



REDDAM
ELS

23RD MARCH 2018

REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL LINDFIELD NEWSLETTER

Petra's Message

By Mrs Petra Wright, Principal

It has been an extremely busy and exciting week in the ELS. In Stage 1 the children have been celebrating the lead up to Easter with a special visit from

their very own Easter Bunny, Mr Nibbles. The children fed him carrots and practised using gentle hands whilst stroking him. In Stage 2 the children created colourful eggs out of a selection of textured materials. It is evident that we definitely have some up and coming artists in this group. The sparrows and finches focused on their fine motor skills along with hand-eye coordination by placing pom-pom balls into empty egg cartons using tweezers. In stage 4 it was very evident that the children made delicious chocolate nests, as they had chocolate all around their mouths.

On Thursday morning all children went on a Easter egg hunt with the Reddam Easter bunny and teachers helping the children find the hidden eggs. It was a wonderful sense of belonging.

Thank you to Sid's mommy, who introduced Pesach along with Sid's friends in the Finches group. Also, a big thanks to Ozan's mommy, who kindly gave us a hairdressing demonstration in Stage 4.

When you read the newsletter you will see the varied and unique themes and activities taking place in each different Stage. Our fantastic staff build upon the children's interests and offer invitations to develop the children's knowledge and learning. I am sure you will agree it is wonderful to see the children as amazing and treasured individuals.

Please remember to label all the children's clothing and to take water bottles home at the end of the day. They need to be cleaned and refilled with fresh water ready for their return.

I would like to wish the children, families and staff a happy Easter and Pesach.

Have a beautiful long weekend with your precious children.

Stage 1: The Nest & Fledglings

By Miss Leonie Pride

In Stage 1 This week we celebrated the lead up to Easter with a special visit from our own Easter Bunny Mr Nibbles. The children were all very fond of Nibbles. They loved patting him touching his soft fur giving him lots of love. Some just watched him from a distance earlier in the week but by the end of his visit they were keen to touch and even feed him.

In Morning Circle this week continuing on with Easter we sat around our beautiful Easter Tree That has Rabbits and our wooden stones under it singing Songs- 'The Green Grass Grew' 'Little Peter Rabbit' and 'Here comes Peter Cotton Tail'. The children are starting to add some actions to the words in the songs which is lovely to see.

This week I observed some of our older children helping some of our younger children with their belongings which is just beautiful. One of our friends Alice helped Louisa with finding her shoes. Alice then sat down and tried to assist her putting them on while Sophia helped Penelope with her hat when it fell off in the playground, she picked it up and gave it back to her then helping her to put it on. Great work friends.

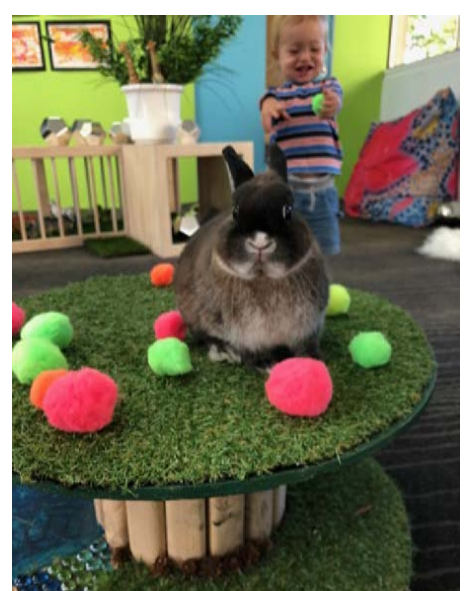
Music with James was awesome on Tuesday. We loved having him and the kids really got involved enjoying all the wonderful instruments. We can't wait to have him back next time.

We hope everyone has a lovely Easter with Family and Friends. Enjoy your time together we look forward to hearing all the wonderful things you get up to next week

Happy Easter Everyone!



Stage 1 - Easter bunny visit



Stage 1 - Morning circle



Stage 1 - Easter craft stage



Stage 2: Chicks

By Ms Jessica Whitbourn

The children are getting very excited for the Easter bunnies visit this weekend.

In group time we have been reading the story about Peter Rabbit Easter surprise. The children sat beautifully as they engaged in the story. The children practiced their counting by singing 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive.

In malleable play the children created their very own eggs out of Playdough by rolling, pulling and plodding the dough strengthening their muscle tone in their fingers. We made very colourful decorated Easter eggs out of different mediums that were on offer. The children are getting so good at using the glue sticks and when they are finished they have been putting the caps back on the glue. In stage 2 we will be focusing on self-help skills throughout the year, please can you encourage this at home.

The children have all been participating in our specialist classes. In Drama Mrs Laura brought in a bunny rabbit (very real looking) and the children used their gentle hands to stroke it. We will continue to role model Grace and Courtesy in our class. Asking children to use their gentle hands and kind hearts.

We wish you all a happy Easter!



Stage 2 – Playdough eggs



Stage 2 – Peter Rabbit story and easter eggs



Stage 2/3: Sparrows & Finches

By Ms Joselyn Bruzzano

As teachers when setting up a classroom we carefully select resources and create spaces that will support children's ideas, interests and learning. Each resource is chosen for it's potential to engage children in rich experiences. The classroom environment acts as the third teacher and in doing so is fluid, it changes to meet children's current needs so that teachers can move their learning forward.

Provocation tables act as inquiry and investigation areas. This week whilst focusing on feelings and emotions we set up a feelings and emotions inquiry table, forming part of this was our Zen garden. The true purpose of a Zen garden is to serve as a gazing point while meditating. The purpose of our Zen garden this week was to provide the Sparrows and Finches with an experience that encourages the exploration of a variety of natural materials through relaxing, calming and quiet play. The children made tracks in the sand using both their fingers and the small rake. The play was very quiet as the children focused their attention on placing objects around the garden only to remove them, then rake the sand and re arrange them again.

A great deal of social growth occurs in the early years. Growing tolerance for others and resilience in ourselves are vital life tools. Throughout the week we guided the children in the practice of mindfulness. Part of this involved learning to express our emotions and understand our feelings. During circle time we helped to empower the children by teaching them how to stand up for themselves during social conflicts. If children are feeling threatened they can put out their hand and say in a confident voice, "Stop, I don't like it!" Calming glitter bottles were also used as tools to help the children settle when upset. When our mind is calm and clear we think clearly and our thoughts flow easily. When we are feeling anxious or nervous we cannot think clearly, information swirls around in our minds which become like a shaken glitter jar, cloudy. Information in our brain is sent to our amygdala, we go into, "flight and fight response." When we pause for a moment to take breaths the glitter begins to settle like our thoughts. We practiced our breathing exercises throughout the week and made great use of our glitter jars.

The creative experiences we offered the children throughout the week encouraged them to be focused and calm. Threading experiences offer children the opportunity to express their creativity whilst developing fine motor skills, it is also a calming and soothing experience. Last week we encouraged the Sparrows and Finches to thread using pasta and pipe cleaners. This week to further challenge their abilities we set up smaller threading objects, threading with pipe cleaners and small buttons.



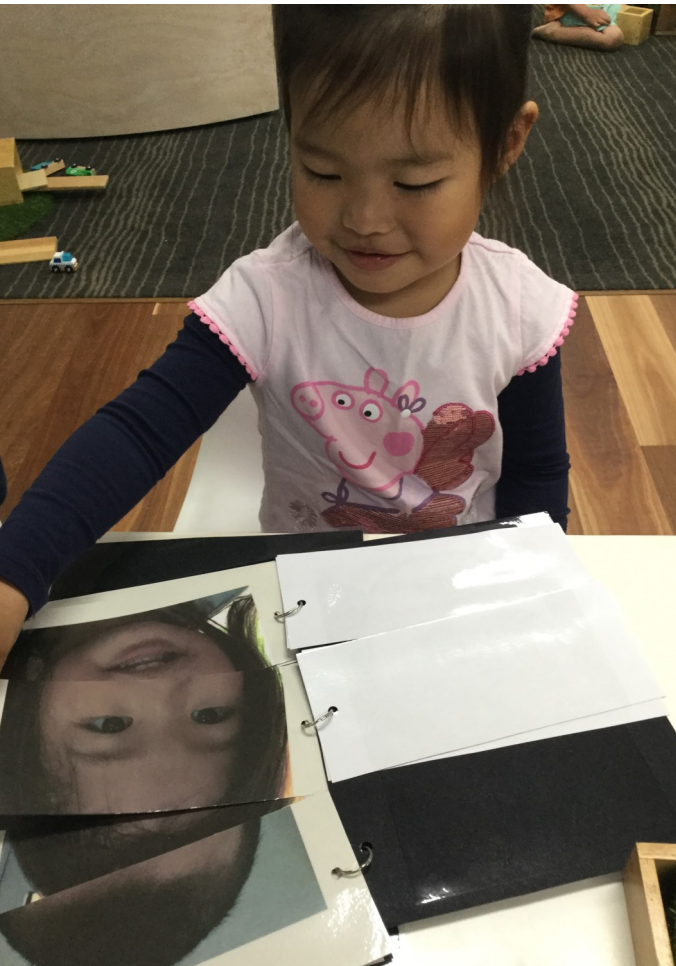
Stage 2/3 - Tree threading



Stage 2/3 - Zen Gardens



Stage 2/3 - Feelings and emotions stones



Stage 2/3 - Egg and spoon race



Stage 2/3—Decorating for easter



Stage 2/3—Decorating for easter



Stage 3 & 4: Kookaburras & Rosellas

By Ms Pauline

This week we have focussed on language and communication skills, and what a better way to do it than singing songs the children love like nursery rhymes.

It is considered that Nursery rhymes are ready-made way to help children practice rhyming and word families, as well as early literacy skills. The children love them because they are silly and funny, e.g. "I wash my face with orange juice". And perhaps the best thing about nursery rhymes is that the children learn new words, expand their vocabulary and consolidate the vocabulary they already have.

Special visitor

Louise, Ozan's mum, visited the classroom to talk about her job, she is a hairdresser, and to practically demonstrate it, she cut Ozan's hair. This fantastic demonstration produced fascination and prompted many interesting conversations among the audience, e.g. Lucy shared her experience in a hair saloon she and her mum used to go until it moved, so now, she can not go there anymore, while Dash shared his haircut experience in Louise's hair saloon.

Lovely visit that showed, once more, the positive impact on the children when the parents participate actively with their child's early childhood environment.

Colours, colours everywhere

Colour mixing is almost magical, the children are learning how to obtain an entirely new colour, e.g. which colour can we obtain if we mix red and yellow, thus provoking curiosity and wonder e.g. 'I wonder which colour will appear when we mix yellow and blue'

It is believed that by participating in these type of learning experiences the children learn in a trial and error manner e.g. adding different amounts of colours to obtain different shades and colours, and practice their hand-eye coordination skills, while consolidating their pencil grip.

What a special week this was, saying goodbye to a great teacher, We will miss Miss Pauline dearly, hopefully she will soon visit us.

As Easter is celebrated this week, the children participated on some cooking experiences e.g. preparing chocolate cracklenests, decorating biscuits like Easter eggs and of course, the Easter eggs hunt.

Have a lovely Easter!



Stage 3 & 4 - Colour mixing



Stage 3 & 4 - Chocolate nest making



Stage 3 & 4 - Hairdressing demonstration



Easter egg hunt



Playball: Stage 1/2

By Miss Lauren

Hi everyone,

We started our lesson today with the "helicopter game" where we all run around the court with outstretched arms (spinners). When Lauren shouts "helicopter" we stop and balance on one foot. We then try and alternate our feet – tricky, but our balancing skills are definitely improving.

Lauren placed beanbags all over the court and we ran around. When Lauren shouted "beanbag", we all ran to a beanbag, stood on the beanbag and did our best to balance on the beanbag without falling off. Lauren went faster and faster.

We all held our own beanbag and ran after poor Lauren trying to catch her by sticking our beanbags to her legs and arms. Our poor coach!

Lauren placed a hoop in front of us and we practiced throwing a beanbag THROUGH the hoop – Lauren kept moving further and further away from us.

"Foot flicks" – ask your children. We flick the beanbag off our shoe up to the sky and try to catch it. Tricky – there are so many things to remember!

We put the beanbags on our head and walked slowly trying not to let the beanbag fall to the floor.

"The Pirates and the Treasure" game – Lauren placed a hoop in front of all of us – a treasure chest! We stood opposite our own hoop ("treasure chest") and tried to throw our "treasure" (beanbag) into the hoop. We always remember that if we are standing close to the hoop, we throw gently; if we are standing far away from the hoop, we throw a little harder.

Thanks champs.

You are just the best.

Lauren



Playball: Stage 3/4

By Miss Lauren

Hi everyone!

We started our lesson today with the "forwards/backwards" game. When Lauren blows her whistle once, we walk forwards; when Lauren blows her whistle twice, we walk backwards, but.....Lauren went faster and faster and faster until we were all just dancing up and down. We were laughing and laughing!

Guess what Lauren brought to Playball today.....yes, a T-ball T and T-ball bats. Yay, a **T-Ball day!!!**

Lauren set out 4 bases (mats) in a diamond shape on the court. We all had the opportunity to run to 1st base; 2nd base, 3rd base and then HOME BASE, making sure we touched each base with our foot.

We actually had a mini game of T-ball. We all had a turn to place a ball on the T-ball T, grip the t-ball bat correctly (Lauren taught us how), determine the distance between ourselves and the T-ball T, put our bat on our shoulder, swing the bat and hit the ball off the T, swinging from one shoulder to another. We drop our bat and run from base to base while the other team are the fielders and do their best to get the T-ball "batters" out. Each team wore different coloured bibs and we felt like such cool sports. We even got into a "team huddle" and decided on a name for our team. You should hear some of our crazy names : The Watermelons, The Crazy Kangaroos, The Super Duper Heroes and the list goes on.....

We practiced our rolling skills always remembering to use our feet as the starting point.

Lauren positioned us in partners and we stood opposite our Playball partner with our legs apart and played such a fun game where we had to try and roll the ball through our friend's legs while our partner tried to stop the ball from going through using "cage hands" (two hands joined together and spread open so as to minimise entry through our legs).

Lauren placed mats in a row across the court and we had the opportunity to step on the mats, always remembering to stretch from one mat to the next, in order to reach the other side. We watched our fellow Playball friends and cheered them on!

Another fun-filled, busy lesson.

You're the best.

Lauren



Dance

By Ms Tess

This week I began the classes with a variety of stretching exercises. I do this to ensure that the kids are warm and mobile before class. The younger kids then continued with their feet and legs exercise as well as their fingers and hands exercise. The feet and leg exercise is a continuation of the "good toes and bad toes" exercise whereby it incorporates leg movements as well as feet and toe movements. This exercise teaches the kids about correct leg alignment. The fingers and hands exercise teaches the kids about first position - an arm position that is constantly used in the dance world. It also teaches them about correct finger and hand alignment. The older kids followed their stretching exercises with various jumping exercises such as bounce and jump and clap and jump. Given that I have only just introduced these exercises to the kids, I feel it is paramount we continue practicing them over the coming weeks so that the kids can perfect them. These exercises teach the students about coordination and correct posture. All students rehearsed their drama exercises and jazz. Majority of dance pieces tell a story. It is thus crucial that the students are exposed to exercises that require a use of imagination. Whilst majority of the lessons are ballet focused, I always like to incorporate some sort of a jazz exercise, as I feel it is important that the kids are exposed to more than one genre of dance.



This week, the children sang hello, tapped and clapped the beat to a classical piece, before listening to the slide whistle and imitating its sound. In singing this is called a 'siren' which warms up the voice, acts as a fun way to begin their music class, and teaches them about high and low sounds. They throw their hands up when listening to the high sound, and on the floor in front for the low. Tapping the beat allows them to physically feel what fast and slow is in music and many of them suggest new places to tap the beat, allowing them to explore their creativity.

The children in the older stages revisited the song 'Johnny on the Woodpile' and (as is always requested!) 'No more pie'. The repetition of these songs allows the children to memorise the words and melody of each song, allowing their confidence in music and singing to grow, whilst developing their concepts of pitch (high and low) as well as learning to sing loudly or softly. Also, through changing the tempo (how fast or slow the song is), they learn to feel what it's like for a song to be sung fast or slow.

With both groups, the children repeated their 'Funny little bunny' rhyme, with actions, using their speaking voice. The end of the rhyme requires the children to fill in the blank 'Funny little bunny did a little ... JUMP' which the children love to yell out. They also did the 'Easter Bunny boogie' which they twist, jump and dance to, along with the Skeleton song, which teaches them about the parts of the body. The children in all stages learnt a new rhyme about 5 little bunnies, which gradually hop away, until there are no more bunnies, allowing the children to practice counting, their speaking voice, and memory so that they can start to say the rhyme with their teacher.

All stages repeated their postman rhyme, which uses their name, and they act out answering the door to the postman, counting their letters for the day. This allows the children to practice counting, and develop confidence in using their name in the rhyme. Each group listened to the '3 little fish' song which has actions, and pretended to swim like fish through the ocean. Each group also did the 'five little ladies' rhyme - they practiced a lot of counting this week during music!

Some classes were introduced to 'All elephants have wrinkles', while others listened to 'Little Peter rabbit'. These are two new songs that they will continue to learn next week, firstly getting familiar with the tune and actions, and working firstly on their listening skills, before learning the songs.

The children particularly love the songs that they can get up and dance and sing to, and this allows them to practice multitasking, using their listening skills, movement and voices, as they develop as little musicians.

Music

By Miss Gabby



Drama

By Ms Emma

