

Mt Colah Preschool Kindergarten



a caring place to learn and grow



URGENT NOTICE

Dear Families

We no longer have any **Show and Tell Bags** at Preschool! They may be hiding at your place. Could we please ask everyone to check at home and if you find one, please return to Preschool as soon as possible.

Thank you!

Teacher Training

Recently the teachers attended a training workshop entitled "Move to Learn". This workshop shared the importance of physical movement in brain development and in particular special movements that assist the integration of primitive reflexes. The integration of primitive reflexes is important in supporting children's development and school readiness. We have ordered some resources to enable us to further research and understand this important area of development, with a view to integrating the exercises within our educational programme next year. We look forward to sharing more information with you over coming months and into next year.



**November
2016**

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Our Preschool Programme Past Month in Review

Sweetpeas: Wow, October went fast! We are now heading into November and the countdown to the end of the year celebrations have begun! There is a lot of excitement over the Christmas concert so keep an eye out for information regarding this. We would love to see you there. This month, one of the activities the Sweetpeas participated in was working with a friend to complete a puzzle. The task encouraged the children to work together to achieve a result. To effectively complete the task, the children had to talk to each other and more importantly, listen to each other. Some children got started on the task independently without paying much attention to the other child. However, when they found a piece of puzzle that was proving a bit tricky to place, they sought the help of the other child and this encouraged the working together element of the task. This supports Lev Vygotsky's theory of *More Knowledgeable Other* which tells us that children's problem solving can be influenced by more capable peers. You will probably see examples of this at home watching your child interact with older brothers and sister, cousins, bigger kids at the park etc. Please feel free to come for a chat if you would like to talk about your child's development.

Bluebells: Doesn't time go by when you're having fun. The Bluebells have been working on their social skills, gross motor skills and language and literacy. We have also started practicing our Christmas songs for our Christmas Concert which will be here before we know it. The Bluebells took a strong interest in Creepy Crawlies week. We have our very own silk worms at Preschool which the children have been learning about and looking after. We explored their lifecycle, what they eat and how they make their cocoons. One afternoon there were two moths in the Preschool. I overheard some of the Bluebells discuss how the silk worm would have weaved its cocoon and stayed in their 2-3 weeks, then spread its wings to break the cocoon and came out as a moth.. They then discussed how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly and how they differ. Thank you to the parents who are bringing in the mulberry leaves for our little silk worm friends to eat!

Schoolies: Wow, this year has just flown by! We are now in Term 4, which is a big Term for our Schoolies who are growing up so fast. The Schoolies are participating in a new arrival routine as we further prepare them for their transition to big school next year. In the morning the Schoolies bravely say "bye" outside the gate to their Mum, Dad or another family member or in Madison's case say "Mum you can't come in" and leave their equally courageous family member outside the gate. While the Schoolies go on to sign in, find their name tag, choose a locker and un-pack their belongings. Of course their teacher's are nearby to offer support and encouragement; however the Schoolies are doing such a great job by themselves and we stand back and admire their new found independence and confidence. Well done Schoolies we couldn't be prouder 😊. The Schoolies have done a wonderful job during this week's language and literacy task where they were invited to play the barrier game. The Schoolies have demonstrated fantastic communication and listening skills while confidently directing and instructing their partner. Great job everyone!!



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, 2nd December**. 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. A note will be coming home to you shortly with all the information about times and how to RSVP!



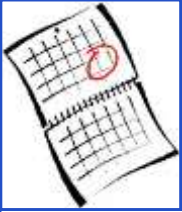
How Full is Your Bucket? Recently we have introduced a story 'How Full is your Bucket' to all our preschool children. The Bucket is a metaphor that encourages the filling of another's bucket through kindness and helpfulness. Throughout the Preschool and all other elements of the children's lives, we endeavour to create a welcoming and loving atmosphere between all our children, family members and the community. We have read stories that further the children's positive interactions and understanding of The Bucket, continuously talk about it during group time and have the children identify when someone has been kind or thoughtful filling another person's bucket, to which everyone claps and applauds in support. The children have responded really positively to this and constantly approach their teachers' and share their bucket filling experiences. Parmis often approaches a teacher and says "Nena filled my bucket" or "I filled her bucket because I said she could play". Alex hugs his teachers then announces "I filled your bucket". We will continue with "The Bucket" concept for the rest of the year. If you have any questions please ask a teacher or your child. And feel free to use The Bucket metaphor at home.

Creative Art Fundraiser



The children have been really enjoying creating their fantastic masterpieces, we hope you enjoy viewing these upon completion. The children are very proud of their artworks and have built a very good understanding of why they are making them and the difference they are making to our community. Thank you again to our families for supporting our initiative this year and encouraging your child to think of others. Sales have been going well, please see your teacher as soon as possible if you would like to purchase your child's artwork.





Preschool Accounts

Your final account for 2016 will be distributed mid November with all payments due by Friday December 2nd. This account will include all fees up until our closing day of December 16th. It will also include the refund of the \$100 holding deposit to those families whose children are heading off to school next year. Therefore, could we please remind everyone to keep a close eye on their accounts over coming weeks to ensure that all payments are up to date and for those leaving Preschool, please consider stopping any automatic fee payments you may have set up to avoid your account going into credit, especially considering the refund of your holding deposit.

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.

Out of the mouth of babes....

After working in the veggie patch, Jo told the children they needed to wash their hands really well. Matilda then responded *"We would say thoroughly"*.



Ethan and Michael were having a chat and Ethan said *"Don't worry son"*, Michael looking a bit perplexed told him *"I'm not your son"*.

School Readiness Tips to Assist Independence

Tips to help your child gain independence during meal times at School:

- Buy an easy to open lunch box and put their name on for easy identification
- Put a small snip in the corner of museli bars etc, for easy opening
- Open the twist tops on the squeeze yoghurt tops - makes it so easy for children to open later
- Make sure glad wrap is easy to open
- Talk to your child about how they are managing their meals at school - ask them where they need help
- Above all remember to pack healthy food to keep them going through a busy day!





We had lots of fun in Little Endeavours during the School Holiday Programme



- There was slime everywhere and everyone had their hands in it! Lots of discussion between the children on how it felt.
- Our sunflower seeds are planted and will hopefully grow so they can be planted at home.
- Very ornate fairy and wizard wands were made and some children tried them out by casting spells on me.
- No two pairs of tie dyed socks are the same and some of us have already worn them to preschool. Thanks to Parmis's mum for helping out on this day.
- We are now in Term 4 and have already:
 - Made our own thumbprint cookies.
 - Created spider webs with a spider on them.
 - Replanted the veggie patch.

In all these activities the preschoolers' have a great time while practicing many skills and extending their knowledge that will help them with school readiness. They are all much more confident and independent than they were at the start of the year, and happily help each other during Little Endeavour sessions.



Big School Week!

28th November — 1st December

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 preschooler's stories.**



The teacher also introduces our children to a book called “Big School”. This book was produced in collaboration between local schools and local prior to school services and offers the preschooler's a great 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

Scholastic Book Club

Thank you for all the orders this issue. These have been placed and we expect our box of books to arrive next week. If you have placed an order and would rather your child not see it when it arrives, please let us know and we'll keep it hidden! Christmas is coming and books always make a great gift. Watch out for the next issue coming soon. ***Thank you for your continued support of the book club!***



November Birthdays'

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

Ben 5 yrs

Heath 4 yrs

Joshua 4 yrs

Anurina 4 yrs



fun with phonics

It's been another busy month for our Phonics Programme

During the holiday programme we did some revision of all our Term 3 sounds. We used the software programme to sing along to each characters song, listen to their story and practice writing their letter formation in the air. The children have done a great job of remembering words that begin with our chosen letter and the song to go along with it. We also used the software programme to play some fun activities which included looking at five different images and selecting the one that begins with the appropriate sound.

It's hard to believe we are in Term 4 now.

We were introduced to **Talking Tess** first up.

The children enjoyed various activities around this sound. We had games of charades where each child was asked to stand in the middle of the circle and act out something that begins with T. We saw tigers, Transformers and tea pots.

The Schoolies were also encouraged to pair up and use their bodies to form a capital T or lower case t. Everyone did a great job with this activity and had lots of laughs!

Next we are meeting **Walter Walrus** and **Golden Girl**.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.





Excursion to the Plant Bug

Wednesday 19th October

The Schoolies had a fantastic trip to the local nursery. Each group was given a vegetable or herb that they were to find and purchase for the preschool veggie patch and we planted these with Jo this week. This included snow peas, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, basil and more. The children enjoyed exploring the nursery looking at the variety of flowers and plants on offer.

A BIG THANKYOU to our wonderful parent helpers for their assistance – Nat, Fred, Kate, Jenny, Ruth, Brett, Simone, Sarah and Fariba.



Quality Improvement Plan (QIP):

Holding hands on entering and leaving the Preschool and taking care in the carpark has been a focus for all at Preschool this year. Recently we have had a couple of near misses as drivers are entering the driveway and coming around the first corner a little too fast.



Please reduce your entering speed to under 10km per hour and be an alert driver, watching out for our precious little people.

Many thanks.

Dates to Remember!

2nd November -	Kindifarm incursion
21st -24th November -	Orientation Week
28th Nov- 1st Dec-	Big School Week
2nd December -	Preschool Christmas Party
16th December -	Last Day of Preschool

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

Email: annette@freelancer.net.au

www.mtcolahpreschool.com.au