



# REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL ST LEONARDS NEWSLETTER



REDDAM

ELS

3rd September 2021

## Principal's Message

By Mrs Simone Cooke

Dear Parents,

On Wednesday this week we celebrated International Early Childhood Educators day and our children joined us in acknowledging the wonderful work their teachers do for them each and every day. I feel very blessed to have such a talented and professional team of teachers here at Reddam, who are committed to our children's learning and development and are passionate about inspiring in our children a love of learning, that will set firm foundations for their success as learners well beyond these early years. Thank you for your continual endeavours to go above and beyond to keep our children secure and safe during these challenging times.

The role of the teacher is the most critical ingredient in a good educational programme. At Reddam we are passionate about employing teachers of excellence, who are experts in Early Childhood Education and are trained to implement our Reggio Emilia philosophy and committed to our unique principles which foster and nurture the 'whole' child. Reddam prides itself on hand picking outstanding educators from all around the world and our teacher selection policy is one of the key aspects of our schools, as we appreciate the vital role a good teacher plays in shaping enquiring minds and building special bonds. Each day as I wander through the classrooms and see the genuine love, special connections and outstanding learning experiences taking place in each room I am reminded of the fact that our children really are surrounded by teachers of excellence, and I commend them on the high standards and professionalism they commit themselves to each and every day.

During these concerning times, it is more important than ever before that we can reach out to our teachers to protect our children and keep them safe. I am so proud of each one of our outstanding teachers who have gone above and beyond these past few months to do all they can to offer the children some 'normalcy' during a time of so much uncertainty and anxiety. It is so vitally important that the children can relax at school and feel safe and secure. Supporting children's emotional wellbeing is criti-

## Principal's Message Continued...

cal as young children are vulnerable to the emotional impact of traumatic events, such as pandemics, so doing all we can not to disrupt their normal routines, helps to support and protect our children. Confining children to home undoubtedly interferes with their sense of predictability, structure and security. Even our very youngest children notice and respond to stress of parents and teachers, so offering as calm and consistent environment as possible is so vitally important

Thank you to you, our wonderful parents for entrusting us with your precious children, it is our commitment to you to do all we can to keep them safe, secure and happy during these challenging times.

Wishing all our fathers a Happy Father's day on Sunday, we hope you like your special gift.



## Construction Play

This week the children in 1R had a fabulous time engaged in construction play and building and stacking blocks...all wonderful for building those fine motor skills that help Babies to grasp and hold onto things. To our amazement most of the Babies were really wonderful at stacking the wooden blocks on top of each other, some Babies thought it was quite hilarious to of course go and knock the towers down. This is certainly a good way for children to learn about cause and effect whilst also building problem solving skills.

We also experimented further with different materials such as bubble wrap, foil and cotton balls in our painting collage. There was lots of sensory exploration, touching, feeling and engaging in close up inspections of each item, as all the materials had an interesting textures. Promoting children's interest through using a range of materials is beneficial in encouraging our babies to be more engaged in their learning experience and experiment with new items.

Wishing all our Father's a very happy Father's Day. We hope that you treasure our special gifts that we have made for you. Enjoy!

We have been having an amazing time outside in the sunshine! Playing and exploring together and even mixing with the other stages as this helps to the Babies to socialise and build confidence within our community.

Well done Babies! Another amazing week for everyone!



# Stage 1R: Exploring New Art Materials & Blocks



# Stage 1R: Dancing & Birthday Party Fun



# Stage 1R: Playing Outdoors With Friends



## Community Helpers — Firefighters

*“Children need the freedom and time to play. Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity.” – Kay Redfield Jamison*

“Hurry Hurry Drive the Fire Truck !” This week in Stage 1D and Stage 1E we continued our community helpers provocation with the amazing world of Firefighter. The children absolutely loved this provocation and all the sensory and dramatic play.

The children enjoyed a great outside water activity. We stacked jumbo red cups on top of each other (resembling our fire) and the children each had the opportunity to use our spray bottle and knock the cups over with water. This activity was great for hand-eye coordination and using spray bottles helped the children develop their fine motor skills. Spraying water with a spray bottle puts little hands to work and helps strengthen the tiny muscles that are in their hands. Pressing and releasing a spray bottle is much like the manipulation of scissors and is a great introduction to this activity for future years.

Our first sensory table activity was firefighter foam. We used shaving cream with a bit of red glitter to create this sensory activity. The children all really enjoyed getting messy and loved the texture of the foam together with the sparkle of the glitter. They also enjoyed dressing up in our firefighters outfits.

Our second sensory activity was a great and mess -free paint sensory bag. This activity was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children as they could squeeze and manipulate the yellow, orange and red paint , resembling fire in the safety of a zip lock bag.

Sensory play impacts many areas of development including:

Language skills – a child will expand and develop their vocabulary and grammar as they describe the senses they are experiencing. Sensory input – providing sensory input to meet a child's needs. Fine motor skills – through manipulating small objects, a child's fine motor skills are improved. Social skills – by communicating what they are experiencing and sharing sensory play with others, a child will naturally improve their social skills.

I would like to wish all the dad's a very Happy Fathers Day, wishing you all a lovely and safe weekend.



## Stage 1E: Community Helpers— Firefighters





# Stage 1E: Firefighter Art & Sensory



# Stage 1E: Playing Outdoors With Friends



## Giraffes Can't Dance

Our next focus book has been Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae. This is a beautiful story of Gerald the giraffe, who is sad because all the animals say that giraffes cannot dance. During the annual Jungle Dance, Gerald meets a wise cricket who helps him discover that there's nothing wrong with the way he is, and shows him that "everyone can dance when we find music that we love."

The children love this story, and it has become a favourite during reading times. It is a great story to apply to so many situations, as the early years are a time where children are constantly learning to do new things and often learning through trial and error. Sometimes we can't do something right away, and often children need to figure out their own ways of getting there!

To tie in with the book we staged a Jungle Dance, where the children were allowed to take the floor and use their gross motor skills as we did structured and freestyle dancing! We played a selection of tracks based on the styles of dance the animals did in the book, and instructed the children to use certain movements, going faster or slower in time with the music. Then we played some of their favourite songs, and gave them soft toys and green scarfs, and let them move around and dance however they liked, just like Gerald!

## Happy Father's Day!

Over the week the children have also been busy making gifts in preparation for Father's Day this Sunday! They have been working hard painting their picture frames and making cards for their dads, grandfathers, and parents. During group times we have been using this as a prompt to get the children speaking in a relaxed setting, by asking them what their favourite things to do with their dads and what they love the most about them! Some of their answers are below:

"My daddy drives me in the car, to the park and to my home," said Caelie.

"We pop bubbles and we play tackles!" said Charlie P.

"I play with puzzle pieces with my dad," said Gisele.

"My daddy plays with me and we watch Paw Patrol," said Henry.

"My dad makes me sandwiches and cheese and cupcakes!" said Lily.

"I play toys with my dad and he makes sausages for dinner," said Matilda.

"My daddy makes me food and I eat it," said Owen.

We hope you enjoy this special weekend with your beautiful children!

## Stage 2R: Jungle Dancing With Gerald



## Stage 2R: "D" is for Dad, Father's Day Gifts



## Stage 2R: Playing Outdoors With Friends



## We Are Going To The Moon

Learning about outer space has been very exciting for our children! One topic that interested the children the most was learning about the natural satellite that circle around the Planet Earth, the Moon! The children have been curious about what life is like on the moon and they have been asking a lot of questions.

Based on this interest, we set up an experience that sure brought excitement to our classroom. Smashing moon rocks was a fine motor experience for children to work on small muscle movement. While hitting the moon rocks with the hammer, they were practicing controlling their wrists and hands, while also making their muscles stronger! Fine motor skills are very important to work on during the early years because it helps prepare children to have better scissor skills and handwriting skills in the future.

We also gave the children a demonstration on how craters are formed on the Moon. The Moon's surface is filled with craters. They come from meteors or asteroids crashing onto the surface of the moon. The moon has no atmosphere. This means there is no wind, weather or plants. When an asteroid hit the moon, there is nothing to remove the mark that it has left. This is why we can see the impact of so many asteroids and meteors on the moon and not on Earth.

Before we worked on this demonstration, we discussed the Moon in depth. We studied the phases of the moon. Some children also noticed that the moon had dark spots and different holes all over.

In the part atelier, we love to experiment with different ways to paint. Stamping and printing with foil was a fun way we found to recreate the Moon's surface. First, we made a stamp out of foil, and then we used paint to print with it. The texture this work created was perfect to make the Moon's crater-filled landscape.



## Stage 2/3: Exploring Moon Rocks





## Stage 2/3: Alien Investigation



## Stage 2/3: Outdoors Fun!



# Stage 3

By Ms Emily Chacon

## Dinosaurs

As you know the children have had an intense interest in everything dinosaurs, volcanoes and the earth. It is amazing to see the children retaining all the information given to them throughout our sessions. Many of the children are now able to full label the layers of the earth, as well as a volcano.

Throughout the week we have been exploring a sensory activity of shaving foam with dinosaurs hidden inside. Using their hands, the children had to search and find all 5 dinosaurs hidden. This fine motor experience promotes improvement of hand-eye coordination which is an important skill for many things like, playing sports, writing, riding a bike. Another benefit of improving fine motor skills is that it helps children understand how their body works. This is great for body awareness and self-esteem.

Next week we will be exploring a mathematical side of the dinosaur world. Measuring dinosaurs, counting teeth and measuring size of their feet! We are very excited to explore every avenue of our dinosaur adventure.

Some benefits of learning about dinosaurs are sparking curiosity and imagination. When a child is imagining, they are practising their critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills. Their minds open up to new possibilities. Learning about dinosaurs is a great way to spark and encourage a child's imagination.

A big Happy Father's Day to all of the dads of Stage 3. The children have been very busy creating their gifts for you.



## Stage 3: Dinosaur Measuring & Excavation



## Stage 3: Father's Day Photos



## Stage 3: Outdoor Playing With Friends



## Fairy Tales – ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’

This week the children enjoyed a familiar story of ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’. Most of the class were very familiar with this story and loved hearing it over and over again. It is a story of a boy who trades his cow for some magic beans. When his mother throws the beans out the window, they grow into a gigantic beanstalk which Jack climbs to the top. At the top he meets a giant with treasures. Jack steals a treasure, climbs back down the beanstalk, Jack’s mother cuts down the beanstalk so the giant cannot retrieve the treasure. Jack and his mother are then able to live happily ever after with lots of gold!

The children were questioned about what they would like to grow with magic beans and we had some wonderfully thoughtful answers, such as:

- ‘A green tree,’ said Agastya.
- ‘Fairy garden,’ said Alison.
- ‘Fairy pink tree,’ said Ariana.
- ‘Pear tree,’ said Clementine.
- ‘Beanstalk,’ said Emily.
- ‘A blue unicorn,’ said Emma.
- ‘Blue tree,’ said Everly.
- ‘A house,’ said Golden.
- ‘Apple tree,’ said Grace.
- ‘Pizza,’ said Jaden.
- ‘Green,’ said Jeremy.
- ‘Watermelon tree,’ said Lachlan.
- ‘A unicorn,’ said Louise.
- ‘Tree house,’ said Nicholas.
- ‘Flowers,’ said Paige.
- ‘Banana house,’ said Patrick.
- ‘Flowers,’ said Radha.
- ‘A orange colour,’ said Saisha.
- ‘Grape house,’ said Yvette.
- ‘Museum,’ said Zadie.

The children also enjoyed role play experiences. Using masks as props, each child had the opportunity to act out different characters of the story. We had a few different versions of the story as each child put their own spin on it.

We also enjoyed planting some seeds of our own. We planted cress seeds in wet cotton ball pots and kept checking them every day to watch them grow. We were all so excited when some started to sprout!

Next week, we will explore a different fairy tale and participate in another week of magical fun!

## Stage 3/4: Climb Beanstalk & Planting Seeds





# Stage 3/4: Bean Counting & Role Play



## Stage 3/4: Friends Forever!



## Fire Safety For Your Children

No one ever thinks that a house fire will happen to them and children are usually less prepared than us adults and typically don't know much about the dangers of a house fire. That's why it's so important for parents and guardians to take extra measures to keep children safe. The first step is learning more about fire safety for children and using that information to put together a thorough fire escape plan. You can never be too careful when it comes to fire safety for your children. Some steps you can take include installing the right fire safety equipment, creating a fire escape plan and teaching your children about fire safety.

As part of the provocation we not only looked at bush fires, wildfires but we also talked about the safety measures that we should take if we were ever in a position where fire was present or near us. We discussed what we might do, what we need?, who do we talk to? And so on.

The fire safety tips for preschoolers is:

Keep hands off of matches, lighters or anything fire related. Ask an adult to help you if you need to light a candle or to heat something up. Use flashlights in the dark if needed instead of candles, unless supervised by an adult.

It is fun to roast marshmallows and sit around a campfire, but always make sure to stay at at least an arm's length distance when sitting around a fire or cooking over a grill.

If your clothes catch on fire remember to STOP, DROP and ROLL as it will take away the oxygen that keeps the fire burning.

If a fire starts in the house or at school, go to the nearest exit and wait for the rest of your group in a safe place outside. If a door is hot, NEVER go through it. If you are on the ground floor try a window instead, or wait for help as far away from the door as possible.

NEVER go back inside a burning building! Make sure you or an adult calls 000, and the firefighters will be there quickly to help stop the fire using water and other types of extinguishers depending on the kind of fire it is.

As a class we decided to practice some drills like STOP, DROP and ROLL to ensure we are prepped for any situation. The children loved practicing this and being firefighters.

We also discussed 'Who are firefighters? What is their role? And with this Miss Lauren ran a lesson with the children about creating a postcard. We looked at the structure of a postcard, what do we write and what does it look like. The question was posed to the children; What do you want to say to a firefighter? The children then had to draft their message in their literacy books and once checked by a teacher they were then able to publish them on their post cards and draw a picture.

# Stage 4: Firefighter Training



# Stage 4: Firefighter Training



# Stage 4: Sports Friday



## Flower Farming

This week Stage Four learnt about flower farms as they continued with this terms learning provocation of farms. Flower Farming also known as 'floriculture' is the process of growing flowers to sell to shops and people. Flower Farmers have the most beautiful and colourful workspace as their flowers grow across huge plots of land in Australia and other countries around the world. The flowers are grown using a range of different processes including; hydroponics, greenhouses and in plantations, where the flowers are grown in long rows.

## Sunflower counting

Stage Four engaged in a numeracy experience where they aimed to build sunflowers with the correct amount of petals. The children read and recognized numbers on circle shaped cards. Next, Stage Four then attempted to place the correct amount of petals around the circle to create a beautiful flower. We are so proud of the children's increasing ability to read and identify higher numbers as they continue to show great interest in numeracy activities.

## Welcome to the florist!

The Stage Four classroom was transformed into a beautiful florist. The children spent time arranging and sorting flowers ready to sell to their customers. Once the shop was ready the children invited their peers and teachers to come and buy their flowers. Throughout this activity Stage Four practiced their beautiful manners between shopkeepers and customers and learnt about all the different types of flowers they could buy. Additionally, the children demonstrated their understanding on how money is used to purchase goods.

## Writing

After learning about the life cycle of a flower the children engaged in a literacy experience where they practiced their early reading, writing and drawing skills. During the activity Stage Four explored flowers and their parts as they expressed their understandings of the life cycle and the sequence of when the events occur. Some of the things Stage Four wrote about include;

"Flowers grow in gardens," said Amelia.

"Flowers are pretty" said Harvey.

"Flowers look like hearts," said Sofia.

"Flowers smell yummy," said Meera.

"Bees suck nectar from flowers," said Isola.

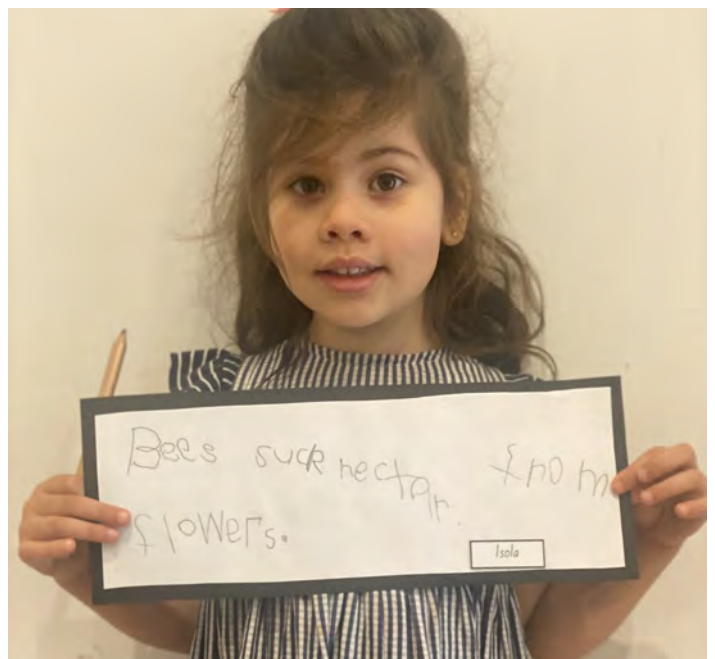
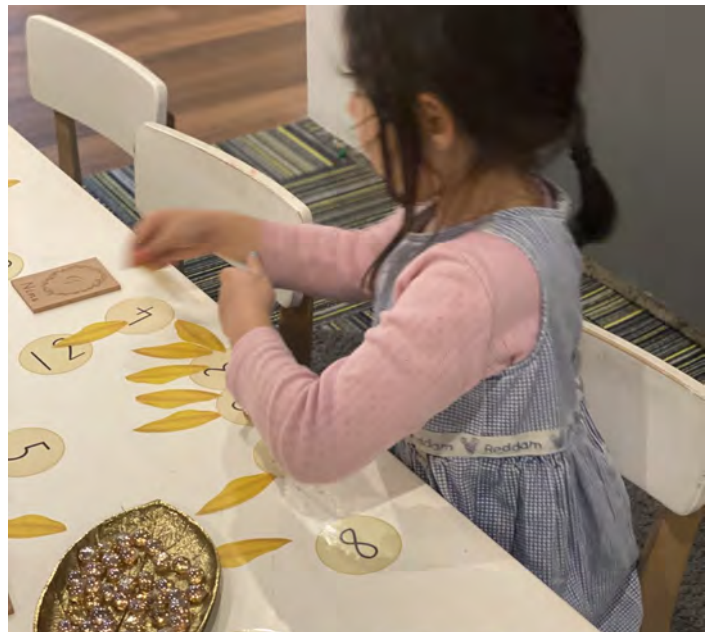
"Flowers can be green," said Lachlan.

# Stage 4: Flower Farming





## Stage 4: Petal Counting & Labelling



# Stage 4: Fun in the sun!

