



REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL WOOLLAHRA NEWSLETTER

Dee's Message

19 MARCH 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We all love a good celebration – and this is no less so in the ELS than for older children and even for us adults. During the course of the year, the teachers are constantly on the lookout for reasons to celebrate. Sometimes these are in the everyday small victories which the children achieve: a skill mastered, a word learned, a song enjoyed, a new friend made.

Then there those other larger events which we all enjoy celebrating – our birthdays and those of our loved ones and our friends, anniversaries, special events on the calendar. Here in the ELS we also try to incorporate a number of nationally and internationally recognised days on the calendar. Some of these are religious festivals, as we expose the children to the traditions of various cultures, and some are just plain enjoyable, such as Valentine's Day or Halloween.

This past week, the children had great fun learning more about St Patrick, as they celebrated St Patrick's Day on Wednesday. A number of our children and the teachers either come from Ireland, or have Irish roots, so it was enjoyable for them to share some of their experiences of this special event on the Irish calendar.

As a result, many of the creative activities involved the colour green and there were no doubt many green-fingered and green spattered little people who went home during the week. There were shamrocks to be painted and fascinating stories about little leprechauns, which no doubt got their creative juices flowing.

Dee's Message

Art allows them to work on the fine motor skills, as they manipulate a paint brush or use scissors to cut out shapes. Colouring in becomes more refined as they grow older and gain more control over their fine motor skills, but all of these activities are part of a steady progression, from the earliest efforts of holding a brush in a somewhat clumsy fist.

One of the most special moments in the ELS is when the children are able to look at the own Reflection Journals at the end of the year and enjoy their own creations collected

in one place. At the same time, it is equally special for us as adults to see their progression during the year and to gain an insight into their worlds. As Picasso once said, "Every child is an artist." What a pleasure it is to witness their creativity on show each day!

Have an enjoyable weekend!

Dee Pitcairn
Principal



The Nest (1R)

Kiri Winders, Rachael Soegiono, Min Pattharasiritanarat & Rochelle Lundie

St Patrick's Day

This week our little Nest children celebrated their first St Patrick's Day at Reddam Early Learning School! This holiday is celebrated around the world on March 17th. It commemorates Saint Patrick who was the first to bring Christianity to Ireland in the 5th Century and ever since he has been celebrated as the Patron Saint of Ireland. The holiday has evolved into a celebration of Irish culture with parades, special foods, music, dancing, drinking and a whole lot of green! We decided to get in on the fun this week by putting up green decorations and symbols of Irish culture, such as leprechauns, four leaf clovers, and gold treasures. The children were excited to see the new decorations in the room and went straight to the green sensory table. The green rice sensory tubs captured their imaginations as they looked for the treasures hiding underneath. Many children enjoyed scooping and tipping the rice and watching it fall from their fingers. We used the opportunity to learn the colour green, and extend our language skills, by talking about the colour green as the children played alongside each other.

Getting our photos taken

The Nest children all amazed us this week with their emerging confidence and resilience during the photo shoots. We weren't sure how the children would react to the various new faces (photographers) being around and in their space. The children took it all in their stride and once they got used to the idea they relaxed and interacted for the photographers. They were able to follow the instructions beautifully and showed their willingness to be open to new challenges and unfamiliar situations. This learning is in keeping with our Early Years Learning Framework Outcome 1.1 Children Develop their emerging autonomy, interdependence and sense of agency.



The Nest (1R)

Photo Gallery



Fledglings (1E)

By Hannah Corrigan, Jane Teh, and Nadia Breus

Green, green and more green. What a great St. Patrick's Day we had in school.

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the children dressed in green coloured clothing and engaged in many activities, which related to this special day, celebrated each year in Ireland and many other countries around the world. We looked at many symbols that represent this day such as shamrocks, rainbows, harps and leprechauns. We also enjoyed some Irish dancing with some traditional Irish music.

In preparation for St. Patrick's Day, the children were invited to create some of their own shamrocks at the Mini Atelier, using used paper rolls which, with the help of a teacher, we turned into the shape of a shamrock. Using one of our favourite songs in the Fledglings, "Rainbow Rainbow", we thought we would try and find the gold at the end of the rainbow by creating our own, using all the colours of the rainbow which we talk about regularly in the Fledglings.

"Rainbow, Rainbow, high and dry
rainbow rainbow in the sky,
from the clouds down to the ground
I see colours all around.
Red, orange, yellow, green, blue indigo and
violet too.
A rainbow.."

In keeping with the green theme, we had a sensory tub filled with lots of lucky charms that the children had to search for.



Fledglings (1E)

Photo Gallery



Stage 2

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

Go n-éirí an bóthar leat (may the road rise to meet you). This is an Irish blessing wishing a person well on their journey with the general hope that the person would have luck.

The children were introduced to the concept of the 'Luck of the Irish' with the leprechaun coming to visit our classroom. The classes heard the story how the leprechaun brings luck and gold to those who find him at the end of the rainbow. Sharing the Irish cultural idea of luck with the children led them to an excited sense of belonging to the classroom as they feel secure hearing about shared experiences by both teachers and friends in the group that enjoy the holiday. With these ideas in place, the children explored their imaginations to create artwork showing where they imagine the leprechaun will leave their gold for them. The scavenger hunt for gold had the children looking forward to the celebrations. Edwyn initiated a conversation with his friends in the toilet about when the leprechaun would appear at school, showing his sense of feeling safe, secure, and supported in his learning and joining in with play. The children also explored different identities and points of view through dramatic play as they became involved in the search for gold coins. (ELYF 1)

Along with hearing about the leprechaun, we introduced the shape of the shamrock/ clover. We recognised that there can be three or more leaves. In the story 'There was an old lady who swallowed a clover' by Lucille Colandro, the long list of things the lady swallowed allowed the children to have a list of objects. This is much like the shopping list they will create for the classroom set-up of the shopping registers and the food items available for the children to pack into the bags provided, which encourages them to explore learning processes such as memory skills. (ELYF 4)

The art room allowed the children to paste coloured tiles as part of their rainbows along with adding tiles with images such as a shamrock/clover, a pot of gold, and even some leprechauns.

An old Irish piece of wisdom...
Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh sí (praise the young and they will flourish).



Stage 2 Photo Gallery



Stage 2

Photo Gallery



Stage 3

By Christina Mandalidis, Susan Casey, Jason Corrigan and Yuliya Ginis

Lá Fhéile Pádraig. St. Patrick's Day

This week the ELS transformed into shades of green in preparation for the Irish Celebration of St. Patrick's Day or in Gaelic "Lá Fhéile Pádraig".

St Patrick's Day is celebrated each year in Ireland and all around the world on 17th March. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. Born in Britain in the late 4th century, he was taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 to convert the Irish to Christianity. Many legends grew up around him – for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts.

At the atelier this week, the children were invited to create the national emblem of Ireland, a shamrock, which is a three-leaved plant that Saint Patrick used as a metaphor to describe the Christian Holy Trinity. Using a capsicum cut in half and different shades of green paint the children stamped the capsicum onto paper and used their thumb to create the stalk.

The children also began to learn a very traditional Irish song called The Rattlin Bog, which is a song that can help the children to develop their memory recall, as with every verse another item is added to the 'tree, that lives in the hole, and the hole in the bog, and the bog down in the valley-o'.

In the kitchen the children had a new baking experience. To top off their St. Patrick's Day celebrations the children took turns measuring and mixing flour, sugar, milk, butter and raisins to make some traditional Irish fruit scones. This was a great experience for the children, and they were delighted to have the chance to come together in the afternoon to enjoy the scones together along with some music and traditional Irish dancing.



Stage 3

Photo Gallery



Stage 3

Photo Gallery



Stage 3

Photo Gallery



Stage 4

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

St. Patrick's Day

Over the past term, we have had many celebrations that reflect our culture and the culture of others who live in Australia. In January we celebrated the love for our beaches as part of our Australia Day celebrations. In February, Valentine's Day was a celebration to recognise those whom we love, and Lunar New Year was a fun cultural celebration of fireworks with lions and dragons dancing to bring in the New Year of the Ox.

Over the past week, the children discussed St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick was a very special man to the people of Ireland and on the 17th of March every year people from all over the world dress in green and pin a special plant called a shamrock on their clothes. This three-leaved plant is thought to bring good luck.

The children also learned about the mysterious and mischievous characters called leprechauns. It is believed that they have a pot of gold, which they hide at the end of the rainbow, and if you catch one he will give you his pot of gold.

The lead-up to St. Patrick's Day was as exciting as the day itself for many of the children as they searched for clues to see if the cheeky leprechaun was playing tricks on us. As you can imagine, the children are fascinated by this mystical creature!

In Nina's class, the children were busy at the mini-atelier creating their colourful rainbows using paint to decorate the Piazza in the hope that the leprechauns won't be able to resist coming for a visit so we might get to see one!

As a related fun experiment we made a 'water walking rainbow':

The children took turns being involved in each step of the process. They started by standing five cups in a line. Red food colouring was added to the first cup, blue was added to the third cup and yellow was added to the fifth cup. Tissue papers were folded and added to the cups – one end in the cup with coloured water and the other end in the empty cup beside it. From observation throughout the day, the children discovered that the paper towels absorbed the water and dripped into the empty cups. They also discovered that two colours mixing made a new colour. And as a final observation, we had a colourful rainbow!

In our classroom, the children were also engaged in a variety of teacher-guided and independent learning activities during group time and free playtime. We had gold pots that had to be filled by counting golden nuggets, a shamrock matching game, word cards to copy on the white board and a counting gold coin/number puzzle, just to name a few.

Please take some time to admire the Stage 4 artwork displayed in the Piazza.

We wish all our families a wonderful weekend with their loved ones.

Stage 4

Photo Gallery



Stage 4

Photo Gallery



Stage 4 Photo Gallery



Dance & Drama

By Laura Hudson

Stage 1 and 2 - Hickory Dickory Dock

This week, the children were introduced to the popular rhyme 'Hickory Dickory Dock'. I demonstrated the rhyme and then the children followed by acting it out, using their bodies to create shapes as well as their voices to do the tick-tock sound. The children emphasised the rhyming words in the rhyme. Next, the children discussed cats and how they like to chase mice, as well as the sounds both animals make.

The children love it when I do 'Teacher in role' so I used a cat mask, and tail explaining that when I put it them on I would become a cat. The children then copied the actions that I did around the room as well as adding in their own actions and sounds. A mouse puppet was also introduced, and it asked the children questions. The Stage 2 children were encouraged to ask the mouse questions too.

A rhyme was introduced about a mouse that scared the King and Queen. They acted this out using facial expressions and gestures, in pairs. They liked the fact that they got to sit on a throne (we used 2 stools/chairs) and be very important. Some of the Stage 2 children decided to use the audience to be their servants and said, "polish my shoes", and "go and bring me my jewellery".

Little Queen/King (name of child) sat on his/her throne.

Drinking his/her cup of tea.

Along came a mouse that had ran around the house.

And frightened Queen/King (name of child) away
We finished the sessions with the parachute, singing the nursery rhyme with the children waving it up and down using the mouse to accompany us.

Stage 3 and 4 - The Toyshop and Mrs Smelly Cheese (using the idea of Toy Story)

I began by introducing myself and got straight into the class by asking the children to think of their favourite toy and to show their toy through their stance as well as portray any sound it may have.

Next, I told the children I was going to turn myself into a lady called Mrs Smelly Cheese and I told them that Mrs Smelly Cheese owns a toyshop that is famous for all its magnificent toys. Every time Mrs Smelly Cheese leaves the shop (hides in a corner or turns her back on the children so she can't see

them) all the toys make as much noise as they can and move like their toy! But when Mrs Smelly Cheese returns, all the toys must freeze and trick her. Because, while she had her back turned, Mrs Smelly Cheese's toys had been up to mischief! The activity was similar to 'red light, green light'.

The children practised a couple of times, so they got into the routine of moving and being noisy and then freezing. I then used a scarf to transform myself into Miss Smelly Cheese.

Each time I left and came back I acted surprised at the toys being in different positions. I pretended that I had left a door open and the wind had blown the toys across the shop. I also pretended that they were running out of batteries. Lastly, on her return, I told them 'I have terrific news. The lady I have been talking about has decided to buy all of the toys (but the ones I am playing with are my favourites and I'd never sell them). I am going to the bakery to get a chocolate cake to celebrate.' On my return I described the cake to the children and then suddenly Miss Smelly Cheese remembered that she had forgotten the candles, plates, forks and napkins. She left the cake in the middle of the room. 'I wonder if my toys will eat my chocolate cake?' Yes, I'm sure you can guess what happened next.

On the next arrival, Miss Smelly Cheese noticed that the cake had disappeared and that the toys had chocolate all over their faces, on their noses, behind their ears, in their hair, on their belly buttons etc. She then wiped up the mess and throws the napkins away. This would be the last time she left the room and she told the children to be as loud as they could be.

When Miss Smelly Cheese came back, she told the children that she thought they had been making lots of noise while she was away and that she was going to test them by asking them if they thought 'Mrs Smelly cheese is completely bananas. If so, it meant that she would have to close her shop!'. The children all shouted out 'Yes Mrs Smelly Cheese' and then she pretended to cry, but she said, "Oh well, it's not so bad. At least I get to play with my favourite toys!"

The children absolutely loved this drama activity and kept saying "Can we do it again?"

Dance & Drama

By Laura Hudson



Music

By Nick Summerfeld

Leo Tolstoy said, 'Music is the shorthand of emotion'. It has the ability to express emotion which can't be explained by thought.

In Stages 3 and 4 we started the lesson with our warm-up scales on 'BA' and 'LA' but while also shaking our maracas. Each time we sang a note, we shook our maraca – this coordination exercise proved tricky for some children.

We continued shaking into our 'Good Morning Song' and our numbers exercise. Stage 4 are still working on reaching down to '3', while some of our Stage 4 classes are working on '5' and '6'. To continue the challenge, the children were encouraged to shake each time we sang a number which also helps to develop their sense of timing. To inspire some laughs, we sang through 'ABC' at a variety of tempi which the kids always love.

Continuing with our letters, we visited the letters which belong to music: A - B - C - D - E - F - G. Using the Piano Play Mat, the children were asked one by one to stand up and first think of a word which begins with that letter, and then find it on the play mat in front of them. Some of our younger Stage 3 children had a little more guidance, but our Stage 4s had to find the letter without me showing it to them.

To explore the relationship between music and emotions, and to end the lesson, we had a discussion about different ways we can feel – happy, sad, calm, angry, excited. Using percussion instruments, I asked the children to play along with how what emotion the music made them feel. Naturally with a 'happy' song they were laughing, playing quickly and bopping around. Once I switched to the 'sad' song, there was an instant physical reaction to the change of tone; movement was slower, the room was quieter.

In Stage 2, we settled into the lesson with fine motor movement by twinkling our fingers to 'Twinkle Twinkle', followed by 'Open Shut Them'.

With St Patrick's Day here, we sang a special version of 'The Sunflower Song' the celebrate using rainbow streamers to dance around the room. Continuing our St Patrick's Day festivities, I divided the class into two groups. One group stood on spots in a horseshoe shape, each holding streamers to form a rainbow. The other group of children danced and wove in and out of the rainbow to the song 'I'm a little leprechaun'. In Stage One we used our rainbow streamers to dance, march and throw them into the air. The children loved watching the streamers gently drift through the air.

To end the lesson, we sat in a percussion circle playing along to happy and sad songs, while keeping a steady beat.

In The Nest I opened the lesson with 'Colours of the Wind', one of my all-time favourite Disney songs, as the children made their way to the mat.

After everyone was sitting and with maracas in hand we sang through our warm-ups and continued practising our movements to 'The Sunflower Song'.

With the children building in confidence, we used our rainbow streamers to dance around the room to "I'm a Little Leprechaun".

Music

By Nick Summerfeld



Music

By Nick Summerfeld





SPORT

By Bella Kable

This week in Sport, our Stage 3 and 4 students started the lessons off with their favourite game; 'What's the time Mr Wolf'. This game always gets us all up and moving and is a great warm up for both our body and mind. During this activity, different students were given the opportunity to be 'Mr Wolf'. The responsibility was handled well and all students were extremely responsive to their friends. Student's even mentioned numbers in the thousands and millions, which was very impressive and made us all giggle.

The weather has been so unpredictable this week and all students were extremely adaptive and co-operative when we had a sudden venue change or had to wait for the rain to pass! This made Physical Education even better this week.

This week, Stage 4 focused on the skill of rolling. Students pretended to use the motion that they would use if they were using a rolling pin to roll a tennis ball to their partner. Student's began sitting with outstretched legs in close proximity to one another to ensure that they developed the correct technique. As the student's progressed through the skill they had the opportunity to challenge themselves by completing 10 consecutive rolls to their partner and then moving further and further away from each other. All of the students were very focused on their rolling allowing progression to a rolling relay, where two teams of student's race to roll 10 balls from one end of the line to the other, ensuring that the ball was rolled by all members in the line. This was lots of fun!

Stage 3 also focused on rolling and ball handling this week. Students were challenged to roll the balls differing distances in Adelaide Hall and on the basketball court. This distance was small at first and then grew as student's became more confident and competent with many of the students able to roll the tennis balls several metres, using their 'rolling pin' technique. Each student was given three balls to attempt each distance and were so quick and excited to clean up after each round. Stage 3 are always so helpful at cleaning up after each activity.

Let's hope for sunshine next week! Thank you for another fabulous week of Physical Education Stage 3 and 4. Make sure to practise your rolling and ball handling skills over the weekend.



Happy Birthday



Reddam Early Learning

would like to wish a very happy birthday to

Adam McCabe, Oscar He & Clara Turgoose

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

We hope you have a fabulous day!

