



# REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL LINDFIELD NEWSLETTER



REDDAM  
ELS

3RD FEBRUARY 2017

## Debbie's Message

By Debbie Zerbst, Principal

Dear Parents

I am absolutely delighted to lead this dynamic team of teachers and educators at Reddam Early Learning School, Lindfield.

This past week, I have met many of you as you dropped off or picked up your children at the start of a brand new school year. It has been very enjoyable introducing myself and getting to know you and your children. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into your Lindfield community.

Reddam House primary and high schools and Reddam Early Learning Schools have been part of my life since 2003 when I first began the Reddam journey as a **parent** when my daughter started year 3. She was one of the earliest founding pupils of Reddam House primary school. Like you, we put our faith and belief in the Reddam House educational philosophy and it was one of the best decisions we ever made. My daughter completed her schooling and is now in the final year of her degree at Sydney University. It was only later that I joined the **staff** and began working at Reddam Early Learning

School in Woollahra .

I am a qualified Montessori teacher and began my teaching career in that discipline. I have worked in Montessori schools around the world for the first 15 years of my teaching vocation (South Africa, Hong Kong, and Sydney). I was also the principal of two pre-schools in Johannesburg.

When my family immigrated to Australia I was offered a position at Montessori East in Bondi and worked there for five years until Mr Graeme Crawford (founder of Reddam ELS ) convinced me to join his passionate team of educators to establish the first ever Reddam House preschool in Australia.

I agreed and worked as the Atelierista for the Early Learning School for 10 years. This involved teaching through creativity, scientific reasoning and discovery.

At Reddam ELS, we identify the multi-faceted interests and learning styles of young children and passionately set out to create an environment that inspires curiosity and wonder and encourages children to

# Debbie's Message, Continued

become independent learners, critical thinkers, and resourceful and respectful citizens.

We also believe that **teachers, parents and the community** have an important role to assist in this process by becoming partners in our children's learning.

So let us move forward together in the 2017.

I would like to invite you to take some time to reflect and imagine what an early learning school of your dreams would be and feel like.

I leave you with three open- ended thoughts and hope you will write down and share your responses and send them to me via email at your leisure:

[debbie.zerbst@reddamels.com.au](mailto:debbie.zerbst@reddamels.com.au)

[Imagine a school where children.....](#)

[Imagine a school where families .....](#)

[Imagine a school where teachers are .....](#)

It is possible to make our dreams come true..... Let us create some magic together.

**Debbie Zerbst**





# Stage 1

By Lauren & Rujuta

Welcome everyone back into the new year. We give a warm welcome to our new families and say hello to some new faces, Jacques- brother of Carla, Arthur- brother of Anna, Sanvi, Caroline, Xavier, Abigail, Alexandria, Ethan, Thomas and Zoe. January was a fantastic start to the year, we continued on with our vacation care from last year. As always the children enjoyed splashing around and getting wet with such warm summer weather, all the babies have so much fun exploring the outdoors, which is why our provocation this term is exploring what's in our garden. We will focus on the importance of caring for our environment and different ways we can achieve this. As educators it is important we model respect, care and appreciation for the natural environment and find ways of enabling children to care for and learn from the land.

**We encourage our children to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment** (EYLF outcome 2.4). The national early years learning framework supports this premise and aims to extend and enrich children's learning by encouraging children to be connected with and contribute to their world.

During January, we celebrated Australia Day. The children enjoyed exploring Australian history and culture as we created

our own aboriginal dot paintings. Aboriginal Art has survived for over thousands of years and continues to be one of the oldest art forms practiced today. Another celebration we enjoyed was Chinese New Year, Miss Leonie from stage 2 brought in a Chinese dragon for the children to wear on their heads. We listened to Classical Chinese music and celebrated in the classroom.

We look forward to spending the next few weeks learning about our new classmates and welcoming them into our Reddam family.

In the next few weeks we plan to discover what's in our garden.

We will explore our Australian fauna and flora and look closely at the living world in our own school. To help us develop your child's interest, it would be a great idea if you too look closely at the natural wonders of the world in your own back yard. Please share with us any beautiful or interesting things you find and bring it to school (photographs or the real item will do).

Love Lauren and Rujuta.





# Stage 1: Photo Gallery





# Stage 1: Photo Gallery





# Stage 1: Photo Gallery





# Stage 1: Photo Gallery





## Stage 2

By Leonie & Tracey

As we begin this exciting new journey with each other and the world around us we would like to offer a warm welcome to all our new families and also our returning families.

We are excited to be starting the term 1.

2017 is going to be a year of exploration , wonder and creative expression. We hope to become explorers of the world together.

To recap our holiday program January has been busy. We welcomed children new and old and we have been settling them into their new environments. We have had tears and some sad faces during morning drop off. We do expect this and know how to minimise their discomfort. We know they will soon start to settle beautifully into Stage 2. The most important task in the next few weeks is to ensure that our children feel safe, secure, and supported. During this delicate age and stage in their development children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience. We will do our utmost to support them and guide them during this time.

We will focus on establishing relationships of trust, learning daily routines and building friendships in the coming weeks.

It's been a pleasure meeting all the new children and families and we look forward to learning more about you all as time goes on.

Our children have been engaged in a variety of musical experiences such as singing and dancing throughout January. It is a gorgeous way to express themselves. Music is a powerful tool that helps children learn new thinking skills. When children play with musical instruments, they explore cause and effect. Singing songs is a powerful way for young children to practice language. When children sing, they practice pronouncing words and putting together sentences. Learning the lyrics to songs is also an effective way to remember information.

Dancing to music also helps children perfect their control of their arms and legs. Music and dance are fun and help children be playful with each other.

We also celebrated Australia Day by looking at a great Australian author Mem Fox and created magic through the eyes of Hush and Grandma Poss in Possum Magic.

We also have welcomed in the Lunar New year celebrating it through art and sensory activities.

Thanks everyone for a great first week. Have a great weekend.

Leonie and Tracey xx





## Stage 2: Photo Gallery





## Stage 2: Photo Gallery





## Stage 2: Photo Gallery





## Stage 2: Photo Gallery





# Stage 3

By Rochelle & Lucy

Welcome back for 2017! We hope that all of our children and families have had a restful and relaxing holiday period and are ready to begin the school year. Rochelle and Lucy will be your child's educators this year and we are equally excited to step into a new year and journey with your children over the coming weeks and months. We extend a warm welcome to Yuxuan and Zayne who have joined us this week in our Stage 3 class and we look forward to getting to know you and your families.

Our vacation care holiday period was lots of fun and our children appeared to enjoy the break from our regular routine and mingle with children from all ages. The two weeks leading up to Christmas, we enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit with the children in

the form of baking and art and craft experiences.

Throughout the first few weeks of 2017, we have been determined to follow the interests of the children within the room and have enjoyed exploring lots of sensory experiences along with discussing our holiday periods. We enjoyed creating play with sea shells along with creating our very own fairy garden. Celebrating Australia Day & Chinese New Year was also a great way for the children to develop an appreciation for the many cultures around us here at Reddam.

We look forward to kick-starting Term 1 and seeing all that it will hold for us. Information regarding our provocation for the term will be forwarded in due course.





## Stage 3: Photo Gallery





## Stage 3: Photo Gallery



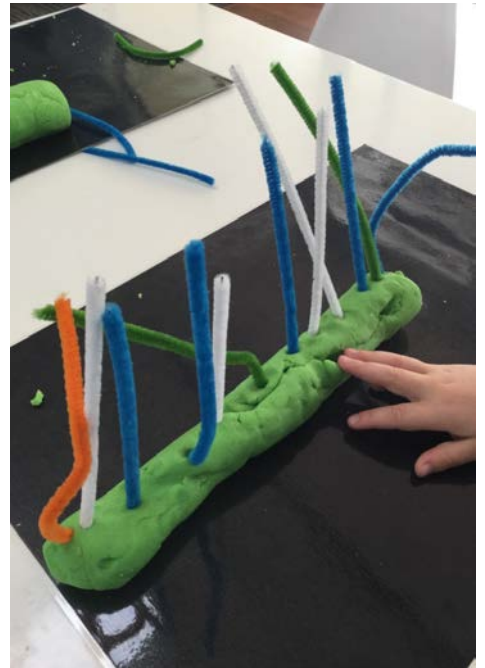


## Stages 3: Photo Gallery





## Stage 3: Photo Gallery





# Stage 4

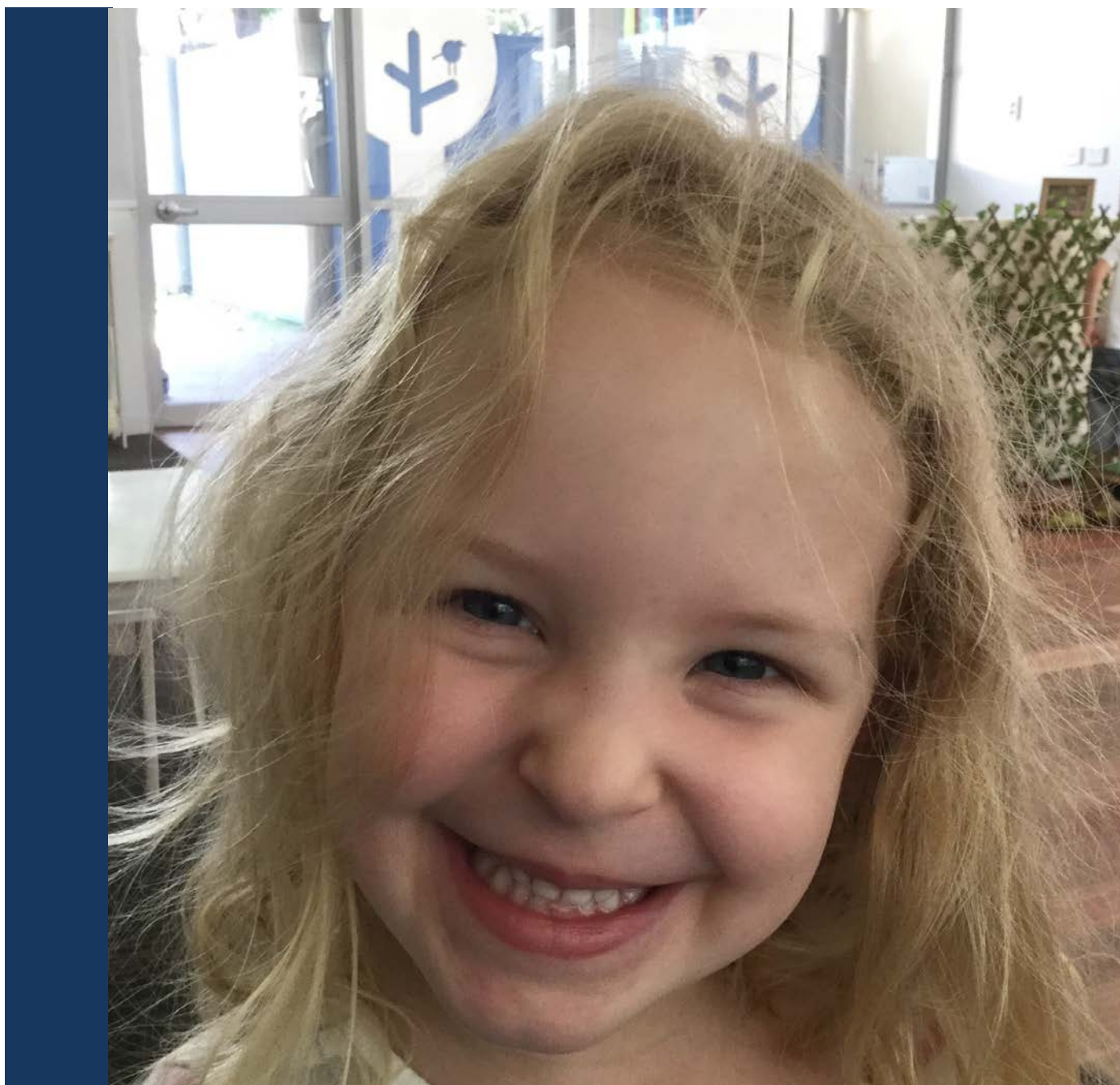
By Pauline

Welcome to Stage 4! We have had a great vacation care, and have loved spending the few weeks with the children who have now started Kindy. We will miss Isabella, William, Rudra, Yu yang and Henry and wish them all the best for their first year at school.

With the very hot weather, we have been spending a large part of the day indoors. The children have been working together to build great structures using the blocks and construction toys.

We celebrated Australia Day by looking at our 3 flags and the meaning of these flags. We looked at pictures of Australian animals and read many stories about them.

We would like to wish our families a Happy Chinese New Year!





## Stage 4: Photo Gallery

