



REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL LINDFIELD NEWSLETTER



REDDAM
ELS

3RD NOVEMBER 2017

Simone's Message

By Mrs Simone Cooke, Principal

Dear Parents,

Making Learning Visible

An important element of the Reggio Emilia Philosophy which we incorporate here at Reddam is "Making Learning Visible". This involves teachers documenting each child's individual journey, the projects they have worked on and their play experiences. It consists of carrying out observations of how and what children learn, recording text from their conversations, recounting their mind maps of possibility and the stimulating collaborative Provocations they have been enjoying throughout the year. During the year this is shared with our families through out weekly newsletters, Parent Teacher meetings and of course our weekly Tapestry Early Learning Journal uploads. If for any reason you have not been receiving your upload could I please ask that you speak to your core teacher so they can check that the email details we have for you is correct. Families new to the school will be receiving their login details in the upcoming weeks.

Individual Portfolios/ End of Year Celebrations

Each year a portfolio of your child's individual learning journey is maintained by their core teacher. It includes photographs, transcripts, mind maps, individual and group learning stories, art work samples and observational records. It is a wonderful way to capture the learning moments in time and I am certain you will treasure these special memories for many years to come. The teachers are currently hard at work putting together the final touches to their portfolios. We look forward to presenting all the children with their portfolios at the end of year celebration evenings.

The dates for our end of year celebrations will be announced in our newsletter next week, so you can put these in your diaries, as we know how busy the Christmas period is and we hope you can join us for our celebrations.

Please note that our final day for the year will be **Friday 22nd December, 2017**. We are closed for two weeks and school will resume on **Tuesday 9th January, 2017**.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Provocation: Farm Animal Fun!

Over the past week at Reddam, the Stage 1 class has focused on pigs! First we introduced the children to clay as we spoke about pigs playing in mud. Clay is quite a difficult material for young children to engage with, as it requires quite a bit of fine motor strength to manipulate it. Despite the challenge, many of our stage 1 children were eager to have a go and feel the new texture. They poked and squeezed the blob of clay in their hands and in doing so were discovering new ways to use their fine motor skills to control a material.

Extending on the idea of playing in mud, we brought some slime into the room! We added farm animals into the slime and the children had turns of feeling the goop and playing with the animals in it. The children were slowly building a recognition of the pigs environment through their play.

Throughout the week we also had a literacy focus as we got to know the story of the 'Three Little Pigs'. We read the story each day at group time and introduced some masks to bring the story to life. The whole group had an interest particularly in the masks. Each time we read the story, the children would take turns holding the mask to their face, often with lots of giggles following. The repetition of huff and puff throughout the story also saw action amongst the group. We encouraged the children to take big breaths along with the big bad wolf. Many of the stage 1 group were able to follow along taking big breaths and blowing out.

To finish off the week, we made some balloon pigs! The children coloured in some pig faces and legs and we attached them to a balloon. The children had lots of fun playing with the balloons as we bounced them around the room and tried to catch them as they floated down.

We have also welcomed a few new faces to the stage 1 classroom over the last couple of weeks. Welcome to Mila, Domi, Maddie and Maxwell! We are very excited to have you in our class to watch you grow and learn!



Stage 1



Stage 2

By Ms Leonie Pride

This week through our Provocation of Festivals and Celebration our children and teachers have been visiting "Sculptures by the Sea" and the Art Gallery.

All inspired and having our beautiful school among the trees we then thought it would be great to celebrate this week with our own "Sculptures by the Trees" replicating the idea of "Sculptures by the Sea".

We have been very busy modelling clay, painting, drawing, using loose parts and weaving to create our very own festival. The children worked together on creating a clay bowl each contributing their own unique little design. Next week once the clay sets we will continue with adding paint to the bowl and decorating it...it's a work in progress.

Each day this week we have created a spontaneous canvas to add to our Sculptures by the Trees which the children loved working on. One day we used wool in our design, the next we were squirting paint onto the canvas and the other had beautiful butterflies as part of our inspiration.

Jess ventured out to the park next door to look for a big branch that we could weave on and she came back with a big branch looking like a tree. Im not sure if it was the size of the tree or the actual weaving itself but there was a lot of interest among the children wanting to participate in the activity. They attempted to weave wool in and out of the branches. This activity requires alot of concentration and practises their eye and hand coordination.

Feel free to visit the class room at either drop off or pick up. Ask your child to show you our weaving tree and all our other beautiful artworks.

Thanks for another great week Monet's enjoy your weekend.

Leonie, Jess, Tracey, Fern, Lucia



Stage 2



Term 4 Provocation: "Around the World"

We had a spectacular time this week discovering Italy. We began with a literacy focus that involved reading "Pinocchio," by Carlo Collodi. Written 130 years ago and set in Florence, the story tells of a carpenter who carved a puppet from wood and the puppets journey through life.

After reading "Pinocchio," we were inspired to create our own puppet theatre by decorating a cardboard box. We then had a small puppet show in the Dali room, quickly discovering that marionette puppets are not the easiest to work, so we transferred to hand puppets. The children seemed very excited and engaged as the puppets danced around our newly created theatre.

Fine motor skills and creativity were developed as the children explored a range of art activities including coloured pasta threading and pasta sculpture making. The children created a range of necklaces and bracelets from coloured pasta and used playdough to anchor portions of coloured pasta to create sculptures.

The creativity continued as the children painted and learned about herbs typically used in Italian cooking. Firstly, engaging their senses and using magnifying glasses to explore the basil, parsley and rosemary, the children then used the medium of water colour painting their interpretation of what they saw.

Continuing with our exploration of herbs, we created herb bread. This enabled us to inject numeracy into our program through measurement. The children learned about quantities as we measured out our dry ingredients and capacity as we looked at half, empty and full cups using liquids. We then mixed the ingredients together, kneaded the dough and formed the bread. Our dough was placed into the oven and then when ready we tasted it, and who doesn't like freshly baked bread!

After a discussion about Italian food and discovering that a favourite was pizza, we made our own vegetarian pizza. Using flat bread as our base we spread tomato paste onto the bread and then topped it using herbs of course, cherry tomatoes, mushrooms, pineapple and mozzarella cheese. The best thing about this provocation is that it always leads to food tasting. We had a blast eating our pizzas.

A friendly reminder that all children over the age of three should wear their multiform to school each day.

Happy Halloween!



Stage 2/3: Pasta Threading



Stage 2/3: Pinocchio & Puppet Theatre



Stage 2/3: Bread Making (and Eating!)



Stage 2/3: Light Box



Stage 2/3: Learning about Herbs



Stage 2/3: Making Pizza



Stage 3 & 4

By Ms Joanne Matthews

This week the Pablos and Picassos have been continuing with their investigations around the world under the sea.

The children have been busy making turtles, Angel fish and sea horses in Art and Craft this week. At the same time we have been learning about these creatures - how they survive, what they eat and how they reproduce. We watched a clip on the ipad showing the seaturtle laying and burying her eggs, and the baby turtle's subsequent plight to get to the safety of the sea before they are eaten by predators for their tea!

I asked the children for suggestions on what we could turn our huge boxes into which were bought in by a teacher. Anna suggested a boat which is what we intended to turn them into, however after learning about submarines we decided to change direction and make a submarine instead. We learned about how a submarine is able to sink and rise by doing an experiment with heavy water bottles and we learned about periscopes.

Finally, we had so many sea creatures in our room that we decided to put them onto the wall outside our classroom and create an underwater scene. The climbing apparatus to the left of the wall became the submarine. We plan to add to our wall as we learn about sharks and shellfish. Miss Pauline has brought in 3 hermit crabs to further this investigation.

Thank you to those parents who have brought in their child's hat - we are delighted when we have a full house as all of the children can be included. Please ensure that your child is wearing their uniform every day - this is a Reddam policy and is compulsory in stage 3 and 4 unless an exemption has been made due to late enrolment into stage 4.

Whilst writing, can you also please ensure that you apply sunscreen to your child before bringing them to school.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Joe, Pauline and Angel



Stage 3 & 4



Hello everyone!

Stage 1 & 2:

It was so impressive that the children sat down in a circle and were ready for the lesson even before the class started! They knew the routine. Some little ones even looked at me and imitated the barking sounds of a dog. I was so impressed that they remembered so much from the previous lessons.

Though it was not in my plan for this week, we listened to the sounds of the dog barking and sang the song about dogs again. What else could I do? The little children wanted to sing them so much. After that, we made pancakes! It was a musical rhyme which reinforces the beat in music. We put the pancake in the oven and waited. When it was ready, every child had the opportunity to hit on a triangle (a metal musical percussion instrument), "ding!" and their pancake was ready. We also learned a new song about eating "apples and bananas".

After eating so much, children lied down on the floor for a short "nap", while Justin played on the recorder.

Stage 3:

This week, we visited "Uncle Joe". That was the name of the character in a song we sung. Through the lyrics of the song, children were instructed to walk, hop on one foot, run and much more. By doing this, children learned to follow instructions given by the teacher through a fun activity. They didn't even realise they were learning and developing physical, social and emotional skills!

We also sang a song which tested their reaction/response time as they placed their hands on different labelled parts of the body. There was a twist to the commonly sang "Head and Shoulders" song and children suggested different parts of the body we could sing it to. It was quite funny.

Lastly, we played a game of rolling or bouncing the ball to each other again. This time, the children were sharing and passing the ball to each other so readily. They have learned to share!

Stage 4:

The children are beginning their preparations for the end of the year concert. Actually, they have been preparing this all year! What I mean is that the regular fun-filled lessons are all part of the process through which the children have learnt Music and they will be showing you a snippet of what they have accomplished in the up-coming concert. Without spoiling the surprise, let's just say... I think you'd be impressed when the children sing and play on their musical instruments.

In addition to the performance pieces, Justin performed "Simple Gift" (an English Folk Song) on the recorder. The few minutes of relaxing music helps children to reflect and consolidate their experiences for the day. Much research has been done on how a moment of "quiet time" greatly helps children emotionally and helps them retain what they have been taught. From our observation, it's really working!



Little Miss Muffet.....where did she go?

A train whistle began the drama this week. The children used their voice and worked together using their bodies to create the train.

Created suspense by explaining that there was someone waiting at the station for them. Who it could be?

Teacher in Role as Little Miss Muffet

Used their body to climb through the spider web

The children came up with some great ideas of where Miss Muffet had ran to when she was scared by the spider

Discussed the language used in the Rhyme (Stage 2)

Each child was given a picture of a spider and had to position it beside them (referred to as 'next to') as well as show a 'scared face' using hand and body gestures (Stage 2)

As a group they acted out the rhyme (including a taste test), tasting 'curds and whey' (cottage cheese).

A number of questions were asked about spiders including: How many legs does a spider have? Where do the legs come from? Why did the spider sit next to Little Miss Muffet? What facial expression did the spider use when he frightened Miss Muffet away? (Stage 2)

The drama will be continued next week. The children will find out where Miss Muffet went!

Stage 3 & 4

This week the children will visit the Witch and the Haunted House working together to do a whole class improvisation whilst incorporating a number of drama techniques

Activities Include:

Terrifying Tongue Twisters (the children worked on projecting their voices, breathing and speaking clearly)

Giant, gross, green ghouls giggle at ghosts.

Werewolves watch witches watching werewolves watching witches.

Owls hoot haughtily.

Patricia Poltergeist picked a peck of plump pumpkins. How many plump pumpkins did Patricia Poltergeist pick if she picked a peck? (stage 4)

Many mournful mummies moan mournfully 'til morning for their mommies.

Seven spindly spiders spin spooky silk speedily

Action game - Witches Coming

Pumpkin (the children got into the shape of a pumpkin on the floor) Witches Broomstick (fly around the room with a cackle) Vampire (stick their teeth out) Haunted House (pick one corner of the room and open the door) Bat Cave (again pick another corner of the room, make a bat sound and hands for the wings) Graveyard (another corner of the room) Lye on the floor Howling wolves, Zombies (walk like Zombie's) Goo - Here they had to freeze and they were not allowed to move until the teacher said Slime.



This week we made pumpkin bookmarks to celebrate Halloween. The children also learned how to say "pumpkin" in Chinese.

We also continued to learn the names of fruit in Chinese. The children were offered a picture of their favourite fruit to colour in and we also sang the fruit song in Chinese which further assists the children with developing their memory of the Chinese words for a variety of fruit.

We continued reading some of our more familiar books and discussing their content.



Playball

We started our lesson today with the "Shark and the Stingray" game. This is the best game to foster footwork skills and spatial awareness. Ask your children.

"Helicopters" – we all pretended we were helicopters flying with outstretched arms. When Wallis blew her whistle, we stood on one foot and did our best to "hover" (balance) on one foot. We then tried to hover on our left foot and our right foot and then faster and faster and faster.....

We played the "crab and the claw" game – a real fun listening game – ask your children!

Wallis placed catching cups on the court in the shape of a circle. We walked around the outside of the circle and every time Wallis blew her whistle, we put one foot on a catching cup and balanced. Then Wallis blew her whistle faster and faster and we alternated feet – balancing on our right foot, then our left foot.....right, left, right, left. Great activity to foster balancing skills in a very lighthearted manner!

Wallis gave us each a little ball which we placed in our catching cups. We "boofed" the ball as high as we could up to the sky, always remembering that we are Playballers with lots and lots of energy!!

We placed a little ball in our catching cup, flipped it up **gently** to the sky and tried our best to catch it in our catching cups without it falling to the ground. Wallis taught us that we need to remember to position our catching cup **under** the ball to be able to catch it. Wallis also taught us that it "doesn't matter if we cannot catch the ball, what matters is that **we give it a try** and **ALWAYS** pick ourselves up and keep practicing if we find an activity tricky".

We caught "mice" – ask your children.

Wallis then rolled lots and lots of "mice" across the court and we had to try and catch them before they got to the other side. SUCH FUN!

