



REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL ST LEONARDS NEWSLETTER



REDDAM
ELS

30th April 2021

Principal's Message

By Mrs Simone Cooke

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term Two. What a fabulous Vacation Programme the children have enjoyed over the past three weeks. Undoubtedly the highlight was our Royal Slumber Party, where the children and teachers were invited to come to school in their pyjamas, the children thought this was very funny and had a wonderful day, although I think the excitement meant that there was more party than slumber that day!

In this week's newsletter you will find the highlights of our "Once Upon a Time " Vacation theme, it was lovely for the children to explore their favourite fairy tales and have an opportunity to dress up as their favourite book characters. Fairy tales offer children a lot more than just a happily ever after ending. These stories often contain important lessons that children can apply to their everyday lives. From the "Ugly Duckling" we learn that we must not judge others based on appearance and that bullying is a bad choice, whilst from "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Pinocchio" we are cautioned on the danger of talking to strangers. By connecting stories to real life issues children build resilience, empathy and understanding. Of course when sharing fairy tales it is important that we do not dwell on the scarier aspects of wolves or dragons, but instead use these as opportunities to help children start to distinguish between fantasy and reality.

According to Child Psychologist Sally Goddard Blyth fairy tales are important for helping children to understand complex and confronting feelings that they cannot yet articulate themselves. Our children are already learning about making good and bad choices and seeing the hero or heroine prevail over bad can be helpful in encouraging children to feel safe. Fairy tales can offer a safe place for children to explore anxieties that they often do not speak about and as fairy tales end of a positive note, this can be reassuring and ease anxieties, particularly at a time when children's imaginations are running wild.

Principal's Message Continued...

Fairy tales also offer wonderful opportunities to build early literacy skills as they teach the basics of a story structure such as setting, plot and characters. They learn that a story has a beginning, middle and an end and encourages children to make predictions and read for meaning.

Our Stage 4 children enjoyed their introduction to fairy tales so much they have decided to explore a range of stories during their Provocation this term. They may even follow Han's Christian Anderson's advice and construct their own stories, as he reminds us "everything you look at can become a fairy tale and you can get a story from everything you touch." Nothing is more powerful than the imagination.

Mother's Day Morning Tea

Next **Friday 7th May**, we invite all our families to join us for a special Mother's Day morning tea. This will be held at drop off between 8.00 – 9.00am and is a wonderful opportunity to get to know many of the new mother's who have joined our Reddam Community this past year. Please come and join us, even if your child does not attend school on Friday as our children have been very busy making you a special treat.



Day 1: Welcome to a Kingdom Far, Far Away

By Ms Madeleine Grant

We began our vacation care programme by travelling to a kingdom far, far away! Here the children were treated to a land of magic and fantasy; enchanted castles, kings and queens, knights and dragons.

The children were fascinated by the slime, infused with sparkling multicoloured 'dragon scales!' This provided a sensory activity that allowed them to experience new textures and exercise their little hands as they squished, squeezed and stretched the slime through their fingers.

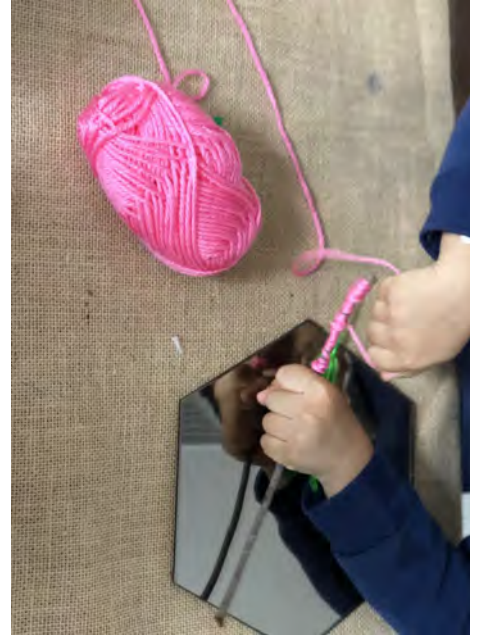
To defend their kingdom against the dragons the children decorated shields to be wielded by the bravest knights in the land. Some chose to collaborate with each other on the task, while others carefully painted their own shields, splashing and stamping them with bright colours!



Tuesday 6th April: Welcome to a Kingdom Far, Far Away



Tuesday 6th April: Welcome to a Kingdom Far, Far Away



Day 2: Mother Goose Play Day

By Ms Alessia Angiuletta

The children engaged in two fun activities, really good for their imagination as well as fine motor and creative skills.

Following this year theme of nursery rhymes the children decorated a hat for Mother Goose using different resources and they also created some flowers for "Mary, Mary quite contrary's garden!"

They all enjoyed using different colour paint, different resources and of course a lot of glitter but that's part of the fun!



Wednesday 7th April: Mother Goose Play Day



Wednesday 7th April: Mother Goose Play Day



Day 3: Fairy Tale STEM

By Ms Emily Chacon

The children were invited to come explore Elsa's "Frozen" kingdom, and help her design her castle. Using coloured and glittered blocks of ice the children used their engineering skills and fine motor skills to create Elsa's castle. This experience was a little tricky as the ice blocks began sliding from side to side.

Our other experience engaged the children in another building experience, this time to assist the three little pigs. Who's afraid of the big bad wolf? Not us!

The children set out using lego for bricks house, paddle pops for the stick house, and straws for the straw house.



Thursday 8th April: Fairy Tale STEM



Thursday 8th April: Fairy Tale STEM



Day 4: Fairy Tale Charades

By Ms Amanda Felton

We embarked on an exciting adventure today as we discovered the story of *"Hansel and Gretel"* and *"Little Red Riding Hood."*

Developing our fine motor skills, we used coloured textas to trace a path on a map to help Hansel and Gretel find their way home. On our journey, we also dotted our textas along the path to represent breadcrumbs, so the two brave children could navigate their way through the woods.

In the Atelier, the children were treated to coloured paint and textas and encouraged to create their own *"Hansel, Gretel"* and *"Little Red Riding Hood."* We used paint brushes and our fingers to move the paint effortlessly across the page as we swirled, jotted and glided around the paper. As our budding artists put their imaginations to use, we conversed about the stories and what we recalled about the different characters. Although *"Little Red Riding Hood"* had a red cape in the story, the children suggested the cape could be blue, pink, yellow or rainbow instead! We discussed the wolf's big teeth in *"Little Red Riding Hood"* and what food she had in her basket. We collectively agreed that she would most definitely have lollies in her basket as a treat only, of course!

We then moved on to a sensory experience, manipulating coloured pasta, rice and sand with our index fingers to create a path for *"Little Red Riding Hood"* to get to Grandma's house. Some of the children used the pasta as props, pointing to various pieces and saying "Wolf! Raaaah!" and "Grandma's house".

Finally, the children were invited to role play their very own *"Hansel and Gretel"* adventure, using 3D shapes of various characters and scenes from the story. The children squealed with delight as some of our teachers created voices for each character!

It has been a fun-filled adventure today in the land of fairy tales.



Friday 9th April: Fairy Tale Charades



Friday 9th April: Fairy Tale Charades



Day 5: Once Upon A Time Dress Up

By Ms Natsumi Monobe

On Monday the children were encouraged to dress up as their favourite fairy tale character! It was a delight to see so many princes and princesses, dragons and mermaids, and all our favourite superheroes.

In the art atelier the children were encouraged to design their own costume mask! They used paints, crayons, glitter, stickers and glue, and got creative as they recreated their favourite fairy tale character, or drew inspiration from their infinite imaginations!



Monday 12th April: Once Upon A Time Dress Up



Monday 12th April: Once Upon A Time Dress Up



Day 6: Pink Unicorns & Purple Dragons

By Fion Tse & Shiela Redugero

Welcome for joining us for a magical day as we visit the Dragonvale. We got to decorate our very own dragon egg. Children were very keen to choose their favourite colours and stickers and put them on the dragon eggs. This experience allows children to further exercise their fine motor skills and they were using the colour pencils or getting the stickers out. It also encourages children to exercise their creativity by using different resources to create a beautiful artwork of their own.

Then, we also visited the Dinosaurs land and had pretend play with all the different dinosaurs. Children had so much fun engaging in the dinosaurs play tray as they were pretending to be dinosaurs and explored the volcano, rivers, sand and forest. This experience provides opportunities for children to use the imaginations by allowing them to actively participate as well as sharing ideas with each other.



Tuesday 13th April: Pink Unicorns & Purple Dragons



Tuesday 13th April: Pink Unicorns & Purple Dragons



Day 8: Paperbag Princess Playtime

By Itzi Gracia

We explored the tale of the *Princess and the Frog*!

The children loved the sparkling slime activity, where they had the opportunity to engage in a sensory experience as they stretched and squeezed the slime and counted the little frogs hiding within it!

The children got crafty in the art atelier where they painted paper plate frogs and decorated crowns. Using bright paints, sparkling glitter and colourful loose parts, they painted paper crowns until they were fit for a princess and her frog prince!



Thursday 15th April: Paperbag Princess Playtime



Thursday 15th April: Paperbag Princess Playtime



Day 9: Gingerbread Man Sports Day

By IMary & Tracy



Friday 16th April: Gingerbread Sports Day



Day 10: Enchanted Forest Scavenger Hunt

By Galina Polgoui & Dee Pitcairn

The children had a magical adventure hiding and finding some beautiful fairy tale objects such as apples for snow white, Cinderella's lost slippers, pumpkins and mice. The children also enjoyed playing with magic green sand creating castles. The children were also asked to match and decorate Cinderella's slippers and they were given the opportunity to decorate a fairy wand.



Monday 19th April: Enchanted Forest Scavenger Hunt



Day 11: Fee, Fie, Foe, Fum...Measuring is Fun

By Kristi Pitt-Owen

Today the children engaged in STEM related activities. They made bead towers, developing their fine motor control, played a number match beanstalk game developing their number recognition and built castles for Disney Princesses developing their creative problem solving skills.



Tuesday 20th April: Fee, Fie, Foe, Fum...Measuring is Fun



Tuesday 20th April: Fee, Fie, Foe, Fum...Measuring is Fun



Day 12: Fairy Tale Face Painting

By Justine Heydra

Face painting was a great success during vacation care, the children could pick one of their favourite fairy tale characters and enjoyed having their faces painted and seeing it in a mirror afterwards.



Wednesday 21st April: Fairy Tale Face Painting



Wednesday 21st April: Fairy Tale Face Painting



Day 13: Pinocchio Puppet Theatre

By Valentina Procopio

During our vacation care we have done some really beautiful and interesting activities. Today was "Pinocchio puppet theatre", we joined Geppetto the puppet master to create our very own shadow puppets. We read the "Three Little Pigs" book and the children were very engaged in moving the finger puppets.

Puppets are engaging props that can help support verbal language skills and communication and social/emotional development. Using props can help children learn and understand the world around them through safe, imaginative play.

Puppets are magical creatures for early childhood settings. They can give instructions, turn tears to laughter and be used in imaginative play by small and large hands. Using puppets to engage early learners offers multiple benefits across the curriculum and for social/emotional development.

Well done everyone, we love to see your little stories come to life!



Thursday 22nd April: Pinocchio Puppet Theatre



Thursday 22nd April: Pinocchio Puppet Theatre



Day 14: Royal Slumber Party

By Gabriela Alvarez

What better way to end our vacation care than to spend the day Glamping!

Children are thrilled to wear their pyjamas at school and enjoy having a beautiful tea with their peers in the tent, enjoying the comfy pillows and teddy bears.

What a grand finale in Vacation Care, we are looking forward to starting Term 2!



Friday 23rd April: Royal Slumber Party



Friday 23rd April: Royal Slumber Party

