



# REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL WOOLLAHRA NEWSLETTER



REDDAM  
ELS

## Dee's Message

10TH DECEMBER 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

There is something magical about this time of year. The birds start singing even earlier and the warmth of the sun brings with it the promise of long days outdoors, perhaps on the beach or lounging around a pool. For little children, it means even more hours to spend playing, and especially enjoying more time with their families who are around the home for the holidays.

Whether in the lighting of candles of Hannukah, which our Jewish families have just celebrated, or in the magical lights of Christmas trees and the anticipated arrival of Father Christmas, which our Christian families look forward to, there is something other-worldly and special about December.

This past week in the ELS saw some of that spirit and anticipation filling the classrooms. There was time to reflect on the fun-filled moments from the past year and on all that the children had learned. Of course, there were also moments of creativity, exploration

and play, all of which made for the perfect way to end the year.

It is always a bitter-sweet time for the teachers, as they have to say goodbye to the children and families who have become so much a part of their lives during the year. In particular, we were both sad and excited to wish our Stage 4 children everything of the best as they head off to start the new adventure of Kindergarten. We have no doubt that they will continue to soar, and we look forward to following their progress with interest.

As always at this time of year it is right to appreciate the efforts of so many people who have contributed to its success. I am grateful to all parents and caregivers who overcame many challenges in order to make the year as smooth as possible for the children. The many curveballs which came our way during the year were certainly disruptive and yet your positivity ensured that



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the children were able to enjoy the year, whether here at school or at home.

I am enormously appreciative of the efforts of our teachers, who did so much behind the scenes to ensure that the children could still have a happy and productive year in the ELS. Their creativity and very real concern for the children shone through and I was grateful throughout the year for our wonderful team of staff.

Speaking of efforts behind the scenes, I want to thank our very special group of admin, cleaning and support staff, who made every effort to ensure that the campus ran smoothly and that all the systems so necessary in any school were efficiently organised and excellently run.

The children in the ELS continued to be a ray of sunshine on the days when uncertainty and challenges seemed to reign. It is they who make our jobs so rewarding and I thank each one of them for their joy of life, kindness to others, and hearts of gold. I wish

all our families a restful break and happy times with family and friends. To those children who will attend the Holiday Care programme, I know that an exciting programme of activities has been arranged and that each day will be filled with fun. The staff and I look forward to welcoming you back to another special year in the ELS in 2022.

Please also follow [this link](#) to access our online Uniform Shop.

Have a happy weekend!

**Dee Pitcairn  
Principal**

# The Nest (1R)

Kiri Winders, Helena Zhang and Min Pattarasiritanarat

We can hardly believe it's our last week of school term for 2021! What a year it has been. This week we engaged in all our favourite activities, specifically sand play and water play! We took the big tub outdoors under the tree for sand play every day. All the children just loved this activity, gathering around the tub and playing in the sand.

Indoors, we set up water play every day with bubbles, containers, fish and little yellow ducks! The children spent hours playing in the water! It was so cute to watch the children engage with the fish and ducks, as they pretended to feed them. Other activities included painting, playdough and lots of fun! We can't believe it's the end of the year already. The educators in the Nest have all become very bonded with your little ones and absolutely loved every moment with them. We feel so grateful to have been trusted educators in the first years of their life and will miss them dearly! We wish you all the best summer holiday break.



# The Nest (1R)



# Fledglings (1E)

By Tatiana Botrel, Jane Teh, and Nadia Breus

## Reflecting on this wonderful school year

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the end of the school year. It has been a year full of new learning as the children engaged in the many provocations promoted throughout the year.

From strengthening their knowledge about our identities – learning our full names, our favourite things, identifying our emotions, developing friendships – to discovering new facts about colours, dinosaurs, nature, and the amazing world of books. The children in the Fledglings had the best time engaging in hands-on and play-based experiences that allowed them to not only achieve many milestones of their development but also to build confidence when sharing these moments amongst their peers.

In this last week of the term, the children spent time watching the slideshows we made for their families, as we recapped their adventures in the Fledglings. They also proudly had a look at their Reflection Journals, as they visualised the activities they participated in the year.

The Fledglings team would like to wish all the students a great holiday season and we are looking forward to seeing everyone next year again, as they embark in a new adventure into the next stage.

We have selected a few photos to illustrate the amazing year we had. Enjoy them, as much as we did taking these pictures.

*Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity. Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency. EYLF, 2009.*



# Fledglings (1E)



# Stage 2

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

## The year that was....

It all started in January of 2021 when our new group of Stage Two children began their learning journey. Now, in December 2021, as teachers we look back at the year that was as we sort through photos and finalise documentations and reports. We do this with a smile and a little sadness as we see how much the children have grown, not just physically but socially, emotionally, and cognitively. Early learning is about the whole child and as teachers it is our job, along with families, to guide and nurture so that the children in our care can be the best that they can be. This, of course, is not just one sided, as it is the children who teach us to slow down and savour the everyday little moments. We have shared moments of laughter and moments of sadness, and the best part is that we have shared in the children's successes. They grow and change so quickly that if we aren't paying attention, we may miss something.

We would like to thank our families for sharing their children with us. It has been a year full of changes that we have had no control over, but the one constant has been the children and their continuous wonder. To finish this year, instead of adding more words to the page, we will let the photos tell the story of the year that was. Looking back on 2021.



# Stage 2





# Stage 3

By Christina Mandalidis, Susan Casey, Jason Corrigan, Sarah Gardener – Ventura and Yuliya Ginis

## Year in Review

This year has certainly been challenging with the current health situation of COVID 19. We have had a very disruptive program and have had to embrace many changes within our routines and our curriculum. However, given the circumstances, we have embraced lots of valuable teaching and learning opportunities to extend upon our friends' needs, strengths and interests.

When reflecting on the school year, we reminisce on an array of activities and moments that the children experienced as well as all the interesting and thought-provoking knowledge that they have gained throughout the year. Some of the moments this year that the children have been involved in include a variety of different arts and crafts; singing; dancing; yoga; meditation; learning about sustainability; making science experiments; learning about people and places around the world; engaging in projects like 'Our Garden', 'Olympics', 'Bookmaking' and 'Space'; sharing stories but most importantly, making friends. Friendly greetings, sharing and turn-taking were consciously in practice each day.

The intention for this year was to reflect with the children each day using questions that respect their ideas and provoke learning.

Here are some of the children's voices while watching 'My Movie', a memorable photo slideshow of each child and their reflections on what they liked this year at school:

*Arthur: "Making a book, building rockets, climbing."*

*Austin: "The rockets, planets, painting, drawing, puzzles, eating fruit, drawing numbers and ABCD's, making a boat."*

*Luca: "Making drones with Max, playing with Austin, climbing and drawing."*



# Stage 3

By Christina Mandalidis, Susan Casey, Jason Corrigan, Sarah Gardener – Ventura and Yuliya Ginis

Max: "Drawing, reading, sandpit, painting, watering the plants, puppets, making paper boats."

Noah: "Building, drawing, making stuff by using my imagination."

Violet: "Drawing, planting, playing with Sofia, making dolls."

Sofia: "Playing with Violet and Frankie, cuddling Violet, drawing, writing my name, reading my book."

Owen: "Making a book, build, painting, drawing my name, putting a letter in the letterbox, looking in the mirror, reading my favourite book Green Eggs and Ham."

Yanni: "Playing Mobilo, building stuff, making books, drawing and playing with all the kids."

It has been an absolute pleasure watching our children grow and develop.

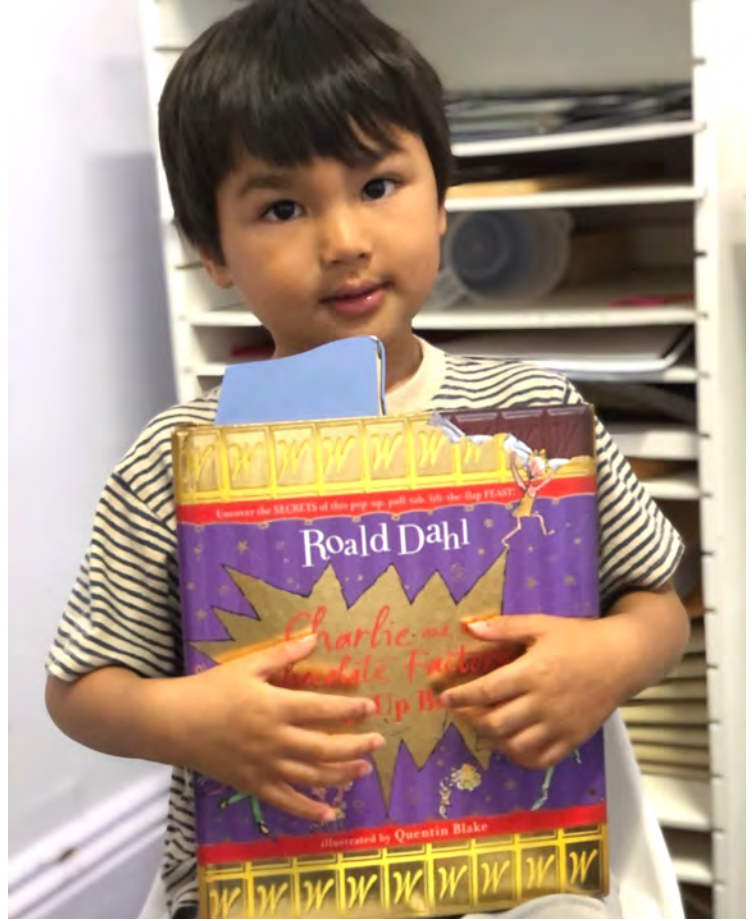
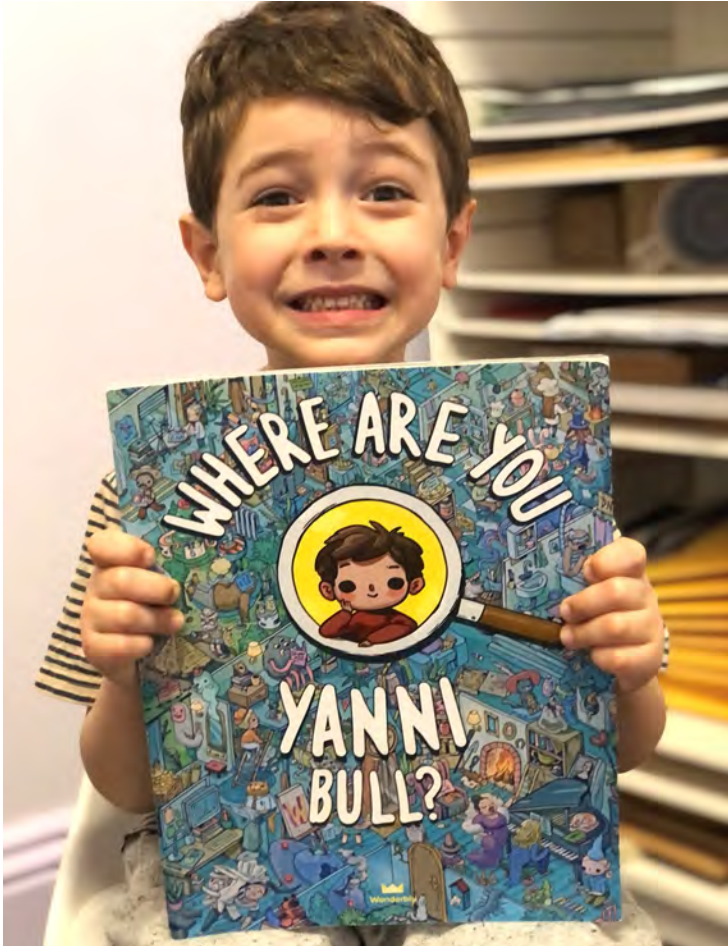
We would like to thank all the divine parents who have supported our programs endlessly throughout the year. You are true

champions!!!

Enjoy your holiday celebrations and have a wonderful break.



# Stage 3



# Stage 4

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

It is hard to believe that this is our final week of Term 4 in Stage 4. As the year came to a close, we engaged in reflective discussions as well as preparations for the children's next learning journey, transitioning to Kindergarten in the new year.

The children have become confident and involved learners in their Stage 4 environments this year. Self-confidence means that children believe in their own abilities and capabilities. Self-confident children are more likely to challenge themselves in a learning environment, and trust in their ability to master their behaviour, learn new skills and tackle obstacles. The following are our confident children's comments about their skills and abilities.

Mila: "I'm good at playing with magnets and building super tall towers. I'm good at drawing and painting and I love playing in the cubby house."

Ridley: "I like that I am kind. I'm good at building blocks and packing away the blocks. I'm good at writing and drawing."

Elia: "I'm good at building with blocks and magnets. I like playing in the cubby house. I'm good at writing and numbers. I'm good at cutting out and sticking stuff. And I'm good at colouring in."

Margaux: "I like that I am kind. I'm good at cutting and drawing. I like building blocks with Ridley and Remy, and helping Hugo with puzzles. I'm good at puzzles."

Remy: "I'm good at building blocks and building castles. I'm good at sitting nicely. I'm good at writing and numbers and also I'm good at drawing."

Maya: "I'm good at building big towers with the magnets. I'm good at drawing, cutting, writing, creating."

Taylor: "I'm good at doing blocks and

building. I like playing in the cubby and I'm good at tidying up. I only like to play with the girls for some reason. But sometimes I play with the boys."

Clara: "I like doing really hard school work. I like to play with blocks, and playing in the cubby. I'm good at colouring."

Hugo: "I like that I am friendly. I like playing with people. I am good at cutting out stuff, colouring stuff. I'm good at reading books. I'm good at writing."

Mya Rose: "I'm good at drawing, reading, cutting, numbers. I like that I am kind."

Jaden: "I like that I can read. I'm very good at making things. I'm good at reading, building like with blocks and Lego, and magnets. And I'm good at telling people the right thing to do."

Hamish: "I like being friendly. I'm good at building, puzzles and doing numbers."

It has been wonderful to see the children grow and develop throughout the year. We wish them all the best as they transition to Kindergarten next year.

The Stage 4 team would like to wish all our families a happy and healthy holiday.



# Stage 4

