



REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL LINDFIELD NEWSLETTER



REDDAM
ELS

10TH MARCH 2017

Debbie's Message

By Debbie Zerbst, Principal

With Respect to Respect...

A few weeks ago, we were fortunate to have a visit from Mr. Graeme Crawford, the founder of Reddam House. He is a visionary educator who started his career as a science teacher. He noted that much more could be done to improve educational standards and the schooling experience. He envisaged his own school that could provide the ultimate in a rounded education through a dynamic new approach aimed at maximizing not purely the academic standard, but primarily the confidence, potential and agency of each child. He believed the way a child is taught is the single most important decision any parent makes. His dreams have become a reality and at Reddam ELS we know that it is an individual's total educational experience that instils the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and values that he/she will carry with them for life.

This is the reason why our teachers passionately defend the rights and needs of the children that we teach. We know our children will become the future citizens so they need to grow and develop into well rounded, curious and responsible caretakers of our world.

While Mr Crawford walked through our Piazza, he stopped and looked at the question I had written on the black board which asks all of us to imagine a school where children are He thought for a moment to think about this provoking question. He picked up the crayon and wrote "respected". That one word has such a profound meaning and underpins the Reddam philosophy. It made me feel even more excited to be part of this wonderful journey in building up our school and aim for the highest levels of excellence.

We develop respect in all areas of our school by introducing the concepts of grace and courtesy to our children, family and staff. We have been inspired by the Montessori theory which define these lessons as:

"Lessons of grace and courtesy are to service our community. It is the natural need of every human being to find meaning outside oneself -and to find one's place in the interconnecting web of life."

Debbie's Message Continued

By Debbie Zerbst

GRACE: Characterized by effortless beauty, kindness and warmth;

COURTESY: Similar to politeness but of a more voluntary, generous nature, actively meaning to be helpful;

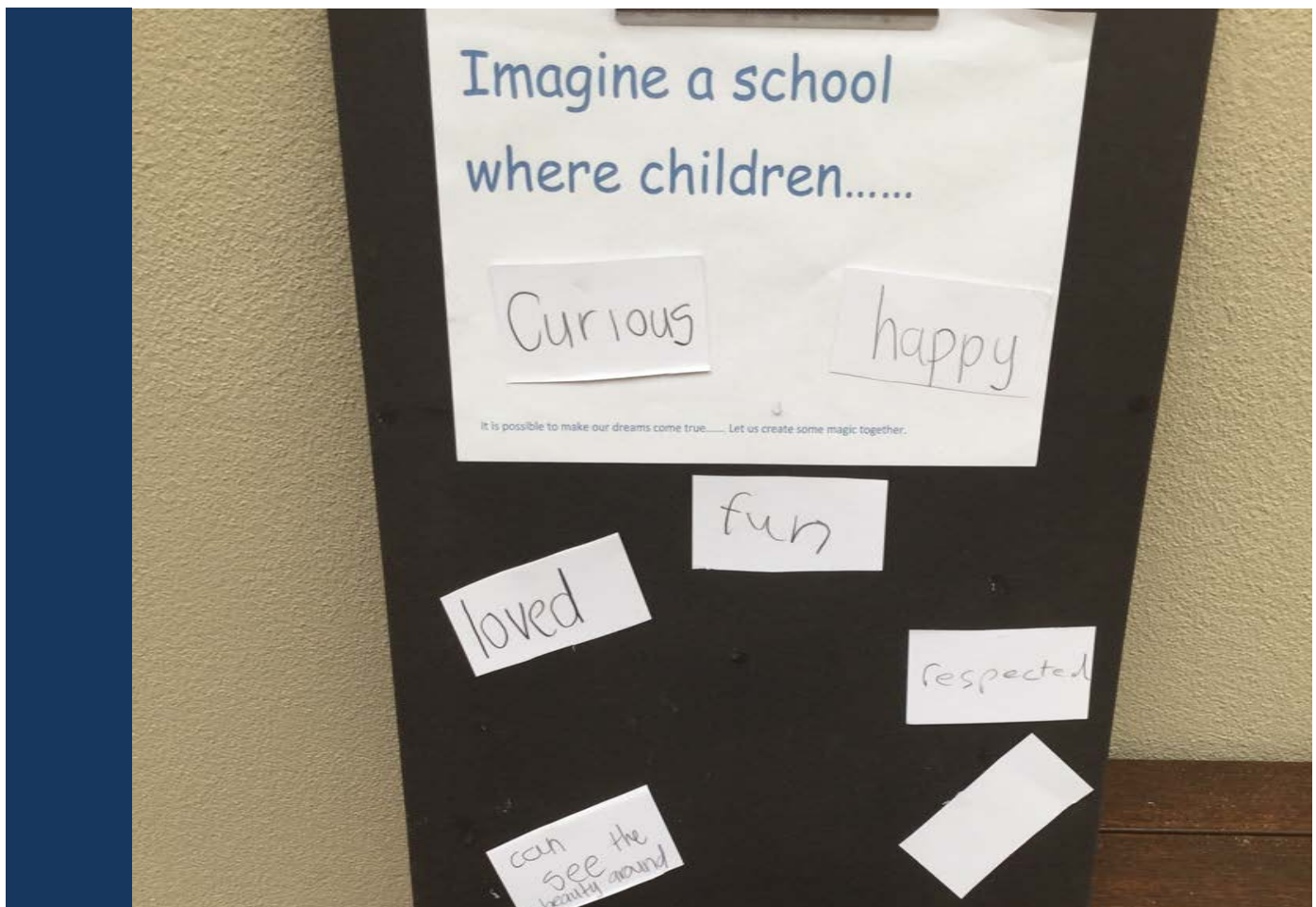
COMMUNITY: From the Latin *communitas*, common, in common;

SERVICE: Work done for others.

Now, at the early learning school level, this natural draw can be seen in very concrete terms. We have what we call our "grace and courtesy lessons". These lessons start immediately with even the youngest children. They help the child understand how to act appropriately in his/her culture. It teaches the child how to care and respect themselves, care and respect others, and care and respect their environment.

These lessons run the gamut from how to blow one's nose to how to greet someone, how to say thank you to how to apologise/excuse oneself and how to walk respectfully indoors to not disturb others during play or work. Through these lessons children learn how to act with dignity, respect and politeness toward others. They are developing a sense of their culture. They are learning how to live in community.

They answer the need of the individual to belong to their community.



Stage 1

By Lauren & Rujuta & Maria

Welcome back to another week in Stage 1, we hope you are well. It's great to see our new babies settling in so well. We know how hard it can be for children and parents dealing with a new environment and new faces. We are proud of all the progress our children have made so far this year.

Our provocation "What's in the Garden" has brought us to the theme of "butterflies" this week, allowing us to take an in depth look at the lifecycle of a butterfly.

Our focus story this week is one of my favourite stories "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". It explores many concepts such as counting, days of the week and, importantly, change. Our children are beginning to learn that all living things grow and change. This week in our visual arts program, we have been creating our own beautiful butterfly prints. We offered our babies a variety of different coloured paint to splatter onto their sheets of paper. They enjoyed pressing the paper down, smoothing the paint out and then opening the paper to see what they had created- a beautiful butterfly like the one from the story.

The children have been really engaged with our extra curricular activities the past few weeks.

- On Mondays we will have dance enrichment
- On Tuesday we will have Mandarin enrichment
- On Wednesday we will have yoga-mindfulness enrichment
- On Friday we will have music enrichment

The Mandarin lesson on Tuesday was a big hit . It is so important that children are exposed to languages other than English. In fact, Mandarin is the first language of many of our families at Reddam, Lindfield. It is great to see the children embracing this beautiful culture. On Wednesdays we are enjoying our yoga with Kelly, in particular the older babies are great at following directions and are really getting involved with the sessions. And of course music on Friday with Justin is the perfect end to the week. The babies adore Justin and are always so attentive and focused with him during the class.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend,

From Lauren, Rujuta and Maria



Stage 1

Butterfly Art



Stage 1

Butterfly Art



Stage 2

By Leonie

Last week we welcomed Jess to our Stage 2 class. Jess is the new teacher for Monday's and Tuesday's. We are very excited to have her apart of our Reddam family. Jess brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience. I (Leonie) have worked with Jess on and off for the past fifteen years so it's lovely to be working back together again. We will be in constant communication with each other so that together with Tracey we can all make the week work seamlessly. If you need to discuss anything feel free to speak to any one of us.

On Monday we started our dance class with the gorgeous Tess. Tess was amazing and the way she interacted with the children was beautiful. She encouraged them go to all different types of places using their imagination while incorporating ballet and jazz moves. She had them picking stars out of the sky using beautiful straight arms then placing them into their imaginary baskets. They had wings to fly like bluebirds - it was all so much fun. On Tuesday we all sat with Sherry learning Mandarin, with animals being this week's focus.

Our provocation "Music Makes us Happy" is continuing to still see enthusiasm and interest from the children they love to dance, sing and play the instruments. We would like to ask all our families if they could look through their cupboards for any old pots and pans they are not using and bring them in. We are going to beginning to make a music wall in our outside garden and need your help in donating pots, pans or anything you think would be great to use for our music wall.

Introducing Jess

Hello, My name is Jess and I will be helping Tracey and Leonie out with the Stage 2 children on a Monday and Tuesday. I have a Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood Education) and many, many years experience as a teacher and mother. I am very passionate about preserving our planet - I feel it is of great importance to teach our children to have respect for and appreciation of our natural world, and to help them to develop a sense of responsibility when it comes to ways in which we can take care of it. Including your child in the little things, such as recycling, composting, reusing and fixing broken things, is an easy and valuable way in which you can teach your child (and yourself!) to take care of our planet. I hope I can rub off some of my enthusiasm here! Thank you for having me and I hope to meet more of you soon. Jess



Stage 2 Creative Play



Stage 2 Construction



Stage 3

By Rochelle

What a great week we've had in Stage 3! The children are growing in new ways each and everyday and we love seeing their independence be stretched in a variety of different ways.

This week, we welcomed Oscar, Dimitri and Victoria into our Stage 3 class. We extend a warm welcome to all of our new friends and look forward to getting to know you and all of your families. Settling your child into a new environment can come with a handful of different challenges but these children have embraced all that the room has had to offer and have had a great first week. We also want to thank each of the children and their families for being so welcoming and friendly.

As we continue to focus on our five senses, we have continued to enjoy a number of hands on experiences with the children this past week. We have engaged in finger painting, taste testing sugar, salt, Vegemite and sparkles along with participating in an alphabet matching activity that helped develop of cognitive thinking and memory recognition skills. As the week has continued, the children have enjoyed making pizza with their peers as part of a follow-up activity and were involved in all the steps regarding this. It also gave the children the opportunity to learn about hygiene and ensuring that our hands are clean when cooking. We tasted our creations for afternoon tea and the children absolutely loved this! It was great for them to be apart of the entire process of this activity. We also enjoyed creating dinosaur houses for each of the animals in the classroom.

As the children engaged in this way their creative passion came to life as they constructed and showcased each of their creations. The children have also enjoyed participating in a fruit loop craft experience where they were encouraged to paint a rainbow and match the specific colours of the cereal to their artwork. This interactive experience also allowed the children to explore their smell and touch senses throughout the task. They also got to try a fruit loop too and you can only imagine how much they loved this. To finish off our week, the children enjoyed exploring spaghetti throughout a sensory experience within the room. It was messy, gooey and slimy but the children were absolutely fascinated by its texture and feeling.

Farewell

As your child's educator, it has been my absolute pleasure teaching your children over the time I have been at Reddam. I am very much going to miss your bright and friendly faces along with the joy that each of your children have brought me. Thank you for making my time at Reddam such a pleasure. I have loved getting to know each of you and will treasure all of my experiences with you and your children for a long time. All my love and best wishes for the future and I have no doubt that as your children continue under the leadership of Joselyn, they will continue to thrive and love all that Reddam has to offer. Warmest regards, Rochelle.



Stage 3

Taste, Touch, Smell



Stage 3

Pizza Chefs in the Making



Stage 3 Creative Expression



Stage 3 Team Work



Stage 4

By Pauline

This week we would like to welcome Kavya and Audrey to our Class. They have settled in well to our group and we look forward to getting to know them and their families.

Patterns are all around us! This past week we have been noticing straight and curving lines in our environment. The children have been very excited each time they have seen one and are often seen pointing them out to their friends. In our classroom the children noticed that the chairs, roof beams, lockers, placemats, lightbox, weather chart, windows all have straight lines. The tree branch, lines on the mat, in the grain of wood, threading string and ribbon all have curvy lines.

Linking the different type of lines to our provocation "What's in a Name?", the children were given a puzzle of their faces. The puzzle consisted of straight and curved lines. We noticed that the outside of the puzzle had straight lines to form a rectangle when complete.

Children have a natural sense of symmetry and balance . The reason we want to play with symmetry is that it helps children develop their ability to recognize patterns, to classify and their observation skills. All of these skills are used in subjects like math, reading and art.

This week the children were given a picture of half their face in black and white. They were encouraged to draw the other half of their face using a pencil. They did fantastic work which you can see displayed around the classroom!



Stage 4 Symmetry



Stage 4 Creative Expression



Stage 4 Exploration



Stage 1 & 2:

This week, we have a new theme for the children. Once again, children are discovering they have fingers on their hands! This sounds so obvious to us but these little ones are really discovering how to control those little fingers and we can see how they try so hard to keep their thumbs up while keeping all the other fingers closed. Their thumbs were the “Jacks” in the box that went “pop”! We are working on the precision to “pop” at the exact moment in the song.

The other tricky thing we did was to stand on one foot. The song about the frog had 2 distinct sections and the first section had actions that required them to blink their eyes while the second got them to hop on one foot. This activity brought much laughter to the class but children were learning to identify patterns through the song. Such skills would help in developing mathematical thinking. If you see your little one trying to hop on one foot this week, it might be they are inspired to do some practice at home!

Stage 3:

The new theme is all about the beach. We listened to the sound of the waves and explored a very special musical instrument called a “wave drum”. Through the song “wiggling my toes”, we help children develop body part awareness through song.

We also played with a new instrument called the “sand blocks”. In order to play this instrument, children had to move in alternating movement instead of a parallel movement. This is a developing skill at this stage of their development. Then we moved like an octopus in a creative dance. It was great fun!

Stage 4:

We reinforced the keeping of the beat when singing a song by singing, “Johnny Hammers”, and “I love to play the sticks”. But the main activity was the reciting of the rhyme, “Hickory Hickory Dock”. We said the rhyme together while keeping the beat. Then after the words “up the clock”, children slid the mallet up the glockenspiel and did the opposite when the mouse ran down the clock. They also hit on the triangle when “the clock struck one”.

The above activity helps children develop **discipline** and **focus** in a **fun** way. They could not simply and randomly slide up and down on the glockenspiel but had to wait for the right moment. Similarly, they could not just randomly ring the triangle as they wished. Such action instils discipline through a fun activity. Also, we noticed if the child was not paying attention, the sound effect simply didn't happen. We all would have a good laugh at the sleeping mouse or sleeping clock and would try again and the child would know not to dream the second time! That required focus and concentration.



Music



Music



Music



Last lesson, I prepared chopsticks and small soft plastic balls. Children were interested in trying to pick up small balls with chopsticks. All students were involved in the activities. Some of them were proud of themselves for picking balls with chopsticks. The experience indicates that children like to experience new things. Therefore, I will design more cultural activities for them.

Last week, we read the book of "Hop, Hop, Jump". I simplified all action words into a general word "dong" (move). Also when we read the book together, we moved our heads, arms, legs, and feet. Children enjoyed moving the body with the pictures of the book. Moreover, some of them were naturally repeating the word "dong". This week, I will repeat the story with them. Furthermore, Peppa Pig is a popular cartoon for kids. One episode is named "Hiccups". In the story, Peppa tries different ways to help George to cure hiccups, including some body actions. It is a good way for kids to access those action words by watching the cartoon. To encourage their pronunciation, we will watch that episode in Chinese.

We continue to review the words of "hongse" and "lanse" (red and blue), "baba" and "mama" (father and mother). Meanwhile, we will learn how to say "who is this?" in Chinese through games. For Stage 3 and 4, we will start to learn some names of animals, such as "gou" (dog), "mao" (cat) and "tuzi" (rabbit).



Mandarin



During yoga this week, the children popped on their imaginative snorkels and fins, diving deep into the ocean.

After a windup warm up song, the children used a sea creatures cube to determine the yoga posture.

For the Nest through to Stage 2, this was done by throwing the cube while for Stage 3 and 4, they were encouraged to invoke their working memory by choosing a pose on the sea creatures cube that had not been done yet.

During the following round of ocean yoga poses, the children utilized a crafted fishing rod with a magnet attached to carefully fish with motor control the next sea creature pose. During this yoga lesson, the children had a chance to use and extend their knowledge by labelling the picture of creatures that swim through the ocean!

Through this creative engagement of movement that makes use of imagination, children develop physical strength, body awareness, coordination, focus, confidence, social and emotional intelligence, emotional control as well as finding inner peace and strength.



Yoga

