



# REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL LINDFIELD NEWSLETTER



REDDAM  
ELS

7TH DECEMBER 2019

## Petra's Message

Dear Parents,

It seems so surreal as I type that this will be the last newsletter for the year. We have so many wonderful memories that we have shared together as a community. We have celebrated so many cultures, Mother's Day, Father's Day and individual birthdays. We have witnessed toddlers taking their first steps, hearing first words being spoken, discovered what happens in STEM, children writing their names for the first time, the wondrous moments are endless.

I am very sad to say goodbye to the many people I have had the privilege of meeting and working with over the past year. For me, this school has been a vibrant, exciting place as we have implemented so many initiatives and prepared for the transition to Kindergarten. Together we emphasized the importance of sharing, supporting each other, looking for positive learning opportunities for everyone, and collaborating with the whole school community to embrace inquiry-based learning. This is an exceptional Reddam ELS that will continue to exemplify the very best. The staff members always put the children first, the children are hard-working, capable learners and the parents are supportive, friendly, and caring. I feel very fortunate to have been part of the Reddam community and I will always cherish the time spent at this school learning with all of you!

The new Principal will be Kath Boyd. Kath has a wealth of knowledge in Early Childhood and will be a welcome addition to Reddam Lindfield. She has vast experiences and is a skilled teacher and Principal. I know that you will make her feel welcome at this outstanding school!

Thank you for your on-going support and cooperation. I will miss the exceptional people I have met over the past year and will always treasure the many fond memories of the children, parents, family members, and staff.

To all our Stage 4 children going into Kindergarten, we are so proud of who you have become. Take the tools we have given you and stand proud. All the very best in your journey ahead.

Wishing everyone a festive season full of love, joy and happiness. As Bob Hope once said "My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others."

Have a beautiful weekend with your precious children.

By Mrs. Petra Wright, Principal

# Stage 1: The Nest & Fledglings

By Ms Natalie Horstman

This is our last newsletter for the year. It's been such a pleasure getting to know all our families and Stage 1 children.

Following on from last week's Provocation of Nursery Rhymes, our Provocation this week focused on *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*. The lyrics are from an early 19th-century English poem by Jane Taylor, *The Star*. An interesting fact - *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* and *Baa Baa Black Sheep* are sung in the same tune!

You would have noticed when entering into Stage 1, we have placed stars on our window as part of our Provocation. As part of our group time we have been singing *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*, which is not only a class favourite, but also incorporates language and fine motor movements as we move our fingers in the air.

In our sensory experience, we made blue play dough representing the blue sky. The children were invited to use the star shape cutters to make stars. This activity encouraged language and imagination.

In our Atelier, we have been making yellow star prints, this helped the children further develop and practise their pincer grip.

Regardless of age, children enjoy role play. We will continue adding to our home corner as the children have enjoyed nurturing the babies and taking them shopping with their handbags.

We look forward to catch up at our End of Year Celebration and picnic next week.

Have a safe and wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you back in 2019.





# Stage 1: Blue Playdough with Star Cutters





## Stage 1: Making our Christmas Gifts





## Stage 1: Row, Row, Row Your Boat





## Stage 1: Outdoor Sensory Exploration





# Stage 2: Chicks

By Ms Nimo Gill

For our final week of term, we have begun celebrating the festive season with the children as we start to put together our Christmas tree. We started by making some different natural decorations with the children, starting with painting gumnuts to make natural baubles for our natural wooden Christmas tree. The children have been working very hard on making their beautiful Christmas gifts and cards for the festive season, as we guide the children and talked about the gifts and cards. The children were excited and couldn't wait to present their parents with their beautiful creations next week at our End of Year Celebration on Tuesday in the park.

In light of Hanukkah, we explored the festival with the children and decided to introduce an art experience to extend the children's learning. We went on a nature walk and collected some sticks of different sizes and shapes. We gathered them on our table to paint them with different colours of paint, which the children chose themselves. The children asked for glitter, so we got some different colours of glitter to sprinkle on to our sticks. To make the Star of David we encouraged the children to make the shape of a star then the children were guided by the educators to wrap the star with yarn. We talked to the children about the different traditions the festival of Hanukkah holds and the story behind what they eat. Like sufganiyot (jelly donuts) and latkes are eaten to celebrate the miracle of Hanukkah, where a small amount of oil burned in a for eight nights.

In our atelier, we had set up some tea bag painting as a sensory experience for the children to explore. They have been constantly talking about making tea and coffee in our home corner for their educators daily. To extend their experience they were encouraged to smell each different tea before using it to paint. Our children used different techniques to paint, while some squeezed the bags, others watched as the water dripped down and explored the different colours by dragging the bags across the paper.

As this is our last newsletter, the Educators would like to say we have thoroughly enjoyed our time with the children this year and have been honoured to have had the chance to touch the lives of so many of the children. It has been as much a pleasure to learn from them as it has been to teach them. Thank you so very much for the opportunity to see them grow and learn.

Greetings of the season! Wishing you tidings of joy for a wonderful holiday season. One of the real joys this holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you and wish you the very best for the new year.

Your Stage 2 Educators,

Miss Nimo, Tracey, Fern, Grace & Heather





## Stage 2: Making our Christmas Gifts





## Stage 2: Christmas Card Art





## Stage 2: Creating Our Christmas Tree Decorations





## Stage 2: Making the Star of David for Hanukkah





## Stage 2: Sensory Tea Bag Painting





## Stage 2/3: Sparrows and Finches

Mrs Joselyn Bruzzano

Our trip to Africa this week was inspired by a book titled *Mama Panya's Pancakes* by Mary and Rich Chamberlin. Set in Kenya, the story told of a child named Adika who invited all the people he met at his local market to his home for a pancake dinner. Mama Panya, concerned with how to feed the people soon discovered that Adika had a plan. Embedded at the heart of the story was the value of sharing, even when you have very little to give.

Following on from this we used a map to identify Kenya in Africa and learned about their indigenous peoples, cultures and some of their customs. We then broadened our scope looking at the eight major physical regions within Africa, the Sahara, the Sahel, the Ethiopian Highlands, the savanna, the Swahili Coast, the rain forest, the African Great lakes and Southern Africa. We soon discovered that the diverse regions are home to different wildlife. The Sahara houses the dromedary camel and scorpions whilst elephants, zebras and giraffes live in the savannas of the Serengeti.

Taking a closer look at the wildlife of Africa, some of the children identified differences and similarities in the patterns of the coats of zebras, giraffes, cheetahs and leopards. We soon began to sort different animals to their matching patterns. Children identify similarities and differences between objects when sorting and classifying by organising objects. They begin to sort the objects by characteristics that have meaning to them such as colour, size, shape and texture. Our maths sorting experience also encouraged the children to count the animals grouped within matching clusters.

Taking our African theme to our outdoor yard and driven by our focus on African wildlife, the children set out drawing shadows of African animals on paper. The children keenly watched throughout the day as the path of the sun created animal shadows. The children continued to revisit this amazing and engrossing experience through the week. Other art experiences involved creating collages using African animal patterned paper, creating jungle themed collages using ferns, leaves and small twigs and creating paintings inspired by scenes of African landscapes.

As the weather became warmer later in the week, we created an African waterhole. Using plastic tubs filled with water, the children then lined the bottom of the tubs with stones and selected elephants, hippopotamuses and crocodiles, developing the children's imagination and creativity. We also incorporated our selection of African animals into small world play experiences indoors.

We ended the week dancing to African tribal music and looking at images of traditional African musical instruments including the talking drum, the balafon and the shekere.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Joselyn and Dinali





## Stage 2/3: African Waterhole





## Stage 2/3: African Shadow Animals





## Stage 2/3: Small World Play - African Animals





## Stage 2/3: Sorting African Animal Patterns





## Stage 2/3: African Inspired Art





## Stage 3: Kookaburras

By Ms Lauren Hall

What a busy Term 4 we've had! The Kookaburras have enjoyed following their interest in *occupations* and learning the skills and responsibilities required to perform each job. Our provocation started with the storybook called *When I Grow Up* by Andrew Daddo and Johnathan Bentley, where the children shared what careers they would like to have when they're older. Over the last nine weeks we've investigated construction workers, hairdressers, doctors, nurses, veterinarians, zookeepers, inventors and astronauts. Each week the children were invited to explore the dramatic play area, using props and tools to incorporate into their role-play, assume characters and express their ideas about what they know about each occupation. Rich and meaningful interactions and dialogue were observed between the children as they enhanced their understanding of each occupation and also formed new friendships based on their common interests.

This week we acknowledged and celebrated the Jewish Holiday of Hanukkah and The Festival of Lights. We were so lucky to have Sidney and his Mum, Kylie, spend the morning with us and provide a brief history about Hanukkah, demonstrate how to light the chanukiah candles and play dreidel. The children loved taking turns to spin the dreidel and collect the gold coins. For afternoon tea the children ate a traditional treat of jam doughnuts as most food eaten at Hanukkah is fried in oil. The children also constructed collages using blue, silver and white materials inspired by the flag of Israel, decorated six-pointed stars, and made triangular cookies called "hamantaschen" that were filled with strawberry jam. It was beautiful to observe the children so open to learning about a different culture, religion and traditions, and responding to diversity with such respect. Thank you to Sidney and Kylie for such an informative morning. We learned so much!

The children have come so far this term and they should be so proud of themselves for always approaching each learning experience with curiosity and enthusiasm. Since joining the classroom at the beginning of Term 3 I've witnessed the children's confidence grow as they continue to master new processes and skills when constructing their artwork and block creations. Their pre-literacy skills have become stronger as the children pick up pencils to draw and write, ask how to spell words, and label their pictures. Counting games are always popular where the children learn to take turns and enjoy a little healthy competition of who can count the highest or collect the most counters first. Music time has become a joy as the children learn the actions and words to their new favourite songs, one of which we will be performing for our families at the end of year celebration. The learning never stops in our classroom because the children are so inquisitive, they ask questions, inspire new learning opportunities, and always want to extend on their knowledge and understanding across all learning areas. It's been an absolute pleasure to educate and care for the Kookaburras. I want to thank you all for your support, your positive feedback about the program, and for having such amazing children.

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays, and I look forward to where the children's interests will take us in the New Year.





# Stage 4: Rosellas

By Ms Carmen Jarratt

The Rosellas have been learning about Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights. It lasts for eight days and can also be known as Chanukah. The word Hanukkah means 're-dedication' and celebrates one of the greatest miracles in Jewish history.

We would like to thank Kylie, Sid's mum, for taking the time to visit the classroom to talk about Sid's family traditions; play Dreidel (a traditional game during this festivity) and bringing chocolate coins to everybody, also as part of the Hanukkah tradition.

## Social skills

The children are practising important skills: be respectful and acknowledge differences and similarities between people

- Be respectful to other cultures and their celebrations, for example learn about Hanukkah
- Acknowledge differences and similarities between people, for example discuss differences and similarities between celebrations such as Hanukkah and Christmas.

## Pre-Mathematics

The Rosellas are consolidating and further developing the pre-mathematical concepts they learnt during this amazing year, such as one-to-one correspondence, number recognitions, and patterns, geometrical shapes.

## Pre-reading and writing

- Learning the initial sound of the letters of the alphabet, reading or retelling own books
- Numbers, and geometrical shapes
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## Fine motor skills

The Rosellas are practising to:

- Write own name, and copy letters
- Create patterns, reproduce patterns
- Reproduce straight, curve and zigzag lines

## Friendly reminders

- Hat: Please bring your child's hat clearly marked to school everyday.
- Water bottles: Please clearly mark your child's water bottle, take it home and bring it back everyday.
- Group times: The school programme starts at 9:00am and finishes at 3:00pm. Late arrivals are detrimental for your child and disruptive for the group. Please arrive on time.

As this is the last newsletter of the year, the Rosellas team would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Stage Four families for giving us the opportunity to work with you and your amazing children, and to wish you all a lovely festive season.

To the beautiful Rosellas, the educators team wish you all the best in the great learning journey you are about to embark on.

Luan and Carmen



## Stage 3 & 4: Creating Christmas Baubles





## Stage 3 & 4: Making Our Hamantaschen Cookies





## Stage 3 & 4: Eating Our Hamantaschen Cookies





## Stage 3: Decorating Popsicle Stars





## Stage 3 & 4: Continuing Our Interest in Space





## Stage 3 & 4: Celebrating Hanukkah





*"Just when the caterpillar thought her life was over... she began to fly"*

Buzz Buzz... I can see a Bee!

Welcome back to our weekly yoga newsletter and this time we are here to talk about insects. Following children's curiosity about bugs I decided to explore some movements games and breathing exercises through yoga poses that are named after these insects.

We began the class with an introduction about the theme and we discussed what sort of insects we see around our world. I displayed several pictures of insects and children demonstrated excitement for recognising its creatures and they fully engaged in responding to my questions.

Next, children learned some breathing exercise where they had to breath in and out followed by arm movements. To encourage children to perform this activity I offered them to hold a tiny butterfly toy then I guided them on lifting their arms up and down while breathing. We named it as "The Butterfly Breath". To complement this task, we danced to our butterflies through the lovely song "Fly Like a Butterfly" by Shakta Kaur Khalsa."

Beginning with some yoga poses we played the insects, bugs, and creepy crawlers movement card game. This fun game was about visual cards with some basic movement instructions on each card. Each child was invited to pick a card from the centre of the circle and I guided them on performing the yoga poses. Interestingly every time a lady bug card was selected children would go straight away into child's pose (Balasana).

Moving towards the end we prepared for the gentle "Spider Dance" then children lay down for their relaxing bug rest.

*Spider comes to the dance floor  
She goes down on her knees  
Takes one leg to the side and stick one of her arms to the ground  
And she waves the other arm round and around  
And she puts her leg forward and bows to the ground*

Wishing you Love and Peace xx  
Tati





# Playball

By Ms Lauren Guttman

Hi everyone!

We started our lesson today playing the Playball version of "dodge-ball". We all ran around the court and Lauren tried to catch us with a beanbag. If Lauren catches us, we know that we don't get cross or upset – it's only a game!

We concentrated on tennis – we love tennis and were so excited to see that Lauren brought tennis bats with her to Playball today.

We ran around the court balancing a beanbag on our bat – always remembering to keep the bat nice and flat so that the beanbag doesn't fall off.

We flicked our beanbag high up to the sky with our bat. We all have pretty amazing body strength and muscle tone because you will not believe how high some of those beanbags flew up to the sky.

Lauren gave us each a ball and we "boofed" (our very own Playball word) the ball away with the bat. We also did little "boofs" with our bat, and when Lauren blew her whistle, we "trapped" (stopped) the ball with our bat, always remembering that we do it nice and gently. Lauren went faster and faster and faster so we really had to listen carefully.

We had an opportunity to hit our ball off a ball holder and Lauren even encouraged us to try and bounce the ball with our bat – always remembering to wait for the ball to "pop up".

We crossed the "Playball river" on "lilypads" (beanbags) and cheered so nicely for our fellow teammates.

Such a fun lesson champs!

Lauren





It is close to the end of the year, so we started to review the lessons. Last week, we reviewed the colours and routine questions.

Most of children in Stage 4 could remember most of the colours in Chinese. Also they could say the sentences with numbers and colours. Most of Stage 3 children have grasped the main colours, such as red, green, black, yellow and brown. In the future, we will continue to review other colours.

Both Stage 3 and Stage 4 could answer routine questions correctly and fluently. I must say they have made a big progress through the past year.

This week is the last lesson of the term and the year. We created Christmas trees and sang a Christmas song in Chinese and English. We also shared our ideas about Christmas.

As for children from Chinese background, we read a story about Christmas and shared our ideas about Christmas gifts.

During the year, the class teachers give me so much help and support. Thank you, lovely teachers! Also thanks all children and parents support. I wish all of you have a wonderful holiday and merry Christmas!





## Musical Theatre



## Drama

