



# REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL LINDFIELD NEWSLETTER



REDDAM  
ELS

14TH SEPTEMBER 2018

## Petra's Message

Dear Parents,

We have experienced a wonderful start to spring. It is finally the time of year to emerge from near hibernation. Skies are bluer, mornings brighter, the air warmer, and everything simply seems better. You just have to walk into Stage 2 and you will be greeted by the blameless blossoms of Jasmine that lets off a distinctive perfume, a mixture of sweetness and musk that refuses to be upstaged by any other smell.

As the weather has been kind to us, the children have made the most of water play. Please be mindful that all children are to wear their Reddam hats whilst outside. At Reddam we follow a rigid Sun Smart policy, wearing a hat and sunscreen during outdoor play. We provide sunscreen throughout the day but ask that your child come to school with sunscreen already applied. Please consider the type of clothing your child wears to school that will protect them best from the sun. Shoulders and backs must be covered.

Thank you to all the parents who have given me such great feedback about staying connected with their children through Tapestry, being part of the special moments of their children's life and how it keeps parents involved in a partnership as their children blossom and grow.

If I could please encourage all parents to post pictures and comments about their child/children especially over the weekends as this is a wonderful topic of conversation in group time on Monday mornings. Please ask your teachers if you need help with the upload.

Please note, Vacation Care programme will commence on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend with your precious children.

**By Mrs. Petra Wright, Principal**

# Stage 1: The Nest & Fledglings

By Mrs Leonie Pride

Welcome to Week 8! It's been so lovely to see the warmer weather picking up which we have taken advantage of this week. Stage 1 have been painting and playing with water in just their nappies, enabling them to be free with what they are doing rather than worrying about getting messy or wet. If you have a spare rash top at home for them please send one in then we can put them in that rather than their clothes with water activities.

This week, Stage 1 focused on many sensory activities. We had our rice trough for pouring and filling which brought a lot of curiosity and enjoyment. Some children found it more fun to sit in it while playing. Noises from the rice being shaken in containers and on trays brought discussion from the teachers that it sounded like rain falling.

We created some dinosaur art stamping on the floor, allowing Stage 1 to walk in it as well as use their hands.

Our floating feathers activity created excitement from the Stage 1s. Showing wonder as they watched them fall, some tried to catch them as they felt some landing on their heads. The teachers sang songs while the feathers fell and tickled the children's feet and hands for a lovely sensory experience.

While outside we painted with water this week which was lots of fun and our weaving teepee got a pop of colour with the children adding ribbons.

A big happy birthday to Viggo this week we celebrated with him his 2nd Birthday.

Thanks everyone for a great week. Enjoy your weekend.

Leonie, Rujuta, Ella and Grace





## Stage 1: Happy Birthday, Viggo





## Stage 1: Decorating Our Teepee with Ribbons





## Stage 1: I Spy....Different Colours





## Stage 1: Water Play





## Stage 1: Floating Feathers





## Stage 1: Sensory Play With Rice





## Stage 2: Chicks

By Ms Nimo Gill

As the weather is warming up it's the perfect way to welcome it with some water play. An invitation with frozen flowers was set up to allow the children to explore them as the ice melted. The flower sensory bin introduced them to different textures of flowers with different temperatures of water. As the children explored the sensory bin we slowly add sifts and wooden spoons to extend their experience. The children were mesmerised by the different flowers and the experience brought forth their colour recognition skills. Exploring the different petals through their shape and texture, the children picked flowers from the sensory bin and gave them their friends and educators.

An invitation was extended to create a leaf and flower collage using different shapes and colours of flowers and petals. The children explored their sense of touch and smell as they explore this experience. As they looked at the different materials set out, they were quite taken with the different smells and textures. The children explored their collage by plucking some petals to arrange in their collage and even adding big beautiful flowers just as they were. The sticky contact was a challenge for them but they persevered as they learnt to carefully place delicate flowers down.

The children explored painting flowers from a beautiful display filled with different colours and shapes of flowers. The children used the medium of different paints representing the different colours of flowers, creating stunning patterns onto white paper. On Monday we started with pink flowers, the paints set out were a dark pink and light pink and white. On Tuesday we moved on to orange and on the other days purple, yellow and red. The white colour set out is an invitation for the children to explore colour mixing. The children were able to make different shades of the orange, comparing it to the orange flowers displayed. Colour mixing promotes their language and promotes scientific thinking of being able to predict how the colours they mix are changing and transforming. As the children painted they explored the display of flowers floating in the water, and as they ran their hands through the water they felt the soft petals of the flowers. We discussed how we needed to be gentle while observing the flowers as we painted, as they know flowers are delicate and need special care otherwise they could break. This creative experience connecting the children to nature was not just about painting. Often we would talk about being gentle, kind, polite and nice to our family and friends so while using such a delicate yet beautiful flowers to paint we mentioned the importance of looking after nature and how beautiful and fragile it is.

Exploring the books "Christopher Nibble", who ate dandelions, the children were introduced to how plants grow naturally as the seeds are carried by the wind. They looked after their flowers by daily watering and through the book "That's Not a Daffodil" the children were introduced to how it takes time to grow the flower we planted. As we looked back at our sunflowers and asyllum flowers we planted last week, we have noticed tiny little sprouts appearing, the children are very thrilled to see their hard work grow.





## Stage 2: Tending to our Beautiful Garden



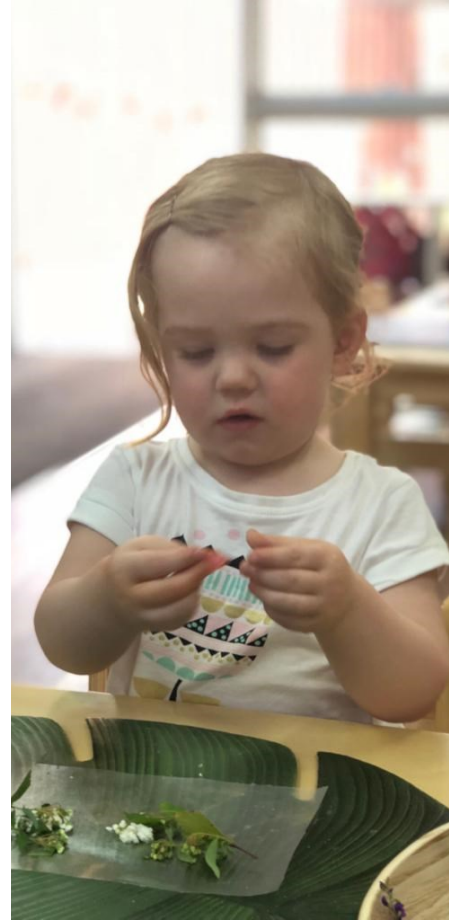


## Stage 2: Sensory Experience - Flowers in Ice





## Stage 2: Pressed Flower Collage





## Stage 2: Flowers Make Delicate Paintings





## Stage 2/3: Sparrows and Finches

Mrs Joselyn Bruzzano

It has been a very busy week for our Sparrows and Finches with our experiences centring around fairies and elves. Our book this week titled 'Izzy the Ice Cream Fairy' by Tim Bugbird inspired us to extend on the rhyming composition (text) of the story (book). Rhyming forms part of phonic awareness and rhyming activities assist children to improve their overall oral language skills. When children are familiar with nursery rhymes or rhyming stories, they learn to anticipate words, preparing them for future reading. Singing, Rhyming and storytelling are all oral activities helping to improve recall and memory skills. This week we took time to rhyme by reading our rhyming books, singing nursery rhymes and playing exciting rhyming games.

Experimenting with fairy and elf potions was an exciting highlight, with the children using bicarb of soda in small jars littered with glitter. It was very exciting to see the bubbly eruptions percolating to the surface of the jars as pink vinegar was added to the potions. Science experiences offer children the opportunity to explore basic scientific processes and encourages children to experiment, explore and question, leading to further experiments.

Portions of coloured fabric allowed the children to use their imaginations and express creativity as they created fairy and elf dress ups. Winding the fabric around their bodies they fell into character pretending to be fairies and elves. Scrunching the fabric up and winding coloured yarn around it enabling them to make beautiful wings.

We revisited our fairy garden, transplanting some of our succulents into a large wooden pot. The children firstly filled the pot with soil scooping soil in, they then carefully arranged succulents and then decorated it using stones, gems, glass beads and fairies. We located our fairy garden alongside our gnome garden and the children have been tending to them with water. The Sparrows and Finches seem to have really enjoyed creating small potted gardens to decorate our room and have been very mindful around them, reminding each other to use kind hearts and gentle hands.

Towards the end of the week we introduced engineering into our program with the Sparrows and Finches creating ice castles for elves and fairies. The children used scoops, spoons and their hands to collect ice, placing the ice cubes together to form mounds and castle like towers. The children explored cause and effect and used trial and error as they created their ice cube structures sprinkled with fairy and elf glitter dust. We discovered that the more that the ice melted the more slippery it became and harder it was to create with.

Creative experiences throughout the week included children making bubble art using elf and fairy pipe cleaner wands dipped into coloured bubble mixture. Coloured rice sensory tubs encouraged children to develop their hand eye coordination and motor skills, strengthening the muscles in their hands.

Have a wonderful weekend!





# Stage 2/3: Re-Visiting Our Fairy & Elf Gardens





# Stage 2/3: Making Bubble Art with Wands





## Stage 2/3: Making Ice Castles





## Stage 2/3: Fairy & Elf Themed Sensory Tubs



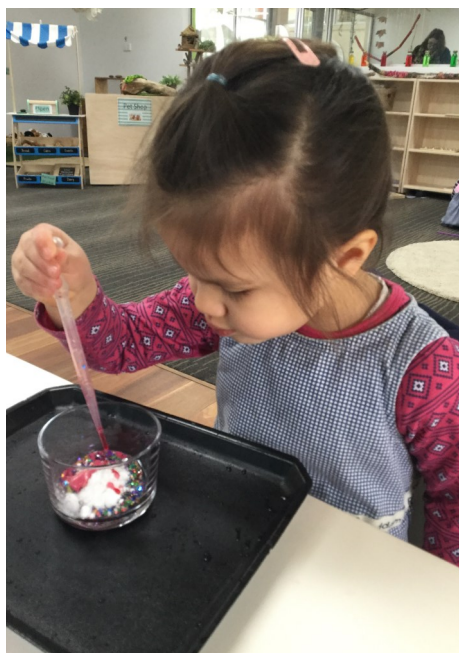


# Stage 2/3: Fairy & Elf Themed Dress Ups





## Stage 2/3: Making Fairy & Elf Potions





## Stage 3: Kookaburras

By Ms Lauren Hall

This week the Kookaburras revisited their interest in colours and science experiments from earlier in the term. The children manipulated syringes and eyedroppers to mix primary colours on ice, made fizzy bubbles with bicarbonate soda and vinegar, and explored how coloured oil separates from water. The ice experiment was very popular as the children were fascinated at how the ice crystalised when they sprinkled salt on top. There were many rich conversations between the children about how to mix the colours and what reactions occurred. While observing the children it was evident how engaged they were, demonstrating their concentration while using trial and error to conduct their experiments. These play-based experiences give the children the opportunity to investigate, manipulate, and experiment with a range of resources and materials that develop the concepts, skills and dispositions that are important for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM.)

The children's interest in life-cycles continued this week and they learned about how crocodiles hatch from eggs. We read a story called *Crocodile River*, which explained how crocodiles grow from tiny hatchlings into huge adults that are several metres long. The children were surprised to learn that crocodiles can live in both rivers and the ocean. To extend on our insect inquiry the children investigated ladybirds, learning how they go through many interesting changes before becoming a beetle. We read *What The Ladybird Heard* and discussed how small the insect was compared to the larger animals on the farm. The children extended on the storybook by engaging in ladybird counting with black rocks for spots and constructing their own ladybird collage pictures.

During our art experiences the children explored the works of Claude Monet, focusing on his water lily series. There was a lot of curiosity about water lilies last week during our frog investigation, and we discussed how they hop from one to the other. The children used purples, pinks and greens to paint their own interpretations of the water lily pond and also enjoyed our water play provocation table. The children also manipulated purple play dough to make sparkly water lilies to enhance their fine-motor skills and small muscle strength in their hands.

During group times the children have been invited to participate in fun and interactive games, incorporating basic literacy and numeracy concepts. Our favourite game this week involved using fly swatters to swat and identify letter sounds using flashcard pictures (a variation of the game 'Snap'.) Around the classroom the children have also practised their rote counting and one-to-one correspondence, making alternating patterns, matching and making pairs with insects, and using their visual discrimination skills to match and identify letters of the alphabet.

And we can't forget the highlight of the week – our water play day! There were so many fun learning opportunities facilitated as the children used their sensory skills to explore ice, role-played with animals in the water fountain and poured and scooped water into various containers with utensils. What a memorable day for both the children and educators. Another amazing week of learning together!





## Stage 3: Investigating Frogs, Crocodiles & Lillies





## Stage 3: Contructing Patchwork Elephants





## Stage 3: Literacy and Numeracy Games





## Stage 3: Colourful Science Experiments





## Stage 3: Interpreting Van Gogh's 'Starry Night'





## Stage 3: Interpreting Monet's 'Water Lilies'





## Stage 3: Highlights from Water Play Day





## Stage 4: Rosellas

By Ms Carmen Jarratt

This week the learning experiences have been provoked by a traditional African tale called *Handa's Surprise*, a book about a girl who decides to bring seven delicious fruits to her friend, who lives in a nearby village. This fantastic book has provoked learning in several areas:

**Senses:** The children tasted and smelt the seven delicious fruits Handa had in her basket that included exotic fruits like passionfruit and guava.

They have used their listening skills to identify the sound that some African animals produce, and used playdough to reproduce the shape of some animals and fruits.

**Art and craft:** Inspired in Handa's book, the children produced pieces of art such as drawings of fruit, fruit baskets, and African animals.

The children also created miniature African houses that they added to their Handa's miniature world, and peg dolls they dressed and decorated brilliantly.

**Ethnicity:** Following up on the shared book reading experiences, the children have participated in rich discussions about personal appearance, comparing their own skin, eyes and hair colour with Handa's. They also compared the type of houses and villages present in the book, with their own as well as animals that appear in the story, typically from Africa.

**Language and communication skills:** The Rosellas have made puppets, and played with finger puppets they have used to re-enact *Handa's Surprise* book.

**Gross motor skills:** The children have participated in several very active games that included African animals, the way they walk, run and jump.

### Water Play

This Wednesday we had a glimpse of summer, so the children sized the opportunity to play with water, filling and emptying containers, painting the fences with water and watering plants.... As the water was so fresh and the day so warm, it was decided to incorporate a hose and basically into the experience - what a great source of fun playing with water is!

### Warm weather:

We would like to take the opportunity to remind you about being sun smart:

**Sunscreen:** please apply sunscreen to your child before arriving to school, the sunscreen will be re-applied during the rest of the day.

**Hat:** All children need to wear a Reddam hat, please remember to clearly mark your child's hat, in Stage 4, we have the NO HAT, NO PLAY policy.

**Water:** Please bring a clearly marked water bottle

**Clothing:** All children should wear tops that cover their neck and shoulders.

Have a lovely weekend,  
Rosellas educators





## Stage 4: Tasting Handa's Fruit





# Stage 4: Smelling Handa's Fruit





# Stage 4: Re-Enacting Handa's Book Using Masks





## Stage 4: Drawing Handa's Fruit Basket





## Stage 4: Making Houses





## Stage 4: Making Dolls





## Stage 4: Water Play





# Music & Movement





*"The way we talk to our children becomes their inner voice"*

Relaxation is the topic for our Spring Yoga this week. Because sometimes the most productive thing you can do is relax.

A great place to begin this practice with children is to focus on the body and the breath. Guiding children to notice their inhale and exhale and how they are feeling inside helps to put space between actions and reactions.

When children are able to pause and connect to what is happening in the moment, they have more choices of how to respond to situations. By bringing this kind of practice to young people we are giving them tools to resolve conflicts, de-stress, support mental and physical health, and enhance their concentration and attention in classroom settings. We are giving them a way to access their own resiliency and develop skills that will be a support to them throughout their lives. This is the aim of YOGA.

## Sit and Relax

Class began with a discussion of what the word RELAX means. Then I introduced a guided visual meditation where children were invited to imagine they were butterflies flying above a garden of colourful flowers. As they seated with eyes closed I requested that they reach out to pick a flower in their favourite colour and to bring it close to their nose to smell it. Next with eyes open we all together pick a rainbow flower and began to pull out colourful petals and blowing out into the air. Our own hands represented the floating petals. This exercise encouraged conscious breathing as children were directed to breath in and out several times. Furthermore, it promoted body and mind relaxation as they moved their arms and hands in slow motion.

Because I love to combine aromatherapy in my yoga classes we repeated the exercise of smelling and identifying the fragrance of a flower. This time I added few drops of lemongrass essential oil and after we completed this activity I suggested if they wished to have some of the lemongrass fragrance in their own hands. Children were very excited to wait for a turn on getting a drop of the essential oil. Health practitioners' states that essential oils have many benefits for health and well-being.





# Playball

By Miss Lauren Guttman

Hi champs!

Lauren taught us how to play the "shark and the stingray" game. The sharks and the stingrays cross over the ocean without "boofing" into each other. Lauren then went faster and faster and we were running around in circles. Crazy!!

We all found our own hoop and Lauren instructed us what to do with the hoop – jump into the hoop, jump out of the hoop, jump over the hoop, walk around the hoop, etc.

We all had a turn to spin the hoop, wait for the hoop to fall onto the ground and jump in. Wait, wait, wait and jump!

Doughnuts! We all asked to catch doughnuts – definitely one of our best games!

Lauren placed some hurdles on the court and we did some throwing **OVER** the hurdles in front of us. Then, we did some **ROLLING UNDER** the hurdles.

Lauren held up a hoop and we threw our balls **THROUGH** the hoop.

Lauren set up an obstacle course for us with hurdles, beanbags, tunnel and hoops and we tried to cross the circuit from one piece of equipment to another, always remembering to cheer for our little friends. YAY!! That's how good sports behave!

Hot balls..... we ran around the court and Lauren rolled "hot balls" towards our feet. We need to really use footwork skills and try our best to dodge the balls.

Lauren divided us into two relay teams, using a beanbag as a baton. She set up hurdles for both teams and we had races jumping over the hurdles like real big kids!! Lauren always tells us "it's not important who wins, it's just awesome to have some fun and be a true sport".





Last week, children with a Chinese language background played Dominos with Chinese characters on both sides.

They were challenged by many of the characters, so I will be introducing some basic rules of Chinese characters to them in the future lessons with games. This week, we will focus on the numbers one to five.

Stage 2 and 3 children were so happy to read the book of numbers with flaps. We review numbers by reading the book and then colour a picture using the specific numbers.

Stage 4 children like to challenge themselves - this term they have grasped four routine questions and two new songs. They can also understand the contents of books related to what they learnt.

We will explore a new topic this week - food. We will learn how to say pizza, hamburger, cake, ice-cream and dumplings in Chinese. Also it should be fun for them to learn how to make dumplings with soft clay.

