



REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL LINDFIELD NEWSLETTER



REDDAM
ELS

2ND DECEMBER 2016

Beryl's Message

By Beryl Cappello, Principal

Reddam Lindfield are now celebrating 20 weeks in operation. What a wonderful and amazing journey we have had so far. We have a fantastic team of teachers and educators who are dedicated to the play, learning and development of each and every child. We have families who have entrusted their children to us and show pride and interest in their children's achievements. Then we have our children bright, intelligent and ready to take on all the challenges Reddam has to offer.

We are very lucky to have the opportunities we have and I know our families work hard to be able to give their children the very best. However it is at this time of year that our hearts go out to those children and families who need a little extra cheer and hope during the coming holiday season.

The Westmead Children's Hospital is the largest paediatric centre in NSW and they specialise in treating seriously ill children. This Christmas many children will be spending their time in a hospital bed. Families separated, and with huge hospital bills and administration costs some will be unable to buy presents for their children.

Reddam Lindfield would like to be able to play a small part in making a seriously ill child feel the love that we share with our children here at school and at home. We are asking all families to help us be a part of the Christmas Giving. We ask you to bring a present in for a seriously ill child, a toy, a book, or a cash donation. If you could bring these into school at our "End of year celebration" on Wednesday 7th December 2016, we will ensure they reach the children in time. Alternatively you can leave it in the office prior to this date.

Please take the time to talk to your child about the gift giving process and how they are helping someone else to feel happy, and supported. Maybe they can even be involved in buying the gift and bringing it along to school.

The hospital has asked that when donating items we ensure the following guidelines are considered.

- All gift must be new and in original packages
- No toy guns or weapons
- No glass items
- If toys need batteries please ensure they are supplied
- No need to wrap anything, as toys need to be matched with appropriate age, stage children and staff will do this.

If you are not able to supply a present perhaps you would like to supply paper and tape to accompany the gifts. All donations will be welcome by a child who maybe too ill to leave hospital this Christmas.

Thanking you in advance for your support and love.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

This is the time of year when we celebrate the love and appreciation of those around us. We hope you can join us.

Time: 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Place: Here at school

Stage 1

By Leonie, Rujuita and Lauren

Over the last week Stage 1 has had the pleasure to share their classroom with 2 furry friends our two little ducklings. Only 3 weeks old these ducks have been teaching the children how to be gentle and kind. The teachers have been modelling respect, care and appreciation for these animals. Teaching children to respect nature is so important, experiences such as this help increase their knowledge and understanding living creatures. Stage 1 have been so excited to have them in their class.

A sense of security and sound wellbeing gives children the confidence to experiment and explore especially with an animal they may not of encountered. Developing this competency, touching and feeling makes them become an active and involved participant in their own learning.

These two little ducks have brought about the ability to associate from one context to another. Stage one have been singing 5 Little Ducks, being able to sing the song and now also see them means the song has more meaning. They sing with exciting as the transfer knowledge to real life. When the ducks hear the children make a "quack,

quack" sound the ducks become a alert and they so show interest in the song and the children.

We have been exploring many animal sounds for the last 2 weeks and hearing the Duck sound and seeing our Ducks making the sound has reinforced knowledge and understanding. The ducks have allowed us to have spontaneous teachable moments as well as Intentional teachable moments. There has been a lot of gently holding and soft patting. We have played with them inside and outside. The children have helped bath them, clean their house, change their water and provide them with food.

We also realised last week that our ducks like to paint. They use their feet to paint and make wonderful "duck prints." The children enjoyed watching them paint and mixing colours as the ran across the page.

Stage1 and looking forward to celebrating with their families next week at our "end of year celebration." Hope you can all come along, be prepared to come and play and have fun with your child.



Stage 1: Photo Gallery



Stage 2

By Rochelle & Tracy

With the festive season upon us, the children have been very interested in this area over this last week. In the past few days, we have overheard a number of our children singing Christmas carols and talking about Santa and presents. It is a very exciting time for the children and we absolutely love their enthusiasm and the excitement that has taken over our room.

With their emerging interests in mind, we have begun focusing on Christmas. We have had a number of group times where we have discussed Santa, all things the festive season and reading a number of Christmas stories. Some of our children have also begun stating what they are going to ask Santa to bring them. It is all very exciting! The children have also enjoyed making their own Christmas craft over the last week. We have made and decorated Christmas baubles, created our own Christmas trees and even worked on a special gift we have for our families to hand out at our "End of year celebration" on Wednesday next week. We can't wait to show you what the children have been up to!

While Christmas is very much a fun learning area as we lead into December, we have still continued to focus on our provocation. The science experiments we conducted with the rain and clouds last week were very popular amongst the children and have continued to carry this into our learning this week. This week we have prepared a number of experiences for the children to continue

enjoying, as they look further into rain and rain clouds. The children have approached this area with excitement and engaged in an experience where they have been encouraged to use their fine motor skills by picking up cotton wool, or "clouds" using tongs and placing this into a pool of blue water. They have then been challenged to pick up the wet wool and watch the rain as it falls from the clouds. This experience has been challenging for many children as they develop their hand / eye co-ordination. It has also enabled them to develop an awareness of how things change when they use resources in a certain way.

We have also continued to enjoy standing under our umbrellas and wearing our raincoats/gumboots as we have participated in our continued rain experience.

Continuing from our shaving cream experience last week, this week we used the shaving cream in a sensory manner. We mixed a variety of colours together on a table, creating secondary colours, whilst also experimenting with the feelings and textures of the cream. Oozing through their fingers, the children loved getting creative with this messy experience. We took this opportunity to take part in a spontaneous art experience encouraging the children to draw patterns and shapes in the cream. They also had blast creating their own rain clouds and raindrops.



Stage 2: Photo Gallery



Stage 2: Photo Gallery



Stage 2: Photo Gallery



Stages 3 and 4

By Pauline

Many of the children in Stage 3 & 4 have been talking about Christmas. Some have already received early Christmas presents. They talk about how they are going to spend Christmas. Some will be going camping with family, some will be on a cruise and some are very excited to see what Santa is going to bring them. Not all children in the group celebrate Christmas and we have spoken about this during our morning group times. We are learning to respond to each other's choices with respect and understand diversity. This is a great opportunity encourage appreciation of others and demonstrate awareness of the world around them.

Even if we are different and have different beliefs we can still explore the cultures of others and get excited at what we see. It is difficult not to get excited when we notice all the Christmas decorations in the shops. With the excitement the children have begun to make their own Christmas craft. As we do this we relate it back to our provocation "How things change."

This week while hunting for a branch to make a Christmas Tree the children were very excited to discover our larger playground climbing equipment in another area of our school. As we set off as a group to look for a branch one of the child looked up and shouted "A playground!" After that, all the children started running towards the playground climbing onto the equipment as soon as they reached it. They totally forgot about the branch we had come to find. Demonstrating

they have increased awareness of the world around them and are able to make choices independently.

The climbing equipment was a bit challenging for a few of our children. However they took on board and recognised their own challenges and all persisted even when their first attempts were not successful. Within a short period they were all confidently climbed and walked along the equipment. Since this day, the children have been asking to go again to the playground. It is lovely to see them being autonomous and developing their own sense of agency.

Meanwhile back in the class room we continued with "how things change" and experimented with shaving cream, food colouring and glue. The children used these items to explore their different senses while painting. While mixing the ingredients together, Jackson said that the shaving cream looked like ice cream. When adding the food colouring to the shaving cream, Isabella thought the food colouring looked like the sauce being added to the top of the ice cream. The children touched and smelled the shaving cream. Some children played with it in their hands. While others used cotton buds to paint a picture. At the end of the day, some children noticed that the soft shaving cream paint had become hard. We discuss the change from soft to hard and how change comes about.

Another wonderful week in stage 3 and 4.



Stages 3 & 4: Photo Gallery



Stage 1:

Our little ones continued to learn songs about birds. They played the egg shakers to the song, "Kookaburra" and flew around the room.

They also rocked to the soothing lullaby of a Yiddish tune, "Sleep, my little bird". Such "rocking" activities stimulate the vestibular system (which is the liquid behind the ears that helps children acquire a sense of balance and spatial awareness).

We also explored the soft textures of the scarves as we pretend they were falling leaves. The children listened to the words "falling" and "down" as the scarves fell to the ground. The association of the sound and the movement helps them to increase their vocabulary in a fun and engaging way, through music.

Stage 2:

Our children went to Old Macdonald's farm this week. To get there, they had to "walk round the mountain". Using our imagination, we stomped around like a bear in the mountain, ran away from the bear, tip-toed etc. The movements were either loud or soft (which was the musical focus of the lesson). Even the Old Macdonald's song had loud and soft parts. When we sang, "ee-i-ee-i-oo" we deliberately sang that phrase quietly. It's good fun. You can try that with your children at

home. Sing everything loud and only that phrase quietly.

For "focused listening" (the special skill children acquired which is different from the general "hearing" ability), we listened to the bleating of a little lamb. We explored the dynamics of the sound. Was it loud or soft? Then we sang Mary had a Little Lamb. As you can tell by now, all the activities were specially designed to incorporate the concept of loud (forte) and soft (piano). Not so that children could do the musical theory AMEB at 3 years old, but rather that they experience the effects of sounds and music which have differing dynamics.

Stage 3 & 4:

This week, children sang the New Zealand song, "E-po-i-tai-tai" and readily suggested creative actions to go with the words "tuki tuki". They also heard the Korean song, Arirang played on the Tenor recorder (an even bigger recorder). Then, they learned the French song, "Meunier, Tudos" and this time, played on the xylophones and glockenspiels. They have to play the accompaniment slow for the first section and fast for the second section. The distinct AB Form of the music helps children to understand sequence, organising time, patterns and is helpful for developing the mathematical mind.



Music



Physical Education

By Spencer Clifton

Stage 1's had a very productive week of sport, where we explored a variety of animal movements. These movements focus on building the children's strength, balance and agility as well as stimulating their imagination.

Our next activity made use of hoola hoops which we used to drive around our speed racer cars, with a focus on spatial awareness and agility. We finished the lesson off with a kicking drill, the children were required to place their soccer ball on a raised tee and kick the ball toward the target area.

The Stage 2's had a fantastic week of sport where we explored our special awareness and problem solving activities. We started the lesson off with our animal movements and sprint running. Our first game for the lesson made use of different coloured hoops placed in four sections of the exercises area, different colours were called out with the children moving around the area trying to find the specific colour. The game mirrored our previous game of colour hoops but as the children have progressed the games have been manipulated to

increase the challenge aspect. Our next game made use of the bean bags and colour hoops in which the children had to match the bean bag with the colour hoop, with different challenges to keep the children on their toes eg: pick two different colour bean bags at a time.

The Stage 3 and 4's had a great of sport, we started our lesson with a quick warm up to get our muscles ready for our fun games ahead. Our first game we played was "Red light green light", this game the children would move forward on green light and freeze when there is red light. The next game we played was "what's the time Mr Wolf" which involves the children asking the wolf what the time is, the children then do the appropriate amount of giant steps to match the time eg: 5 o'clock mean 5 giants steps toward the wolf. If the wolf confident in tipping someone they shout it's dinner time with the children trying to avoid being tipped. We finished the lesson off with the spatial awareness game of "sharks and islands".



Physical Education

