



REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL LINDFIELD NEWSLETTER



REDDAM
ELS

1ST DECEMBER 2017

Simone's Message

By Mrs Simone Cooke, Principal

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are now in December and this is our final newsletter for 2017. We have had a fabulous year here at Reddam and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for the wonderful support you have offered us throughout the year. It has been delightful getting to know the Lindfield families in the short time I have acted as interim Principal, whilst we have awaited the appointment of our new Lindfield Principal. The staff have done a fabulous job ensuring the smooth running of the school during this time and I would like to commend them on their hard work, dedication and professionalism.

They have worked tirelessly to make certain the children have received a comprehensive quality education programme, filled with beautiful connections and bonds. Thank you! There have been so many lovely moments and memories throughout the year that our children will remember for many years to come. The teachers have been busily compiling beautiful individualised learning portfolios of these moments and they will be presented to you at the end of year celebrations. I have no doubt you will treasure these greatly.

The teachers have also greatly appreciated the support and assistance you have given them this year, from classroom visits, guest talks, cooking demonstrations to day to day support. Collaboration between parents and teachers is an important element of a quality early childhood programme and each of you is a part of the special "magic" which is Reddam!

In the upcoming weeks I will be advising you of your child's new class and teacher for 2018 and the children will be slowly transitioning to new rooms and spaces to prepare them for this next stage. Should you have any special requests in this regard could I please ask that you email me at simone.cooke@reddamels.com.au. Whilst I will do my best to take on board all your requests the ultimate decision will be assessed based on the needs of the children and where we feel they will be best placed for their social, emotional and cognitive development, following a detailed discussion with their current class teachers.

(Continued over page)

Simone's Message Continued

We know bonds between teachers and children are special and as families it is often hard to move on, but I promise you that at each stage of your child's journey these lovely connections will continue. For those children moving up to Preschool next year could I please ask that you contact the school shop at uniformshop@reddamhouse.com.au to order your uniforms over the next week. It is an expectation that all children in **Stage 3 and 4** will wear a uniform during term time. We look forward to seeing you at our end of year celebrations. This will take place on **Monday 4th December, between 5.00pm – 7.00pm** and you are invited to attend even if this is not your child's usually day of attendance. At this end of year celebration the children will receive their individual portfolios, which the teachers have compiled throughout the year. The children will share some songs and we will farewell our graduating class of 2017. Please bring along a picnic rug and share plate of food to share for our picnic. It is a lovely opportunity to celebrate and meet other members of our Reddam family.

Term 4 ends next week and this is followed by our Christmas Vacation Programme, this will run until we close **on Friday 22nd December**. The school will reopen again on **Tuesday 9th January, 2018**. We look forward to welcoming our new **Principal Ms Petra Wright** in the New Year. Petra is currently the Head of Reddam House Early Learning in Berkshire, United Kingdom, and as one of the founding teachers of Reddam Early at Woollahra, has a solid understanding of our Reddam principles and philosophies.

FRONT GATE

It has been brought to my attention that some parents have not been closing the gate securely when they arrive and depart from the school. In order to ensure the safety of all our children could I please request that you are extremely diligent in making certain that the gate is securely locked behind you.

Whilst we celebrate together the success of a wonderful year, this is of course tinged with sadness as we must farewell our Stage 4 children who head off to Primary school next year. They go with all our love, support and encouragement, and leave us confident in the knowledge that they are well prepared for this next stage of their educational journey.

On behalf of everyone at Reddam Early Learning, we wish you a safe and happy holiday and look forward to continuing your child's learning journey with you in 2018.



Stage 1

By Miss Maddison Burnley

This week the Stage 1 children wrapped up their farm provocation for the term and began a new Christmas focus.

To finish off our farm experiences, we continued with our artworks of chickens. The children who were keen added to their artworks by gluing feathers onto their handprint chickens. This extended on the children's experience of holding and exploring feathers last week. The children held and placed the feathers over their chickens watching as their artwork transformed into a 3D image. Alongside this we continued to sing songs such as 'Old MacDonald' and 'Mother Duck went out one day...'. We have been hearing the children sing these songs in their own play and initiating actions by picking up the puppets and interacting with them. It is wonderful to see the children's understanding and recognition grow over the past term.

We also began a Christmas focus this week. When we first mentioned Christmas, Santa, Rudolph and other Christmas aspects we quickly realised that many of our little ones have little understanding of the holiday and so we decided to make the most of this special time by beginning Christmas early in our room. We put up a Christmas tree and each of the children took turns adding decorations to the branches. The children's eyes lit up as they saw the sparkle and lights incorporated into our room.

We have begun looking at pictures of Christmas at group time so we can build some recognition amongst the group. We have also had Christmas carols playing, which the groovers of the group have loved dancing to! We will continue to add festive aspects to our room as we introduce this special holiday to our young children. We are so excited to be a part of the celebrations with your children and families!

As we come to the end of the schooling year, I'd like to send a warm thank you to all of the families who have been a part of the stage 1 class over 2017. Ella, Rujuta and I have really enjoyed getting to know you all and have loved being a part of your child's schooling journey. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope you stay safe and enjoy your holidays. We look forward to seeing you all in the new year!



Stage 1



Stage 2

By Ms Leonie Pride

Over this last term and through our Provocation of Festivals and Celebrations the Children are learning to have a strong sense of Identity. We have been showing respect for all the diversity in our class, acknowledging the varying approaches of children, their families, their communities and their cultures.

The teachers have been demonstrating a deep understanding of each child, their families and community contexts in planning for the children's learning.

This week we have started our countdown to Christmas the children have created a beautiful festive tree which they have been busy decorating. Acknowledging Christmas is celebrated differently among our families is very important. Its lovely to see all the children embrace this diversity while still having fun celebrating.

Christmas Carols in all different languages has been heard throughout the school from our class this week. It's wonderful to observe the children listening to songs sang in other languages the tune is the same but the words sound different it doesn't seem to stop them from dancing and singing along.

We have also been very busy making Christmas Craft which represent all our cultures. We are excited to celebrate with all our families this coming Monday at our End of year Celebration. As this is our last newsletter for the year we would like to thank all our lovely families for all their support what a fantastic year it has been. It has been a privilege for all our Teachers to have taught your children throughout 2017 we have loved watching their journey they have all grown in their own unique ways.

This year through our provocations we have explored many wonderful things such as Music makes us Happy, the World of Colour, we have been Scientific Terrific Stage Two's and what a fabulous provocation this last term has been with celebrating our own selves. Thank you to our wonderful children who have made it a pleasure to teach.

All the Teachers in Stage 2 wish all our families the very best for 2018 and we looking forward to seeing what the New Year brings. May you all have a wonderful time with your families over Christmas.

Leonie, Jess, Tracey, Fern and Lucia



Stage 2



Stage 2



Provocation: "Around the World"

Greece was our country of focus this week with the highlight being a dynamic visit from Hercules (Heracles), son of Zeus. Hercules introduced the class to the Greek alphabet, we discovered that it looks and sounds very different to the English alphabet. We learned how to say hello, "yasou," goodbye, "antio sas," thank you, "efcharisto," in Greek and learned the terms for family members. We discovered that donkeys are used for many things in Greece including transport. We looked at the types of buildings that exist in some parts of Greece, we also learned about different food eaten in Greece and discovered that during Easter they celebrate with red Easter eggs. Hercules also spoke about the ancient Olympic Games as the Olympics originated in Greece. We looked at the colours of the rings and the medals won by athletes. He also spoke about the Greek flag! A very special thank you to Charles, Dash and Trinity's father for taking the time to come and share his vast knowledge of Greece with us!

Mini Olympics

We were so inspired by our visit from Hercules and the history of the Olympics that we decided to hold our very own mini Olympics. The children participated in a variety of events including ring pulling, our version of long jump, sprints and the hurdles. The children were very excited to receive their medals at the end!

Salt Dough Olympic Medals

Our art experiences involved making and decorating Olympic medals. We began with air-drying salt dough that the children kneaded and then formed into a circle using a cutter. The children then sprinkled glitter and sparkly confetti onto their medals and sprayed them using gold, silver and bronze paint. The medals were spectacular!

Greek Food

Some of the Greek food that we tasted during the week included Greek yogurt and Greek salad. Making Greek yogurt was very exciting. Firstly, we half-filled our yogurt container with water, we then tipped the yogurt mixture in and took turns shaking our container. We then added more water and placed it into the yogurt maker. The Teachers tipped hot water in and we let it set for 12 hours before tasting it. What an amazing journey we went on this week!

Stage 2/3: Salt Dough Olympic Medals



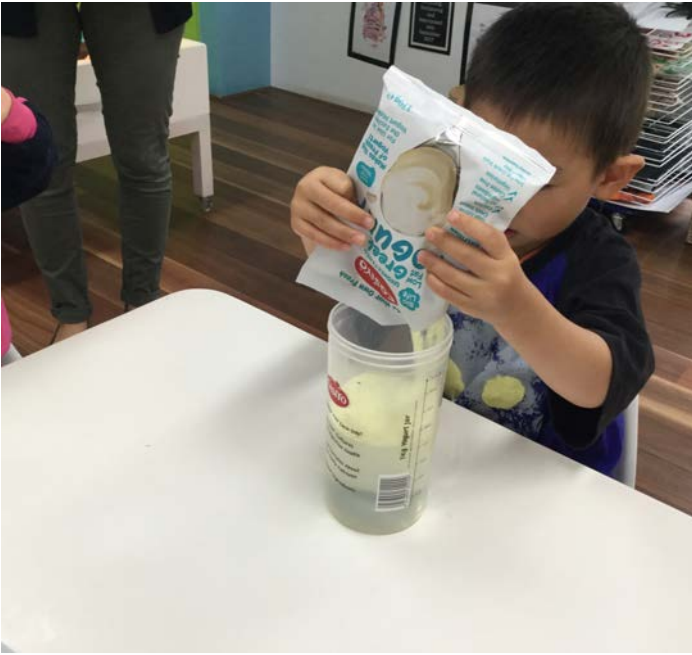
Stage 2/3: Salt Dough Olympic Medals



Stage 2/3: A Visit from Hercules



Stage 2/3: Greek Yoghurt Making



Stage 2/3: Mini Olympics



Stage 2/3: Mini Olympics



Stage 3 & 4

By Ms Joanne Matthews

This week we finished off our "Under the sea" provocation and we are now concentrating on Christmas celebrations and traditions. We talked about Christmas trees during group time. The children discovered that decorating fir trees at Christmas time started with Queen Victoria and her husband Albert in 1845. The tradition then was to decorate the tree with fruit, sweet cookies and candles. The children thought that this was very dangerous as it could start a fire!

Oisin told his friends - "Santa has a naughty list- you don't get any presents you just get a clothes peg." Anna told us "I have sparkly tinsel and Christmas lights at my house." Sophie told us that sometimes she spends Christmas at her granny's house. We wrote a list of all of the things we associate with Christmas.

Miss Pauline set up a shop earlier in the week and the children loved using the till and wheeling their 'purchases' around in the shopping trolley. We saw some great role play between the children and a great deal of sharing and empathy.

The children spent some time filling small bottles with dried lentils. They experimented with funnels, spoons and scoops to discover the most effective way to fill the tiny bottles. Anna thought the bottles looked like medicine bottles and Connor counted all five bottles he filled. This is great fine motor practice, as well as encouraging the children to sit at tables and experiment to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

Christmas craft has started and we have already created trees, reindeer and stars.

We say goodbye to our Stage 4s over the next couple of weeks and wish them all the best for the future at their 'big' in 2018! It has been a great year spending time with your children. We wish our Stage 4 children all the best for Kindy next year and look forward to their visits next year. Thank you for all the support you have given your children and the teachers during the year. We wish you a happy and safe holiday!



Stage 3 & 4



Hello everyone!

Stage 1 & 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-ya-ee-ya-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:

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.

Stage 4:

Children in Stage 4 were busy preparing for the end-of-the-year concert. Without spoiling the surprise too much, it suffices to say that every group will be performing a different song; attesting to the variety and achievement of these little musicians! It is also important to note that every child has learned every song you would hear in the concert and also had equal opportunity to play every instrument on stage. In our music lessons, everyone learns every part. Of course, in a performance, every child would be assigned a different role. This way, we won't have to hear each song 20 times!

In addition to the performance pieces, Justin performed a Korean song, "Arirang" and "Simple Gift" (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!

Working memory allows the brain to briefly hold new information while it's needed in the short term. However, the process of transferring those working memories into long term memory is not so easy for young children.

The most important method to help children to upgrade their short term memory into long term memory is to repeat and practice the information they have accessed. Therefore, as a language teacher, it is important to review what children have learnt.

The main topic of discussion this term has been fruit. We have learnt how to say apple, banana, mandarin, strawberry, grapes, watermelon and pear in Chinese. This week, we will review those fruits followed by play a guessing game. Afterwards, we will review how to count numbers in Chinese.

Yoga

By Ms Kelly Nance

Walking into both Reddam last week, I had the pleasure of having a few parents introduce themselves, explaining that their children had either started doing poses at home and/or have been doing yoga from YouTube. It wonderful to see the enjoyment of yoga, moving bodies for strength and flexibility as well as connecting with breath and mindfulness has begun to cross environments. To facilitate this as well as a fun experience to share with your child(ren), here is the sea creatures warm up we have been doing, the movements adapted from a favourite song among many. If you are not sure of the tune, the song is easily sound on YouTube or Spotify (words can vary slightly).

Slippery fish, slippery fish, sliding through the water (Sit with legs crossed, palms together to create a fish swimming movement, include a gentle back movement to warm up the spine)

Slippery fish, slippery fish, gulp, gulp, gulp! (Clap hands together on gulp)

Oh, no! It's been eaten by an? (Hands on side of face)

Octopus, octopus, squiggling in the water (While seated, bend knees, place feet flat on the floor, stretch arms out in front. Begin wiggling arms in front and legs, tapping alternative feet like stepping to create squiggling arms and legs)

Octopus, octopus, gulp, gulp, gulp! (Clap hands together on gulp)

Oh, no! It's been eaten by a? (Hands on side of face)

Tuna fish, tuna fish, flashing in the water (Stretch legs straight out in front, lean forward, placing hands on shins. On the word 'tuna' stretch arms straight and long above your head and on the word 'fish' close the tuna fish mouth by reaching back for shins. You can make a swimming motion with arms for 'flashing in the water')

Tuna fish, tuna fish, gulp, gulp, gulp! (Clap hands together on gulp)

Oh, no! It's been eaten by a? (Hands on side of face)

Great white shark, great white shark, lurking in the water (Bring soles of the feet together to create a diamond shape, places palms together on top of head to create a shark fin and rock from side to side)

Great white shark, great white shark, gulp, gulp, gulp! (Clap hands together on gulp)

Oh, no! It's been eaten by a? (Hands on side of face)

Humongous whale, humongous whale, spouting in the water (Swing feet behind you, come down flat on your stomach, bend knees so your feet face up to the sky/ceiling, reach arms back towards feet, lift chest and rock slightly from side to side)

Humongous whale, humongous whale

Gulp, gulp, gulp! (Hands come in front, clap hands together on gulp)

Pardon me! (Cover mouth with your hands with a surprised funny face)

Last week will be the final yoga for the term and year!

Love and Peace,

Kelly

