



# REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL ST LEONARDS NEWSLETTER



3rd December 2021

## Principal's Message

By Mrs Simone Cooke

Dear Parents,

Whilst we very sadly have not been able to host our usual face-to-face Christmas concerts, due to ongoing covid restrictions, it does not mean that our children have missed out on their end of year festivities. Thank you to all our families for dressing your children in their costumes and bringing them in for special rehearsals, so that all our children can be included in these important events and that we can prepare a video of the concerts for you to share with your family members around the world.

Celebrations remain an important part of our children's lives and building children's confidence to stand on a stage and perform, certainly assists in building self-esteem, courage and self-assurance. Our children are extremely excited to be sharing their little performances with you. We acknowledge that they are only young, and not all children are natural performers, however, encouraging children to step out of their comfort zone, manage fears and learn to respond to different situations, from a young age, builds resilience and social skills.

Both the teachers, and specialist teachers, as part of our weekly Drama and Music classes have been working throughout the year to build the children's self-esteem and willingness to perform in front of others, to participate in front of an audience and learn how to overcome stage fright and feel more comfortable in large crowds. Patience and encouragement is an important element in this process. Our children are still very young and not everyone feels at ease participating in these situations. It is best that they are encouraged but not forced to join in. Please remember that it is completely fine and normal if children decide not to participate in these events, they will do so in their own time. Your class teacher will be sending you through a copy of your child's class concert at the end of term, so please let us know if you do not receive these.

Over the final weeks of Term our children from 1E upwards will also be receiving their Individual Learning Portfolios, these have been lovingly and painstakingly put together

# Principal's Message Continued...

by your child's core teacher for each child and are a special memory that they can treasure for many years to come. Our teachers will be handing these out to you personally and will be in touch to co-ordinate times.

Whilst we are most upset that we could not invite you to attend our concerts in person we do hope you will enjoy watching the videos of your talented children who have, as always, done us all proud!



## Exploring Natural Resources

The Babies had a wonderful week exploring light as part of our term 4 intentional teaching. All the Babies were highly engaged in a sensory experience involving light and nature. Using natural materials the Babies could see how light interacts with the different materials, such as leaves and seed pods and many other items in the sensory box. The Babies enjoyed engaging in this activity and each child demonstrated very good sharing skills. The Babies also explored painting with light, by using foil as their canvas and fingers to paint with. Well done everyone!



# Stage 1R: Building Fine Motor Skills



# Stage 1R: Exploring Our Environment



## Natural Loose Parts

*“Children learn and listen more willingly when they are met with kindness, empathy and patience; when their core need for connection or attachment is met.”* **Vince Gowmon.**

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

This week in stage 1E & Stage 1D we had a magical and exciting time for both children and educators.

Our sensory activities this week were focused on our loose parts and nature provocation, however we incorporated a little Christmas cheer into them. The children really enjoyed the bright colours of the tinsel and beads together with coloured rice and pasta. These activities allowed for the children to explore and experience different colours and textures. They also strengthened their fine-motor skills and verbal skills as we learned new words and repeated them such as; Christmas tree, tinsel, beads, elf ears, reindeer and Santa's Hat.

This week the children also engaged in having their classroom Christmas photo taken. The educators set up five different scenes and the children had the opportunity to choose which setting they wanted to have their photo taken in. We all had so much fun taking these photos and the children adored watching their friends patiently while they waited for their turn. These amazing photos are showcased around our room and will be sent home in the last week of term.

For our art this week we have also started to work on a Christmas inspired art activity. We are creating Christmas baubles. The children were each given some watercolour paint and special watercolour paper. They used different techniques to paint their baubles. When painting children learn to use both sides of their brain. There are also other benefits of using watercolour paint such as; it sharpens fine-motor skills, improves hand-eye coordination and it helps the children develop and improve on their concentration.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the parents for bringing their children in for their Christmas concert recording this week. They all looked lovely and did a great job performing. All the videos and photos of this day will be uploaded onto a google drive and a link will be sent out in the last week of term to all the parents.

Wishing you all a great and safe weekend.

## Stage 1E + 1D: It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas



# Stage 1E + 1D: It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas





## Christmas Excitement

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas in Stage 2R! This week we recorded our Christmas Concert, and our little Santa's, elves and reindeer performed beautifully, using their big, loud singing voices and remembering all the actions to our favourite songs. Even with the concert over, the children are still asking to keep practicing the songs and requesting Christmas music to sing and dance along to!

We have used the festive season as a prompt for our group time discussions, and have started asking the children for their thoughts on Christmas; what it means to them, what their holiday plans are, and of course, what they want for Christmas! One thing we noticed is many of their answers were not just about what they wanted, but what they wanted to get for their siblings and parents.

"I want a firefighter costume and a unicorn bath bomb for Eleanor," said Charles O.

"I want Mickey Mouse and Flynn wants Minnie Mouse," said Claire.

"I want a drink bottle, and a teddy bear for my Eddie," said Alexandra.

"I want pink toys, and my Alex wants superheroes," said Lily.

"I want presents and Sofia wants presents too!" said Ava.

"I want a ball and I will roll it outside," said Charlie M.

It is wonderful to see them already thinking about others! This was a great opportunity for us to talk about the holidays being a time to spend with our families, and a chance to think about giving as well as receiving gifts. We hope you have a great weekend with your beautiful children!



## Stage 2R: Christmas Excitement!



## Stage 2R: Christmas Excitement!



## Extra Curricular Activities

The past few weeks the children have been specially enjoying our extra curricular activities. What's the major benefit of including movement in our program? It's a vital part of a healthy lifestyle!

Children who are confident while playing games will have more fun and therefore they will continue to seek out movement (and develop motivation). This means they learn new skills and master older ones, it helps develop a healthy lifestyle and incorporate fitness as a natural part of children's lives.

Our specialist classes give the children the chance to learn skills such as coordination, balance, confidence, respect, teamwork, leadership, memory and creativity.

Through the drama sessions, children develop a greater range of movement. They listen to music, sing along and dance, which is important for self-expression. Children can't always communicate their feelings through words, so it's useful for them to have a healthy outlet for their emotions.

Our sports program changes every term alternating multisports (ball games like soccer, basketball, hockey, athletics) and we are preparing for Brisbane Olympics with a medal ceremony.

Our Piano classes help us incorporate music into our program promoting social interaction and language growth. When done right, musical experiences teach children about emotion, language and impart abstract concepts in a simple manner, all important to help children prepare for school.

Many studies have proven the power of music to enhance memory, improve confidence, strengthen learning capabilities and develop motor skills. Exposure to positive music experiences from early childhood helps children to speak more clearly, develop a larger vocabulary and strengthen the connection between the mind and body.

Children derive enormous benefits from yoga. Physically, it enhances their flexibility, strength, coordination, and body awareness. In addition, their concentration improves, and they learn how to relax.

We run yoga and meditation activities daily before lunch. These interactive adventures are designed for our children to build strength, balance and confidence while having fun.

Throughout the year language had also played a big part in our program. A number of researches have shown that children who have learned a second language at a young age demonstrate cognitive advantages, such as increased problem-solving skills and creativity. Studying another language also helps children deal with abstract concepts.

## Stage 2/3: Extra Curricular Activities



## Stage 2/3: Extra Curricular Activities



# Stage 3

By Ms Emily Chacon

## When I Grow Up

In our final week of provocation, the children further explored their friendships and continued our preschool program, focussing on our growth and development.

Throughout the year the children are encouraged to share and play with their peers. Through these interactions they learn to develop important interpersonal qualities such as empathy and cooperation which will help them get along with others in preschool and beyond.

By spending time with their peers, children learn to include ideas from others in their play, and start to understand each other's feelings. Young children are naturally egocentric, so learning skills such as empathy can be challenging, but they can learn a lot from watching and interacting with their peers. These early years social skills can help children develop friends through their whole life.

As part of a child's growing independence, they develop key self-regulation skills between the ages of three and five years old. These skills may include concentrating, sharing and taking turns.

Self-regulation skills are important to help children develop confidence and independence, allowing them to grow and understand who they are, and to form friendships. Parents, carers and early childhood educators are all important role models for demonstrating healthy methods of self-regulation.

Our Christmas concert was a HUGE success. The children were amazing and were very excited to be on stage and dance. I am currently in the process of creating the video, which should be ready in a week or two.

A friendly reminder to please sign in a time in the last week to collect your child portfolio. There is a table outside the classroom for parents to sign.

On Friday 10th and Monday 12th we will be holding a class party. Please watch your emails as I will be sending out all the information you will need.



## Stage 3: Christmas Decorations





## Stage 3: Sensory Artwork



## Investigation Numeracy

The final week of our provocation had us recapping our previous learnt knowledge of numbers. The children had the opportunity to spend some time at the easel and practise writing numbers. First they chose their favourite number to write and wrote it on the paper and coloured it in if they wished to do so. They then had the opportunity to use water colour paints to paint on top of and around their number or paint some more numbers on their paper. Each creation was individualised and fantastic as well.

We also revisited our favourite number songs that we learnt over the last three weeks. 'The Ants Go Marching' was the unanimous favourite of all the class, as we marched around the room, following each other in a train fashion. Another favourite song that we revisited was 'Ten Green Bottles'. This song was requested over and over again and the children were challenged to count backwards instead of the usual forwards and became quicker and quicker each time we sang the song.

Another experience that we revisited during the final week was number searching. As the children became more familiar with double digit numbers, we explored counting by ten's. Using a printed mat for visual stimulation, we counted in a group setting. The children are all very aware of numeracy and how it is all around us in everyday life.

Our Christmas Concert video was very exciting this week as all the children were eager to dress up and sing. Every child performed like a star and were proud when watching back the video of themselves!

## NEXT WEEK

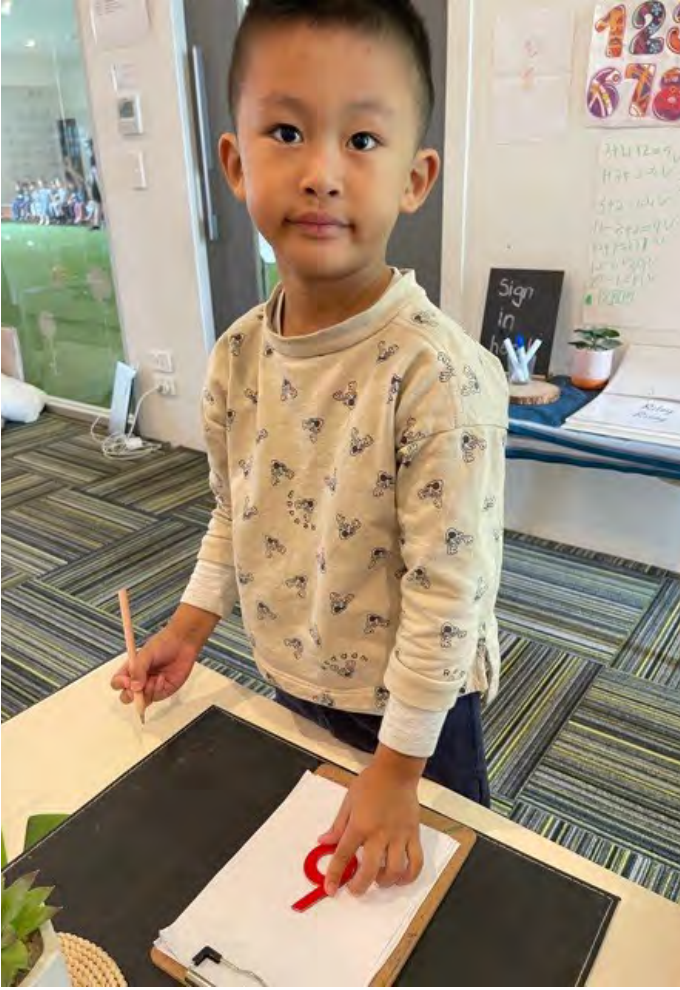
For the final week, we will be revisiting our favourite experiences that we enjoyed during the year.. Radha wishes to revisit our dinosaur provocation, Yvette is interested in revising our Investigation: Literacy provocation, Nicholas wishes to re-investigate the Coding of Bee-bots and Everly wants to re-explore our Fairy Tale provocation. There were many more requests as well, which we will try to re-engage with too!



# Stage 3/4: Coin Counting & Uno Fun



# Stage 3/4: Number Writing & Number News Time



# Stage 4 School Readiness

*"The best way to see Christmas is through the eyes of a child"*

It's that time of the year where we are incorporating Christmas into our school readiness provocation and providing the children with an enriching hands-on program that will ensure they are prepared for Kindergarten for 2022. With Christmas being the focus of all our activities we started the week with reading a few Christmas stories being; "Santa leaves Australia" and "All I want for Christmas."

From reading these stories it led to great discussion about what the children would like for Christmas, What do families do around Christmas time?, What food do families eat at Christmas and much more. We also spoke about how we know it is Christmas time.

Some of the responses are;

"My mum gets the Christmas tree out," said William McK.

"I see lots of Christmas things at the shops," said Finn.

"I get to see Santa at the shops," said Claudia.

"Reindeers are everywhere," said Angus.

"We can put the coloured balls on the tree," said Harvey H.

"Santa is coming," said Lachlan C.

"I see Christmas stuff at the shops," said Freja.

"Because my mum told me!" said Zoe.

"Because Santas are around," said Hayley S.

"Stars go on the Christmas tree," said Hayley X.

"Santa comes when people are sleeping," said Isaac W.

Using the children's responses the teachers came up with different artworks for the children to participate in. The children made reindeers where they had to follow a step by step procedure to create their reindeer, even though the children had the same instructions they all came out very different. Once they had done that they were then able to colour it in and apply a coloured wash on the background.

We also had a watercolour station for the children where they could use the water colours and create baubles and once dry they got a black piece of paper and drew Christmas tree leaves for them to go on.

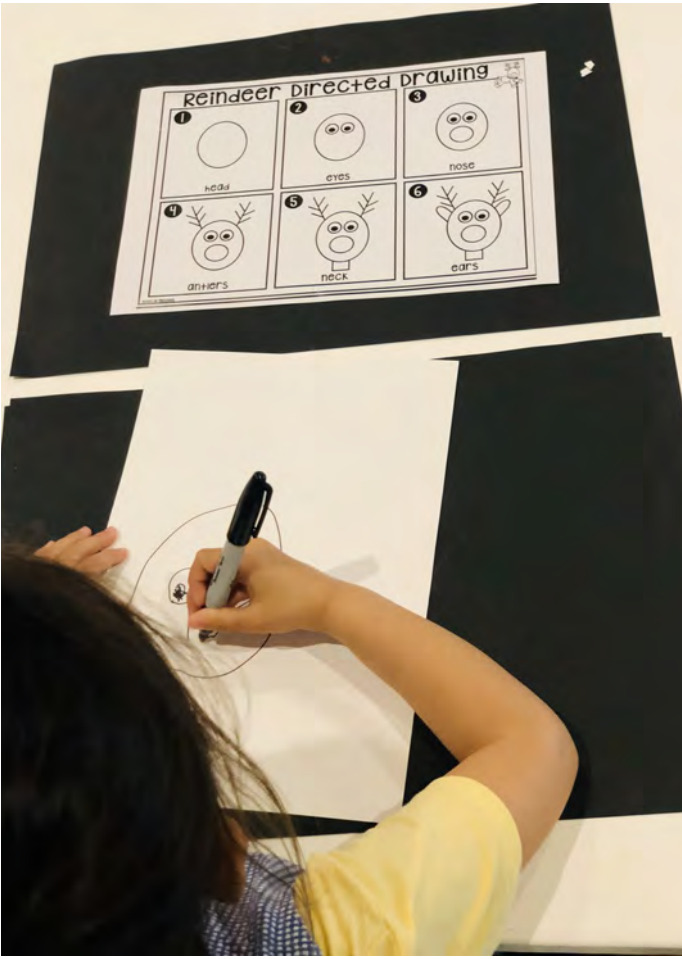
The final activity was learning how to use a ruler. The children had to choose a shape then they used the ruler to draw lines and colour each section in with oil pastels.

## **Reminder: Graduation Friday 10th December**

Please ensure you have your child's costumes and School uniform ready for the graduation and Christmas concert. We would hate for you to turn up and not have it for the day.

We also require vaccination status emailed to us before the concert date this ensures that we have a safe and smooth transition into the concert. Miss Lauren & Miss Sarah have sent out emails in regards to the Christmas Concert/ Graduation. Please see all the details about the day in the emails and if you have any questions please let us know.

# Stage 4: Creating Reindeer Artwork



# Stage 4: Creating Reindeer Artwork



# Stage 4: Watercolour Christmas Decorations





This week in drama we went on adventures. In Stage 1 and 2 we began by singing our Hello Song on the parachute and also warmed our body up by doing actions to the song 'If your happy and you know it.'

If your happy and you know it give me a smile (smile) If your happy and you know it give me a smile (smile) if your happy and you know it and you really want to show it, if your happy and you know it give me a smile (smile)  
If your excited and you know..... (Jump up and down)  
If your angry and you know..... (Stamp your feet)

But I told them I don't want to be angry, let's be happy!

Next, we played a game called 'Yes Let's'. I gave the children an action to do e.g., Wobble like a jellyfish and before they do it, they say "Yes Let's".

In Stage 3 and 4 I told them that over the weekend someone told me about a secret garden. Many questions were asked including What and who might live in a secret garden. I asked them "Shall we go"? Of course, they were all keen to go on an adventure.

We began by packing our bag. Then we set off on your adventure, we went past the farm and heard Chickens, (the children made the sounds) sheep, cows, pigs and horses. Next, we went over a bridge, I asked them who might live under a bridge? Mika. said a crocodile, Cody said a troll. We made our way through the long grass, mud and steep hill before arriving at what looked like a secret garden. "Wow, can you see the big mushrooms"? Here the children used their body to be a mushroom, butterflies, birds, and frogs. I asked them what it smelt like so we could really set the atmosphere. Sabrina in Stage 4 said it smelt like lollypops, Andrew in Stage 3/4 said it smelt like wet dogs.

Next, I went into character as a fairy. I was upset as one of my wings had broken, could they help fix it? They were keen to help, Frank and Amelia asked if I was ok, what a nice friend!

In order to fix my wing, we had to find the pearl of a mermaid. Where do mermaids live? I told them that I had never been under water before as I usually fly everywhere. We also need to find the breath of a dragon. That sounds scary!!! What do dragons look like? and the last thing they have to do is find a boy named George who has a dinosaur. Once we have all these things, we can make a spell and hopefully my wings will be fixed!

# Drama

By Ms Laura Hudson

We all got our running shoes on and headed to the water's edge. Once we got there, I asked them what do we need to wear to go swimming? Once we had our swimmers, goggles and flippers on went deep down to the bottom of the ocean, "Wow look at all these marine animals, sharks, stingrays, turtles' dolphin. Can we try and be like them? We used our body to show each animal.

"What's that swimming over there"? It has a tail and beautiful hair? A mermaid, the children all pretended to be a mermaid and we all got the pearl from the clam and swam back to the surface.

Next, we went to find the dragon, he was sleeping behind the tree (one of the children was the dragon) the dragon could smell us and woke up, we told him about the fairy and that we needed his breath to help save the fairies wing. We all used a magic bag to catch the breath!

We started to head back to the secret garden, and I said "I think we have forgotten something..... George.....what did we need from George again"? They all shouted a Dinosaur. We decide to shout for George 3 times, but there was no sign on him. So, I told them not to give up, let's all shout George to see if he hears us. It worked, we asked George if we could borrow the dinosaur to help fix the fairies wings.

Back at the Secret Garden we began to do the spell we put all the ingredients into the pot and each group came up with own magic words. We which mixed the pot around and said the words 3 times and hey presto the wings are fixed.

Well, done everyone excellent drama

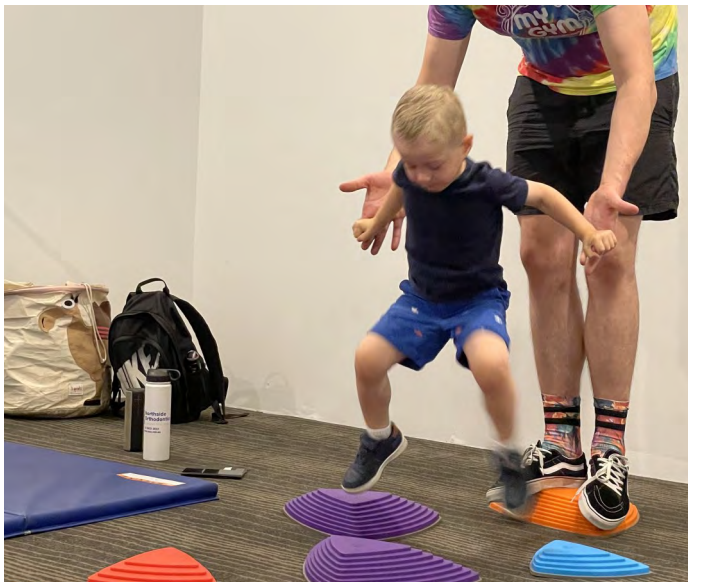




# My Gym



# My Gym



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# Physical Education

