



## Dee's Message

23 JULY 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 3 in the ELS. The staff and I hope that you had a good break, despite the challenges of lockdowns and restrictions. There is no doubt that times such as this remind us of the freedoms we so often take for granted – and I have no doubt that we will all relish a time in the future when we can move around more freely and have holidays unencumbered by fears of viruses and other threats.

Despite the restrictions, a number of children still enjoyed themselves thoroughly by participating in the Holiday Care program. Once again, the activities were many and varied, as is evident in the report below, which made each day an exciting opportunity for learning, creativity and fun with friends. My thanks to Christina Mandalidis and all the teachers who made the time so special for the children, and who created a space where they could enjoy themselves away from the worries in the

broader community.

I am so aware that this time was also a challenge for the teachers, who have their own families to look after, and yet all they did for the children in the ELS was with the same selfless, cheerful attitude as always. A number of our parents are also on the frontline of essential services and medical practices, and we are grateful for their hours of hard work to keep all of us safe. This time has certainly shown tremendous community spirit and we trust that the same energy will continue to fill the ELS in the coming term.

The teachers were hard at work in the last few days of the holidays, to ensure that the classrooms would be inviting, warm spaces for those children who would return in person, and they also came up with innovative and creative ideas to keep the children at home stimulated with their online teaching.



# Dee's Message

We trust that the restrictions will soon be a thing of the past and that the warmer weather will bring an easing of some of the limitations, which will allow all the children to return to school.

Until then, though, you may be assured that we will do all we can to make each day a worthwhile occasion for the children, whether they are at school or at home. We understand only too well the challenges which this time will bring for families, especially for those where both parents work. The staff and I will do all we can to ease whatever pressures you may feel, and we encourage you to keep communicating with your child's teacher during this time.

It is perhaps worth remembering that all experiences are teachable moments for a young child, even times such as this, which create a disruption in the normal routines of a family. Children can help out with chores, they can help to create, to bake, to make up new games in the garden. As has been said by others before, perhaps we will look back on this time of enforced restrictions as the most precious of all moments, because it created times of even closer interaction within families.

Have a happy term!

**Dee Pitcairn**  
Principal



# Holiday Care

By Christina Mandalidis

The holiday period is a beneficial time for the children in the Early Learning School as they are able to explore more spaces, learn new skills and interact outside of their regular peer groups. However, these holidays looked a little different. Our numbers were quieter but that did not stop the children who were here from having a fabulous time.

During the first week of Holiday Care, the children explored the world of Music. They learned many dancing games, had a disco with bubbles and fun, flashing lights, painted to classical music to evoke emotions, and

they made musical instruments out of recycled materials. The children also participated in a Musical Exploration. The deck was set up with an array of music-based experiences, such as instruments, bells, dancing scarves, water-sound glasses, music boxes and sound boxes. This let the children explore music freely and how it made them feel.





# Holiday Care

By Christina Mandalidis

Week two of Holiday Care focused on celebrating NAIDOC Week. "NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community."

This year the NAIDOC Week theme was Heal

Country. The children were introduced to NAIDOC Week and what it meant by listening to some stories in the Reddam House Library. Over the week they learned about why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples call the Earth, Mother Earth, and how it is our responsibility to look after her. The children painted with nature, listened to Indigenous music, freely played with Indigenous resources and created their own stories based upon Australian native animals.





# Holiday Care

By Christina Mandalidis

The third, and final week of Holiday Care consisted of a diverse range of holiday fun. The children celebrated Bastille Day by learning about French culture, had a picnic day where they ate outside in the fresh air, dressed up as anything that they wanted and finished off with a cosy movie day.

Thank you all for making Holiday Care so special.





# The Nest (1R)

## Photo Gallery





# Fledglings (1E)

## Photo Gallery





# Stage 2 Photo Gallery





# Stage 3

## Photo Gallery





# Stage 4 Photo Gallery





# Happy Birthday



## **Reddam Early Learning**

would like to wish a very happy birthday to

**Ashlee Cheng, Daniel Hockley, James Lucchinelli and  
Hamish Mews**

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

**We hope you have a fabulous day!**

