the animals. Before we knew it our time was up and we all said goodbye to the animals and thanked the farmers for a wonderful day.

This experience was a great opportunity for the children to transfer their knowledge from our Discovery times and interact with living things.



Kindifarm continued..



Nursery Rhyme Week

November 13th

In November, we participated in World Nursery Rhyme Week, exploring the literacy concept of rhyme, while having some fun with nursery rhymes. World Nursery Rhyme Week focuses on 5 well known nursery rhymes and this year, they were: Jack & Jill, Hickory Dickory Dock, Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes, Row Row Row Your Boat and Wheels On The Bus. The children quickly identified the rhyming words they could hear, and we explored what other words rhymed. Not only did we discover rhyming, we also investigated different clocks from Hickory Dickory Dock and we discovered what a well was, from Jack & Jill. We had a lot of fun with the song Down By The Bay, hearing funny rhyming and making up our own, as well as learning nursery rhymes in different languages, including Auslan. The children were also able to use technology as they used the iPad to identify rhyming words via a rhyme game. Hearing and using rhyme, rhythm and repetition helps children develop early literacy skills, and we encourage you to sing some nursery rhymes with your children today!



Big School Week 27th November

During Big School Week, we were very lucky to have special visits from Mt Colah Public School and St Patrick's Catholic School. The children were very excited about seeing some familiar teachers that they had recently met during their Kindistart. During the MCPS visit, Ms Behrens and Ms Davidson joined us as well as two familiar students Judah and Scarlett. Ms Behrens read Starting School while discussing the school canteen and library, uniforms, school bags, excursions, playground areas and assemblies. The children then posed their curious questions to help settle their uncertainties.

On Wednesday, we had a visit from St Patrick's with principal Mr VT and two of our former students Anabelle and Maddie. We learnt more about sport, lining up, what to pack in your school bag, learning to read and write, why you need to go to the school office, bubblers and buddies! So many questions and information covered today!

A big thank you to the wonderful schools who visited and supported our preschoolers with their transition to school!



Christmas Concert and Party

December 8th

The day of the Christmas Concert had finally arrived... after weeks of rehearsals it was time to perform for our families.

The children all did a wonderful job, singing and doing all the actions. So good in fact that they got a special gift from Santa who delivered them all presents.

After the concert the children had their own disco party with 'Bop Til You Drop'. They showed off their dancing and singing abilities once more and enjoyed a yummy morning tea thanks to our families.

Such a successful day full of love, fun and community :)



Christmas Concert and Disco



Schoolies Graduation

14th December

A BIG CONGRATUALIONS TO OUR GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023

We celebrated our wonderful Schoolies with a special Graduation. We are so proud of the enthusiastic learners they have become, the wonderful friendships they have made and their zest for life. We wish them all the best in their next chapter!



Adele's Retirement Morning Tea

We celebrated our wonderful Adele's retirement with a special morning tea. We are so grateful for what Adele does for our Preschool, she is kind, caring, nurturing and thoughtful. The children, families and team have been so lucky to have her play an important part in their lives.

We hope that she can now take time to relax, travel and spend more time with family. We are glad that this isn't goodbye and we look forward to still having Adele help us out at Preschool.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING ADELE!





Phonemic Awareness Programme



The children enjoyed exploring the /g/ sound with Golden Girl! This included exploring gold through treasure hunts, stories and educational clips. We even sprayed our hair green and gold. The children used the smartboard to practise writing the letter g in the air. They also used gold materials to create collages with.



As we learnt about the /e/ sound, we were set on an /e/ word challenge, reaching 35 words by the end of the fortnight. Not only did this support the children's ability to produce the /e/ sound but also broadened their vocabulary. We created Elmer Elephant collages and elephants with party blower trunks (sorry Mums and Dads).

For our last sound of the year, the children were introduced to Uppy Umbrella for the /u/ sound. With Uppy Umbrella, we explored under the sea creatures and everything underground. We also talked about what sounds the children will explore at big school.



Little Endeavours with Jo

Another year has flown by and the preschoolers and I have enjoyed our time this year as we worked together on LE activities. We learnt and practiced skills that mean when the children start school they are ready for the challenges – and the bonus is we have had so much fun and made so many messes. Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children. Sadly I farewell the Schoolies, but know they are prepared and ready for the next stage in their education.

Cooking—Our cooking experiences created great discussion in 'From Farm to Fork' week as we talked about all the ingredients and where they originated, with the preschoolers sharing information they had learnt in Discovery Time. They transferred what they had learnt in other cooking experiences and used math skills as we measured ingredients, collaborated as we added and mixed the batter, checked we had followed the recipe - showing they understood the relationship between the written words and what we were doing.



Creative Recycling – Our recycling bin was overflowing with donations from families so we emptied it out onto the mat and the preschoolers let their imaginations run wild as they created wonderful sculptures. Through this task they applied a wide variety of thinking strategies to build their models, and to solve any problems that occurred in the process.



Little Endeavours with Jo

Eddy the Elephant – It was great to see how the preschoolers' fine motor cutting skills had developed over the year as they cut out their elephant face showing their emerging autonomy, and they confidently communicated with me if they needed assistance. With encouragement they persisted with the task showing pride in their work when they had finished.



Graduation Hats – Each year we make the Schoolies graduation hats that they can keep. As we worked together the preschoolers confidently expressed their ideas, feeling and understandings about school next year, showing they are effective communicators.



SUSTAINABILITY



Return and Earns final tally for 2023:

We are pleased to share that we have raised \$145.40 which will all be donated towards the chosen association Diabetes Australia.

Thank you to all have donated your unwanted plastics and cans towards this great cause.

The Diabetes Australia Research Program supports and develops outstanding diabetes research in Australia. They do this by funding a range of grants across the full spectrum of diabetes research through a merit based, competitive, peer review process. Research projects can focus on prevention, management of diabetes or the cure for diabetes.

2023 Sustainable Highlights:

We have had a very successful year with many sustainable experiences embedded into our program. The children have loved getting their hands dirty and assisting the educators and our green thumb Janet, with the garden maintenance and growing/harvesting lots of fresh produce. The bread bag donations were another part of our successful year we had, as they all earned our preschool a variety of new resources for the children's development.





Preschool Accounts

Your final account for 2023 has been distributed and all final payments were due Friday December 8th. Please ensure that your account is now up to date and there is no money owing.

Could everyone, especially for those leaving Preschool, please stop any automatic fee payments you may have set up to avoid your account going into credit. Overpayment of fees by returning children will be retained as a credit in your account for 2024.

Please note that our daily fee for 2024 will be \$111.

December Birthdays

A big Happy Birthday to all of our children having a birthday this month!



Jack—4 years
Vaughn—5 years
Rory—5 years
Harvey—6 years



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Christmas 2023 Mt Colah Uniting

Cnr Amaroo and Pacific Hwy

Christmas Eve 5pm–6pm

Kids Carols with a visit from
Santa on a Fire Truck

Christmas Day 9am

Family Service



Come and
give the RFS
Santa your
wish list and
get a photo

It's all about
community

