



REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL WOOLLAHRA NEWSLETTER



Dee's Message

29 JANUARY 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The staff and I welcome you back to what promises to be another fun-filled, colourful, creative and exciting year in the ELS. We hope that all our families had a meaningful and happy summer break, especially after all the disruptions of the past year. It seemed that everyone breathed a collective sigh of relief as 2020 drew to a close.

While there might be some uncertainties up ahead, the staff and I are excited to get the new year started, with all sorts of opportunities for learning and discovery planned. The teachers were hard at work in the days leading up to the start of school as they came up with wonderfully creative ways to encourage the children to explore their abilities and interests and to learn more about the fascinating world in which we live.

Of course, learning and discovery is not just about knowledge acquisition or gaining new skills. So much of the richness of life is wrapped up in the relationships we form – and this is no different for the children in the ELS, young though they may be. Sometimes the friendships which start in preschool last a lifetime and we hope that there will be many such meaningful relationships begun this year. The teachers love watching the initially tentative reaching out often become very real and deep friendships. The teachers will also help the children to navigate their ways through the sometimes-tricky minefield of dealing with other people and of understanding emotions.

While it is wonderful to welcome back those children

and families who have been with us before, it is all the more special to extend a very warm welcome to those who have joined us for the first time. We are really pleased that you decided to choose our happy ELS and we have no doubt that you will soon feel part of the Reddam House ELS family. We love to involve our parents and families in the activities of the ELS, as you journey alongside your very special children. As such, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to enjoy with us.

We make a special fuss of certain events during the year and these are an ideal opportunity for the children to learn more about the celebrations enjoyed by the different cultures represented in our school. Of course, we also know that children love dressing up and we see this in action on special days such as Valentine's Day and Halloween. The teachers have come up with some really creative Provocations, which are the 'themes' which form the basis of a Reggio Emilia-inspired early childhood education. These open-ended journeys of discovery encourage children to create, explore and broaden their knowledge of the world, of themselves and of each other.

We look forward to getting to know you better in the coming weeks and months and we trust that you and your child will have a truly memorable, happy year.

Enjoy the weekend!

Dee Pitcairn
Principal

The Nest (1R)

Kiri Winders, Rachael Soegiono, Min Pattharasiritanarat & Rochelle Lundie

What an adventurous time we have had for our first days at school in the Nest! The children are all settling in beautifully and it is wonderful for us to meet all our new families. We welcome Milo, Artie, Alfred, Talia, Edward, and Darcy! The children have been taking their time to connect and engage

with their new teachers and have been curiously exploring their new environment. We look forward to the coming weeks of play and exploration!

The Nest Team, Min, Rachael, and Kiri



Fledglings (1E)

By Hannah Corrigan, Jane Teh, Shirley Brockwell, and Anna Lee

Welcome back to a new year in the Fledglings. It was good to see some familiar faces transitioning up from the nest and having some special time together to settle before welcoming the new children and families into our classroom.

We teachers are quickly identifying interests of each child. The children are enjoying the construction blocks, creating objects long and tall, taking care of the babies, hosting tea parties, making puzzles, and making friends with some of our favourite puppets.

Outdoors the sensory tub and sandpit proved to be a popular area to spend time.

Each week we will offer activities that reflect both the children's interests. We have had a wonderful start to our learning journey, the children have been given the time and

opportunity to explore and investigate their new environment, form relationships with their teachers and peers while making themselves familiar with the daily routine.

Settling into a new environment is both an exciting and challenging time for children and families. It is also emotional as it is a first major transition in a child's life. When going through transitions children can take time to figure out their new setting and learn from their new experiences.

"Strong, capable and resilient, rich with wonder and knowledge. Every child brings with them a deep curiosity and potential and this innate curiosity drives their interest to understand their world and their place within it."

Loris Malaguzzi, Reggio Emilia's Educational Philosophy, 2002



Fledglings (1E)

Photo Gallery



Stage 2

By Daniella Gosty, Karla Cabezas, Shauna Corry, Sarah Noone, Roberta Sokame and Joyce Matsui

A New Year.... Welcome to Stage 2.

It is hard to believe that we are already 3 weeks into our year. For many of our children returning to Reddam, it was very exciting as they explored the new classroom and reacquainted with their friends from last year. This past week we had our new friends start with some of them returning families and it was lovely to welcome them back into our classroom. We have had some tears and extra cuddles in the mornings, but this has very quickly turned into a relaxed and happy day. The Stage Two team are very proud of our new group and how much they are enjoying themselves. We can see that this is going to be a fun year of learning and discovering together.

The Stage Two class is made of two groups, the Kookaburra's, and the Tree Frogs. We are all Stage Two and while we share a classroom and the outdoor play area, there will be times when we may do similar activities, or we may do different things. We document what the children are involved in daily and display this in our Daily Diary which we email to the families and print out for our daybook in the room. Please take the time to have a look and share this with your child as this is their journey, and the diary offers you opportunities to have your child share what they did and discovered while at school.

Both groups started our new year by talking about the things we did in the holidays. Lots of talk about going to the beaches and the park. This then led into discussions about Australia Day and what we love to do in the country we live. As part of our Australia day celebrations, we read the story "I'm Australian too" by Mem Fox. It is all about all of us coming from countries far and wide and making our home in Australia, sharing it with the original inhabitants. The story showed the Indigenous flag and the Australian flag. In the mornings we do an acknowledgment and welcome to country.

We thank the indigenous people for sharing their land and we promise to look after the animals and people too. We then say Hello earth, hello sky, hello me and hello friends.

As our first art experience, the children were then offered a painting activity that showed the country of Australia with different flag colours. The Kookaburra's were given the opportunity to use either their own hands or paint brushes to put marks on the paper. We used the colours of red and blue that are represented in both flags. The tree frogs did a stamping technique with stars. We also read the story "Why I love Australia" and the Very Hungry Caterpillar's Australian Animals' a story that showcases some of the many and varied animals of Australia including kangaroos, pelicans and crocodiles and sees the Very Hungry Caterpillar appearing in the rainforest on the final spread. The children enjoyed exploring these animals through movement activities.

The Kookaburra children display their work on the outer wall of the classroom while the Tree Frog group display their work on the wall in the classroom. Please take the time to look at the children's work as these displays will change as the children continue to work on different projects throughout the year.

In the EYLF the focus is on Being, Belonging and Becoming. Experiencing belonging is knowing where and with whom you belong and is integral to human existence. Children belong first to a family, a cultural group, a neighbourhood, and a wider community.

We look forward to an amazing year ahead getting to know the children and their families.

Stage 2

Photo Gallery



Stage 3

By Christina Mandalidis, Susan Casey, Jason Corrigan, Polina Rodov, Yuliya Ginis and Tiina Juvakka.

What wonderful first few weeks of Stage 3 we have had to start the New Year! All the children seem to be settling so well into their new classrooms and enjoying their new groups is clearly evident that many of the friendships from the previous year have continued and there was lots of excitement and happiness that could be seen on many of the children's faces when they were reunited.

We have started the year very busy by learning all there is to know about Australia and what it means to be Australian including learning about the indigenous Australians their amazing and creative artwork as well as the culture that they have had for more than 60,000 years, we did not waste any time by getting busy creatively and the result was creating our very own dot paintings using natural materials that the children had collected from the playground such as bark, seedpods, pinecones, sticks and some children opted to use earbuds to make their own individual artworks.

We also delve into learning about Australian native animals we read many books such as *Possum Magic* by Mem Fox and *Wombat stew* by Marcia Vaughan both books look at all the native animals that we have in Australia the children really enjoyed these books and all sat together and discussed their favourite animals that we had read about.

Skye: I like the koala he is so sleepy.

William: Platypus he liked to swim.

Arwen: Koala he put gum nuts in the yucky stew.

Sabine: I like the wombat he lives in a hole (burrow)

Eva: The possum is the best they climb up trees and the mum has her baby on her back it is so cute.

Jude: I like the smiley Dingo.

Aiya: I like the Koala when they have a baby.

Lastly the children showed a great interest in a great book that show cased Sydney called *Alphabetical Sydney* by Antonia Pesante and Hilary Bell this book is all about Sydney and the children talked repeatedly talked about the harbour so we decided to do some more artwork to show case what we love about the city we live in firstly the children were given a selection of blues to creating the sky and water and when that dried the children were given paper plates to cut up and stick on that would create the arches of the Sydney Opera House.

We have had 2 very busy weeks full of fun and learning, thank you for a fabulous start to the year and the Stage Three team are thoroughly excited to share 2021 with you all.

Stage 3

Photo Gallery



Stage 4

By Cassandra Holmes, Jane Pledger, Sandra Carberry, Nina Bergel and Kristina Rocchi

Welcome to Stage 4

What an incredible beginning to our new year in Stage Four. Most of our children have seamlessly transitioned from Stage Three and we have also welcomed many new children to our Reddam community.

As we delve into Term One 2021, it is most important for us as teachers to assist the children in creating a strong sense of identity within the group, develop meaningful relationships and inspire the children to develop a love of learning early on in their educational journey. As the weeks progress, the Stage Four teachers have been carefully observing the children's play, listening to their conversations, and making note of the interests that are transpiring within their core classrooms.

The teachers have been busy helping the children to connect with one another and teach them the expectations of Stage 4. The children are encouraged to be aware and mindful of what they are doing in our classrooms and our wider Reddam environment.

We place a strong emphasis on our Reddam ELS value system, which encourages kind hearts, listening ears, walking feet, gentle hands, good manners, and most importantly respect – respect for each other, our teachers, our equipment, our school, and our greater community. The golden nugget value system encourages children to earn golden nuggets to add to their individual jar. When we have earned ten golden nuggets children take them to our Reddam ELS principal and exchange their achievement for a special treasure to take home.

We take great pride in being a part of our school community by wearing our Reddam multi-uniform each day in Stage Four. While this not only establishes a strong sense of belonging to a group, it also assists with practicing for Kindergarten.

Our Stage Four Piazza is our central area for showcasing the children's projects, documentation, and artworks. Here children's thoughts, creations and photographs are proudly collated and displayed along the Perspex boards in the Piazza outside each of the classrooms. We welcome you to view our Piazza regularly and share the learning with your child. Where children are appreciated for their work, they develop a great sense of belonging, being and becoming in their educational learning journey.

We are so excited to share this wonderful learning experience with you and your child. We welcome both our new and old families and we look forward to getting to know you all as your children embark on this exciting learning journey through Stage Four.

Stage 4 Photo Gallery



Happy Birthday



Reddam Early Learning

would like to wish a very happy birthday to

Jude Israelstam & Dylan Du

who celebrate their special day this week
and over the weekend.

We hope you have a fabulous day!

