



# REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL LINDFIELD NEWSLETTER



REDDAM  
ELS

16TH FEBRUARY 2018

## Simone's Message

By Mrs Simone Cooke, Principal

Dear Parents,

### **Celebrating Cultural Diversity.**

Here at Reddam we delight in diversity. As a co educational, non denominational, independent school group, we believe in fostering the confidence, potential and individuality of each of our children. We strive to acknowledge the unique individuality and talents of our children and respect their rich and varied cultural backgrounds.

From a young age, our children are constantly experiencing and learning about their culture and the world around them. Creating an inclusive society relies upon being culturally responsive and respecting multiple ways of thinking and being. As Teachers we are constantly aware of building each child's sense of "belonging, being and becoming" and looking to expose children to a wide range of cultural practices and beliefs.

This week our children began their two week celebration of Chinese New Year, which will culminate in our lantern festival. Chinese lion dancing, dragon prints and calligraphy were enjoyed across the school as we celebrated the Lunar New Year and welcomed 2018 The Year of the Dog.

As part of our Celebrations our Mandarin Teacher Miss Shelley Zhu introduced us to traditional Chinese dress and the red Cheongsam. She taught us how to say "Happy New Year" in Chinese and introduced us to the Chinese Zodiac and the Chinese symbol for Good Luck and Good Fortune. We invite our families to join in our celebrations and our teachers would love it if you would like to visit your child's class and share with us a Chinese tradition, cooking experience or family memories.

Gong Xi Fa Tsai, Gong Hay Fat Choy

Wishing You Prosperity!

# Stage 1

By Miss Leonie Pride

Week 3 has been a busy week. The children are feeling more settled, the new routines of the class are established and we are all finding our way in the class together. We are still welcoming some new children so we still have some separation anxiety in the mornings with tears at drop off but this is very normal. We recommend that you can assist your child to adapt to their school by showing your child that you are confident for them to be in this new environment and reassure them you will be back. Never leave without saying good bye and tell them they will have a great day.

The day is filled with lots of fun activities in between our routines of the day. This week we started Playball on Monday with our instructor Lauren. The children loved it. There were balls going everywhere, hoops to Hulu, games to play and everyone participated with great enthusiasm. Lauren was a lovely instructor and the children took to her with ease.

Playdough has been popular this week some children getting straight into it, while others preferred watching and observing what their peers do with it. Stage 1 is a lovely stage to observe when a child hasn't participated in an activity like this before such as painting. They are cautious at first but once they experience it they either really enjoy it or sometimes need a little more time to get use to the sensory side of things. In this case if there is a sensory overload we will continue to encourage them, as long as they are continuing to be curious about the activity. Most children participate in these activities in their own time.

Throughout this week we have taken the children for an adventure walk in the front garden. They have enjoyed exploring the garden paths, climbing stairs, running down the ramp and playing with the Bottle Top Art outside the kitchen door.

It's been a lovely week. Please don't forget to send through a family photo if you haven't already done so.

[Leonie.pride@reddamels.com.au](mailto:Leonie.pride@reddamels.com.au)

Take care,



# Stage 1



# Stage 2

By Ms Jessica Whitbourne

We had another happy week as the children explored all our learning environments and resources, becoming more confident each week and developing relationships with their peers and teachers. We are finding our groove, with the children mostly now predicting the routine and showing a greater understanding of the 'rules' and boundaries at Reddam. They are becoming very good at remembering to collect their hat and drink bottle after washing their hands for meals. We are excited that the children are learning this great self-help skill and a sense of responsibility for their own belongings. Our social focus last week, which will continue throughout the year, was about asking for a turn, using simple words, waiting for a turn and giving another friend a turn.

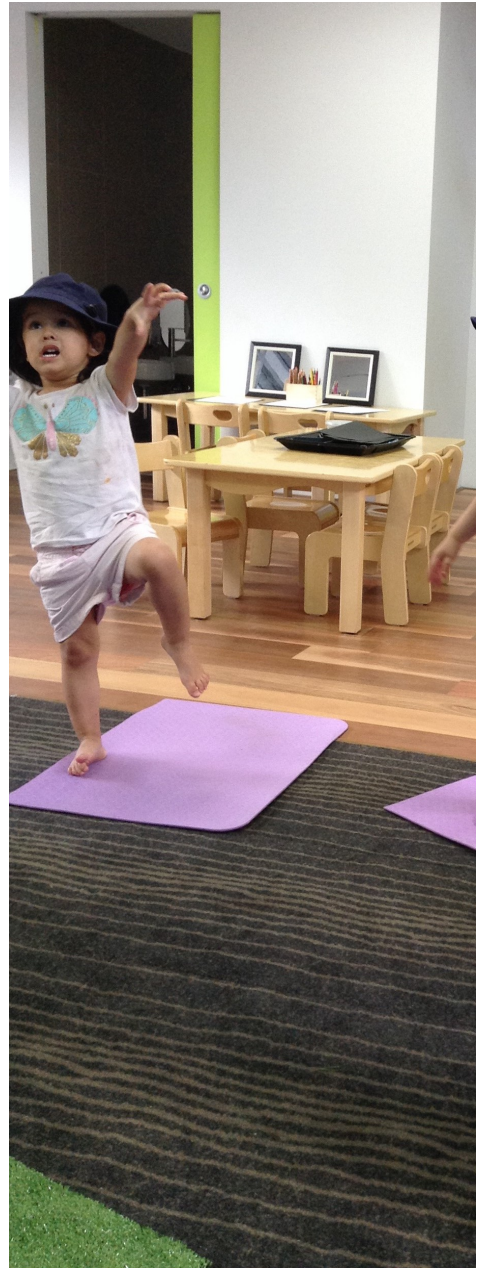
Our provocation focus began with a focus on love and kindness for our friends and family, expressed through conversations with the children and the opportunity to create a collage for Valentine's Day. We talked with the children about the hearts they were using to create their collage card, that we have hearts inside us that help us to love and be kind and gentle. "Who do you love?" we asked the children and there were lots of replies of mummy and daddy.

We had spent a couple of weeks getting to know our own bodies, labelling body parts and through stories, songs and dance. We labelled parts of our face and head again, this time thinking about what you can taste with your mouth (ice cream!), what you can chew with your teeth (biscuits and bananas), what we can hear and what we can see. A spontaneous exploration of their tummies (Alexandria, Thomas, Caroline and Eabha) at the beginning of group time gave us a chance to have a look at our tummies and chest. We invited all the children to lift up their t-shirts and tell us what they can see. We could see Thomas's ribs and I told the children about how our ribs protect our lungs, which fill with air as we breathe in and deflate as we breathe out. We all put our hands to our chest and felt exactly how the inflation and deflation felt. The greatest discovery was, of course, that we all have belly buttons!

Not only do the children learn about their own body through these experiences, but they develop connections with each other as they see similarities between them.



## Stage 2



## Stage 2



In the last few weeks we have been exploring individual body parts, this week as part of our Provocation: "All About Me," we have focused on our bodies as a whole. Firstly the children took a close look at photos of their bodies, some of the children also looked at their bodies in the mirror, then we talked about what makes us individual. One of the questions asked was, "what is different about me?" We discovered that we all come in different shapes and sizes, this prompted another question, "who is tallest and who is shortest?" We all lined up and compared our height to our peers. Through our investigation we discovered that our bodies all look very different making us unique and individual.

To further explore our bodies children had the opportunity to express their creativity through the medium of sculpture, using clay to create their interpretations of what their bodies look like. The focus during this experience was in the process, investigation and exploration rather than the final product itself. Some of the children approached the experience cautiously, unsure of the new medium that they were presented with whilst others seemed very excited and keen to commence using their clay. Armed with sculpting tools the children carved into their clay, referring back to the photos of their bodies and the model of a body for reference. It was great to see all of the amazing sculptures being created and the children so immersed in the activity on offer.

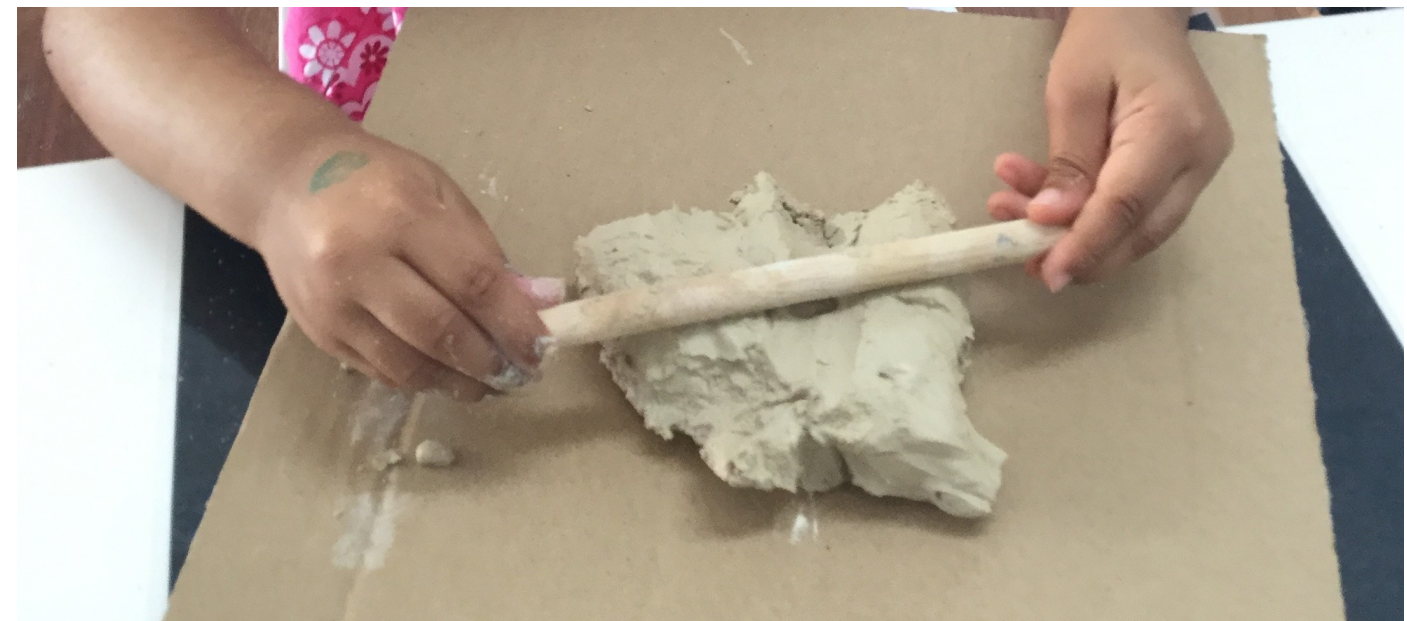
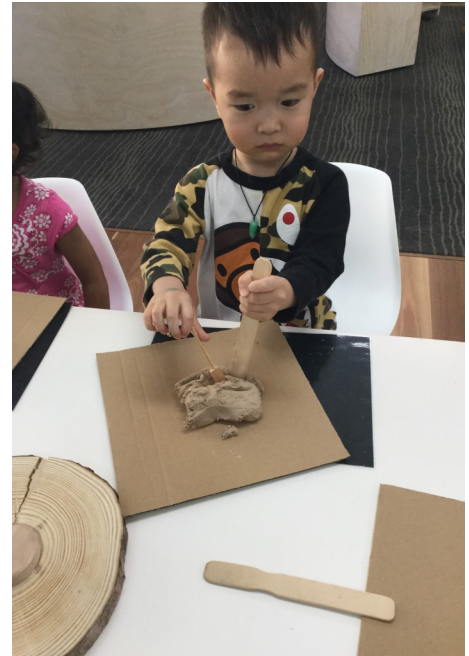
Continuing our focus on our bodies, some of the children used the medium of collage to explore their identity. They pasted glue onto cardboard and then selected from a range of collage materials including fabric, buttons, ribbon and wooden pop sticks to create their collages of themselves. The children seemed very excited seeing their creations on our provocation board. They spent quite some time comparing them and looking for their peers creations.

The Sparrows and Finches continued to grow their interest in STEM experience with the opportunity to make sensory bottles. Using a funnel we tipped silver glitter into bottles, added a range of seashells and then added water. We talked about basic math concepts, capacity: half, full and empty as the water reached the bottles capacity.

To celebrate Chinese New Year we transformed Home Corner into a Chinese Restaurant. Our restaurant offered Chinese noodles, rice and dumplings all served with green tea. The children took turns ordering and serving Chinese cuisine, they also seemed to have a lot of fun using the chopsticks!

We also celebrated Valentines Day on Wednesday by making Valentines Day cards, paper flowers and heart and star shaped cookies. The best part was taste testing the delicious cookies! Happy Valentines Day.

## Stage 2/3: Sculptures of Ourselves



## Stage 2/3: Making Cookies & Valentine Art



## Stage 2/3: Collage of Ourselves



## Stage 2/3: STEM Sensory Bottles



## Stage 2/3: Chinese Themed Restaurant



# Stage 3 & 4

By Ms Pauline and Ms Margarita

This week has been one of celebrations - Birthdays, Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year!

As we looked at Valentine's Day, and what it means to most people, we turned our focus on how we can show love to others. How we show love to others at home and at school. Some of the children's thoughts were "helping our friends", "sharing our toys", "giving a hug", "playing with a friend", The children have been encouraged to show their love to others in many different ways. This is very important at the beginning of the year where some of our children in our group are still settling in to their new group at school.

Kung Hei Fat Choy! We wish you good health and lasting prosperity!

This week we welcomed in a new Chinese New Year, the Year of the Dog! We have celebrated by tasting traditional Chinese Food, making fans and lanterns, using noodles to create patterns, and counting using red and gold objects. At the play dough activity, many of the children were seen making dumplings and chopsticks were being used to pick up small objects to put in various containers. As we extend on our provocation "where do I belong?" we have been exploring how many different cultures are in our group and some of their special celebrations. We will continue to celebrate the Chinese New Year over the next week.

We have been displaying our "All about Me" sheets in the classroom. It has been great getting to know your child better. We look forward to receiving more sheets.

Pauline and Margarita



## Stage 3 & 4



## Stage 3 & 4



## MUSIC

This week we had our first music classes! We sung our hello song, which includes waving hello, clapping our hands to the beat, co-ordinating our singing with clapping (for the toddlers), and listening to the teacher sing hello (for the under 3's). This week was all about getting to know what we do in music, and getting the children comfortable with singing new as well as familiar songs to learn about music, while having fun. Each week, we will sing our hello song, so that all the children know that it's time for music!

In each of the classes, we listened to a song to clap, tap or stamp the beat, so that the children get a feel for the beat within their body, which is important in developing musicality in children. In classes for the younger children, we listened to a soft orchestral piece, which introduces the little ones in a gentle way, and so many of them loved hearing this piece. Listening is an important part of music, and helps develop a sense of how music sounds.

In each class, we sang songs about horses, clapping to the beat and riding our horses around the room (for the older children) and listening to get familiar with the songs (for the infants). We also did some nursery rhymes with finger puppets, we talked about how our speaking voice can be different to our singing voice. We met a bumble bee who buzzed around the class, and made 'pat-a-cakes' with actions, helping to develop our co-ordination and speaking voices.

With the older children, we sang a song about 'no more pie' which involves a call and response, which requires children to listen, and learn about a prominent feature of music, and develop their singing voices.

Everybody's favourite part of our lessons were doing the actions to 'Jump for Joy'; jumping like a kangaroo, swimming like a fish and snapping like a crocodile, having fun while developing our listening skills, involving movement in our classes, and getting the children familiar with a song that they will learn the words to, developing memory and familiarity with the song.

Each of our classes end with our goodbye song, and the children all get a stamp or high-5 for listening, singing and moving, while having fun in music

Gabby

## **Fledglings/Chicks /Sparrows/Hatchlings**

Teacher in role as the white rabbit from Alice in Wonderland exploring the concept of being "late" explaining that she had an invitation to a party.

A number of questions were asked including:

Have you ever seen a rabbit?

Have you ever had a rabbit for a pet?

What do rabbits look like?

What do rabbits eat?

Where do rabbits live?

How do rabbits move?

Do rabbits have long ears or short ears?

The children used their imagination to go down the rabbit hole (tunnel) before arriving at the tea party

At the Mad Hatters Tea Party the children all had a cup of tea and scone, that they mimed and showed how delicious it was.

Using the hat they took it in turns to do some magic; rabbits kept appearing and disappearing from the hat. The last child found a note in the hat that said 'look under the mat'

Under the mat was a picture of a heart that signalled that the Queen of Hearts was about to appear. One of the children dressed up as the Queen and give the rest of the class commands that they had to do (ordered them to jump up and down, spin around, balance on one leg etc.)

This exercise focused on status and language allowing the children to respond using different tones, facial expressions and levels

Carrot hunt – The children had to go and find the carrots that were hidden around the room.

They then discussed carrots and why they are good for them.

The children finished the session by acting out a poem about rabbits (chicks)

## **Stage 3 & 4**

The children participated in a teacher led improvisation of Jack and the Beanstalk. Meeting a number of characters from the story and discussing how they could change the story with guidance from the teacher.

The children became Jack and discovered that the Beans had grown into something other than a Beanstalk. A Ladder, will lead them to a Magical Land, A Mountain, will lead them to the land of sounds and a trampoline will take them into the TV and behind the scenes. In each land the children will work together to create their own story using what they have learnt over the last 2 weeks.

## **Skills learnt this week:**

Improvisation and creativity

Memory recall

Becoming a character/being in role

Using their imagination

Mime

Working Together

Story telling

Listening to instructions

## **Other Activities include:**

TIR as the old man who gives Jack the beans, playing 'I spy' pictures where scattered around the room of objects/animals starting with B



The Chinese New Year is coming. Thursday 15th February is Chinese New Year Eve, so this is a good time for the children to learn about the festival and to celebrate it.

I started at the beginning explaining that according to the Chinese there are five elements and according to the legend of Nian, red is the lucky and proper colour to choose during the festival. So this week I wore my Cheongsam (Traditional Chinese Dress) and explained our tradition to the children.

I also explained to the children why Chinese people celebrate the spring festival and the legend of Nian. When I showed them my dress I also told them about the other red clothes people prefer to wear during the CNY.

We discussed the Chinese year zodiac then I told the students their year zodiac and the this was the zodiac year of dog (2018). The Red envelopes (Hongbao) are a very important tradition for children. The metaphor of Hongbao is about good fortune and good luck during the new year. All the children will say Happy New Year to the elder generation when they meet for the first time during the festival. The elder generation then give a Hongbao to the young.

I prepared Hongbao for the children and taught them how to say happy new year in Chinese with a Chinese gesture.

Following the stories, we celebrated Chinese new year by ourselves. Thinking of the ages of the different groups, the Stage 3 students coloured a year zodiac (dog). Meanwhile, it would be suitable for stage 4 students to make a "福" with small pieces of coloured paper.



# PlayBall

By Ms

Hi champs and welcome to our Playball Presentation today. My name is Lauren and I would just love to be your friend! I cannot wait to introduce you to all my fun games and activities, so let's get started.

We started with the "sticky, icky, wicky" glue game. Lauren pretended to put glue all over our hands. We ran around the court and when Lauren blew her whistle, we looked for a friend and stuck our hands together. Every time Lauren blew her whistle, we found a new friend! We know that at Playball we are all friends together and it doesn't matter who we stick with. Mums and dads, you should hear us say to our friend "hello my special friend" or "hi my new friend"!

We played the "bunny and the burrow" game – ask your children. A great activity to foster listening skills!

We then all stood in our own hoop and Lauren instructed us as to what to do – jump into the hoop; out of the hoop, jump over the hoop, walk around the hoop with hands on heads, and so on...

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

"Doughnut catching" and my word, what fast doughnuts today – they were whizzing across the court. Ask your children!

Playball, Playball is our name,

Playball, Playball is our game.

We have fun on the court.

We are all very good sports!

Thank you for the fabulous time! I just loved the way we all laughed and had fun together. See you next time!

Lauren ☺



In yoga lessons the past few weeks within the classrooms, I took note of many insects and mini beasts being explored by a number of stages, inspiring an insect theme for this week and the next for the Reddam children to explore in movement through yoga.

Brown material was placed down on the floor as the earth and soil with insects figures on top, which were covered by green material and flowers. Children were invited to come up, lift up the fabric to reveal an insect for us to create in our bodies. The children guessed out loud and enjoyed the surprise of discovering each insect.

This lesson had a number of poses to encourage the development of balance. Engaging in balance poses holds benefits both mentally, emotionally, and physically. As children lift off into balancing they cultivate and get to know their centre of gravity and how to align themselves, improving the function of equilibrium receptors in their body. Mentally it encourages children to hold concentration and focus as they wobble to find their centre. Emotionally, learning to balance extends children's resilience and concept of perseverance as we discuss and implement the ideas of not being perfect but practicing to improve, not getting upset but rather having another go when we fall down as well as cultivating the idea of being kind to oneself while they are learning to master something new.

Love and Peace,

Kelly

