

- Welcome back to all new and returning students
- News from the Classrooms

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to a brand new year! The excited chatter around the campus during the week was indicative of many happy holiday experiences, as well as the enthusiastic anticipation of a fresh school year. Friendships were picked up from where they left off last year and we hope many new ones will be kindled in the coming months.

The start of a new academic year brings not only a return to school for those who have been part of the Reddam House family in the past but also an opportunity to welcome new faces to our community. We hope that every one of those who have joined us for the first time will soon feel welcome – and that goes for parents and caregivers too. We encourage all to be involved in the many different activities on offer at the school, for in so doing you really will become part of the fabric of the place.

A school is only as successful as the sum of its parts. This includes the students, teachers, coaches and parents, along with others who play a role in deepening the learning experience for our students. While the academic, sporting, cultural and outreach activities have all been moulded into an exciting programme for the year, it really does take the wholehearted participation of all to make a success of the year.



Our teaching and coaching staff were hard at work prior to the students' arrival at school, ensuring that the academic, cultural and outreach programmes were packed full of interesting and stimulating activities. Having said that, these activities will only be successful if the students immerse themselves in them. We hope that all in the school will throw themselves wholeheartedly into the many events which make up the calendar.

While many of the events on the calendar might celebrate the spirit of collective endeavour, our school is ultimately about the individual. There should be something to stretch everyone and to blow wind into the dreams and aspirations of each of our students. We really do hope that they will make the most of what is on offer, in order to make the most of their unique abilities, gifts and interests. Before we know it, we will be celebrating their achievements at the annual Prizegiving ceremonies – what those achievements will be is entirely up to them.

They say that travel is one of the best ways to open one's mind, to explore other cultures and to gain a deeper understanding of other people. This was certainly my experience over the recent holidays, as Dave and I and Rabbi Mendel Kastel, were given the very special opportunity to join a group of Australian educators on a trip to Israel.

Organised by the Jewish National Fund of Australia (JNF), the experience was truly memorable, particularly as it included an incredibly broad range of activities. Our group comprised 75 participants, representing 27 different Australian institutions. Historical, cultural, social and geographic aspects of the country were touched upon and our travels covered many miles across the country. Most days it was difficult to keep track of where we were and what places of interest we would visit – and yet each day, full though it was, opened our eyes to some new aspect of this fascinating country.

Even to begin to list all the places we visited and the people we met would be impossible in this newsletter, suffice to say that the experience was enlightening, fascinating and deeply moving. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to be part of so immersive a trip and am enormously appreciative of all who played a part in making it happen (and in welcoming us so graciously to their country).

Some of our students have already started the year in exciting fashion. **Briony**, in Year 3, has been invited to attend the announcement and launch of the **Australian Children's Laureate 2020-2021** at the National Library in Canberra on Tuesday, 11 February. This is a wonderful opportunity for Briony, especially as she will get to hear speakers talk about the importance of books and reading in one's life. Have a tremendous time, Briony.

Next week is already being eagerly anticipated by a large section of the Primary School, as it sees one of the highlights of the year, namely the **Year group camps**. These camps become part of the collective memories of the groups, as they share experiences, make friends and generally have a great time. It really is the best possible way to start the year and is a particularly good opportunity for new students to become part of the Reddam family.

The **Year 5s and 6s** leave on Monday for their trips to **Kincumber** and **Tea Gardens** respectively, while the **Year 4s** head off for their camp to the **Blue Mountains** on Tuesday. The **Year 3s** also have their own mini excursion as they will spend some time together in the beautiful **Centennial Parklands** on Tuesday. I have no doubt that all of these groups will have a marvellous time and will return to school bursting with stories to tell of their shared experiences. I know too that they will carry the name of the school with them and will conduct themselves in a manner which brings honour to their families and to the school.

On Thursday we are once again pleased to host the **Kawai Piano Sale** and we welcome all those who might be interested to find out more about this worthwhile musical precursor to a busy cultural term.

Have a great weekend! May this be the start of a happy term for all our students and their families.

Dee Pitcairn
Principal

Happy Birthday



Reddam House

would like to wish a very happy birthday to

Mia Erder, Justin Zhao, Thea Krishnan, Thomas Scicluna, Michael Zeritis, Joshua Gellert, Oliver Kalan, Leo Mavsession, Ava Bova, Elizaveta Gracheva, Kira Lowenstein, Bally Naphali, Christopher Hill, Claire Huang, Jayden Cao, Hayden Lorentz, Addison Keen, Janey Martin, Hebe HanXin, Aanya Gray, Thomas Jackaman, Ivy Zagora, Sophia Garvin, Mathew Wild, Lee Maserow, George Vucic & Zara Kleindyk

Who celebrate their special day this week and during the rest of January.

We hope you had a fabulous day!

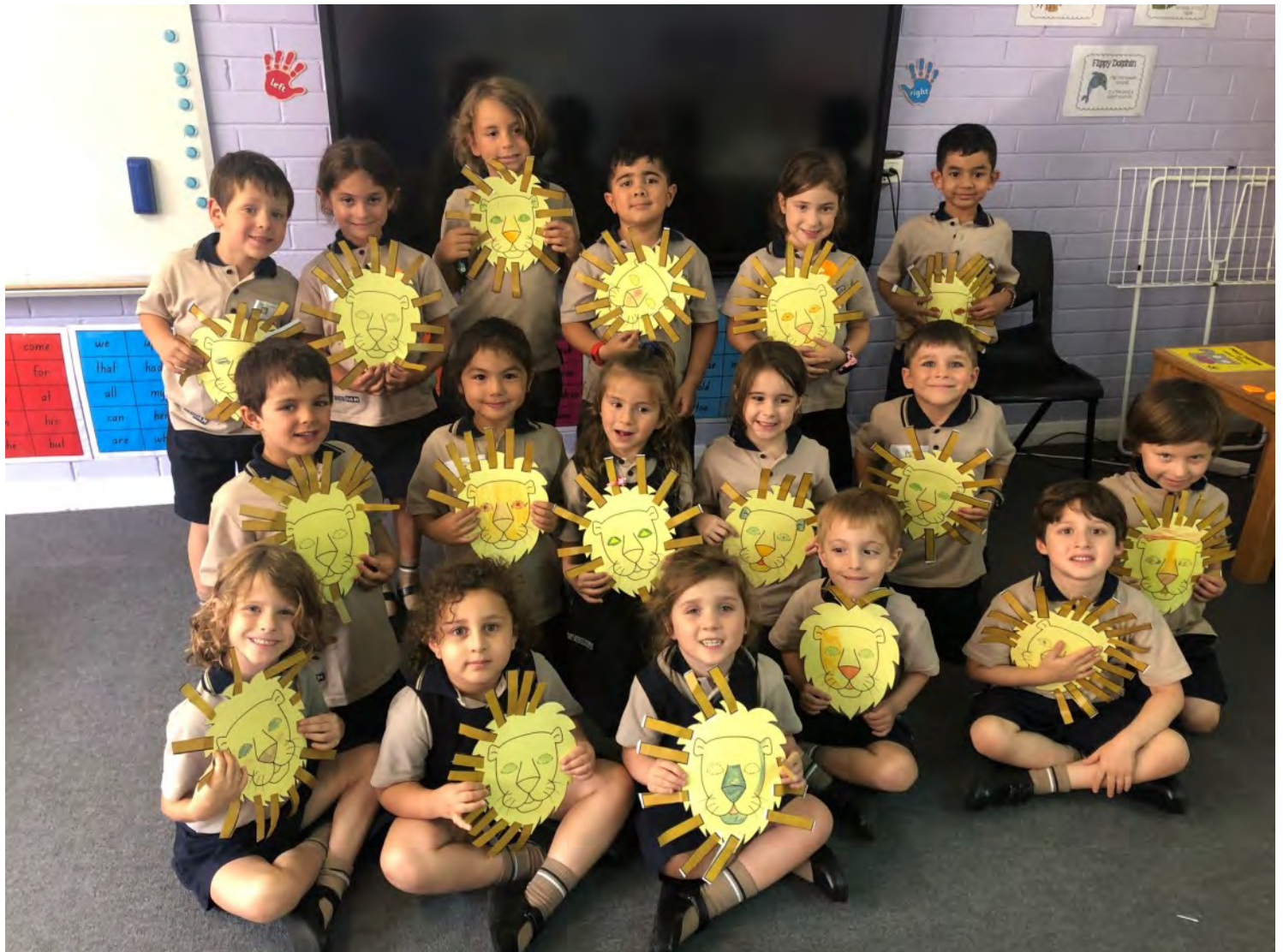
The teachers were delighted to be met with excited faces on Wednesday for the first day of Kindergarten! The students enjoyed seeing familiar faces and making lots of new friends. It was lovely to see the children so enthusiastic about learning as we started to explore our first letter sound 'Ll.' We listened to a story called the 'Library Lion' by Michelle Knudsen to spot and hear words. We then practised formation of the letter and holding pencils correctly. We created 'Lovely Lazy Lion' face masks which the children thoroughly enjoyed practising their cutting skills to add the mane.

In Maths we started to explore numbers and practised identifying numerals and quantities. We had lots of fun playing maths games with new friends in our class!

The children quickly learnt school routines and will continue to do so over the coming weeks. We have started to explore different areas of the school by going on a tour with our teachers to learn about all the exciting classes we will be engaging in!

The children had their first experience of playing on the playground with the other classes and learnt about playing safely on the equipment and different fun games they can play with their friends.

We are all looking forward to our week ahead to continue lots of learning and fun!





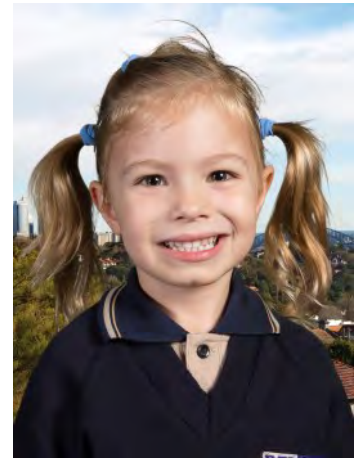
The Year 1 students have settled into their new year group beautifully. They are all so enthusiastic, motivated and eager to learn. The children have already delved into their topic work 'Identifying Us', by interviewing their peers and finding out some interesting facts about each other.

"I like pizza!" **Livinya Villis**

"I enjoy making patterns and I love art!" **Dalon Gruber**

"I can make Origami" **Rufus Smith**

"I have a dog called Holly!" **Ruby McManus**



It is wonderful to see new friendships already blossoming. The students followed up this work with their own detailed self-portraits whilst discussing the similarities and differences between each other and how each person is different and special. In Mathematics, symmetrical patterns have been explored with the students creating their own patterned tile. The children also enjoyed a range of mathematical games, "Buzz Off" being a clear favourite! The students also enjoyed their first piece of Author Study work this term, listening to the story of 'PiggyBook' by Anthony Browne and using the technique of hot seating to become the characters within the book. What a delightful and positive start to the year!



This week Year Two students returned to school with enthusiasm for the wonderful opportunities and challenges that they will embark on in 2020. They adjusted to new routines very well. The children were very creative, constructing interesting tessellated patterns in Mathematics. We engaged in activities to familiarise students with new friends and different classroom environments. In History lessons we explored the significance of Australia Day. Writing recounts provided an opportunity to hear about the students' amazing experiences over the summer holidays. We are excited about the adventures and learning journey ahead in Year 2.



What an amazing first week back at school! It was a joy to see the Year 3 corridor filled with smiling faces and buzzing with excitement and enthusiasm. The students eagerly shared their holiday adventures and interesting facts about themselves with their peers and teachers. The Year 3 teachers are already so impressed with their mature and hard-working attitudes. Here's what some of the students had to say about starting Year 3:

Kai Flekser: "My first week has been exciting. I've made new friends and enjoyed playing with old friends"

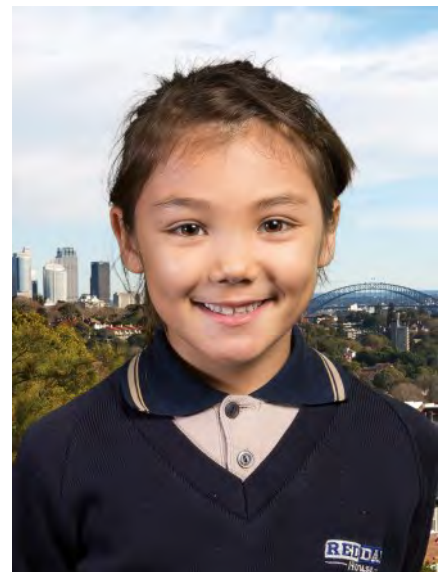
Archer Yeo-Spanbrook: "I'm excited to be walking around the school for the first time in Year 3 to go to different classes. Science is my favourite subject."

Bailey Kleindyk: "I was really excited to see my friends again and make some new friends too."

Eve Kalan: "I liked coming back to school to meet my new teacher and play with my friends."

Sarella Symonds: "I couldn't wait to be in Year 3 to make new friends and have fun."

Way to go Year 3! It's going to be a fabulous year!



YEAR 4

Welcome back to Reddam House! After a very long summer holiday, Year 4 have had an amazing first week back. They had the opportunity to meet with their class teachers, learn about the different specialist subjects and most importantly make new friends. It has been an exciting time to welcome the new students and our new teacher – Mrs Kelsall.

During the first week, students got to find out new information about each other with a game of “The Sun Shines On...”. They also had the chance to get creative and design their own name tags for their desks and tote trays. Finally, students showcased their work with a chance of drawing a Zentangle. Zentangle is an American method for drawing, which not only promotes concentration and creativity but at the same time increases personal well-being.

What an amazing a productive week Year 4! Well done!



YEAR 5 & 6 MATHEMATICS

We welcome back our Year 5 and 6 Mathematics students and are looking forward to a stimulating term ahead.

The aim of Mathematics this year is for our students to be confident, creative users and communicators of mathematics. Our objective is that students develop understanding and fluency in mathematics through inquiry, exploring and connecting mathematical concepts, choosing and applying problem-solving skills and mathematical techniques, communication and reasoning.

In the coming weeks we will focus on developing efficient strategies for numerical calculation, recognising patterns, describing relationships and applying algebraic techniques and generalisation.

YEAR 5 & 6 ENGLISH

The English Department would like to welcome back all students of Year 5 and 6 to what is sure to be a fun-filled year. This year, students of Year 5 will be exposed to a variety of persuasive texts and short stories. Students will begin the term by reviewing the art of persuasion by deconstructing, analysing and writing their own persuasive responses. Students will also read and analyse a range of short stories, focusing on the structure used and language features. Moreover, students will explore a range of themes and social issues through the study of the visual text 'The Little Refugee' - a short story that tells Anh Do's incredible life-journey. As always, we will be encouraging students to draw upon their creative mind-set as we embark on the wonderful journey that is Year 5 English.

This term, in Year 6 English, students will focus on the changes that have occurred throughout Australia since its colonisation in the 18th century. Students will engage with a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts that will enable them to respond in various imaginative and informative contexts. Texts that will be studied this term include 'The Rabbits', written by John Marsden and illustrated by Shaun Tan, a fable about colonisation, told from the viewpoint of the colonised. We look forward to exploring this visual text with the students, along with poetry written by the famous Banjo Patterson.

YEAR 5 & 6 SCIENCE

This week in Year 5 Science, students began getting to know their fellow classroom scientists by putting their heads together, sharing and incorporating their thoughts. Students discussed what science is, what scientists do, what they most associate with science, and why any of these questions might be important and relevant to them and the world around us.



In the first week back at school, Year 5 students began their Music course straight away, with rhythm games to get their music hats back on. Using body percussion, the warmup activity involved four beat rhythms, played by the teacher first, and then echoed by the students. Individual pupils were then given the opportunity to compose their own 4 beat body percussion patterns, with the rest of the class echoing their rhythm whilst keeping to a clear pulse. They then warmed up their singing voices with a solfa warm up, and they learnt the round 'A Ram Sam Sam'.

Performing music in classrooms is just as important as listening and analysing music, and the Year 5 students had the opportunity to listen to Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition' in their first lesson. They responded to the listening excerpt by answering questions about instrumentation, images that the music conjured up in their imaginations, and also how the dynamics (volume) changed.

The final activity in the Year 5's first Music lesson this week involved beginning to learn their assessment piece 'One to Four' – a fun, polyrhythmic piece which got all the students performing together!



The Music department anticipates an ambitious and enriching year of music-making. We will gradually begin private lessons and ensembles over the coming weeks, and you can find a brief outline of these processes below.

Applications for private music tuition are currently being processed - teachers will be allocated over the next week, and these teachers will be in touch about lessons commencing. Most music lessons should begin in Week 3. Private tuition is compulsory for those students in Years 2-6, and voluntary for other year groups. If you have any questions, please refer to your registration documents.

Our morning and afternoon ensembles will begin in Week 3, from Monday February 10. Our choir masters, band directors, conductors and staff have prepared extraordinary repertoire for each group, and cannot wait to meet their new ensembles.

Students who play guitar, bass guitar, piano, drums or voice are welcome to register for our rock bands. Dr McGregor will be holding registration after school on Friday February 7, from 2:10pm in the Music Terrace. Students can advise their availability and instruments, which will allow our staff to form bands and advise of rehearsal start-up in Week 3.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Mr or Mrs Bortolotti (elli.bortolotti@reddamhouse.com.au or marcus.bortolotti@reddamhouse.com.au)





Calendar 2020

TERM 1	Monday 27 th January Tuesday 28 th January Wednesday 29 th January Friday 3 rd April	Australia Day Public Holiday Year 5 Orientation & Testing Day Year 7 Orientation & Testing Day Staff Development Day Term 1 Students K – 12 Term 1 ends
TERM 2	Monday 27 th April Tuesday 28 th April Monday 8th June Friday 26 th June	Staff Development Day Term 2 Students K – 12 School Closed – Queen's Birthday Term 2 Ends
TERM 3	Tuesday 21 st July Wednesday 22 nd July Friday 25 th September	Staff Development Day Term 3 Students K – 12 Term 3 ends
TERM 4	Tuesday 13 th October Wednesday 14 th October Wednesday 2 th December Friday 4 th December	Staff Development Day Term 4 Students K – 12 Term 4 Ends Teachers' Last Day