

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

NEWSLETTER | **18 October 2018** | VOLUME 3: 20

Dear Parents



Spending some time in the Piazza of late I have noticed the number of grandparents who transport their grandchildren to and from school. Our Grandparents' Day held earlier this year bears testimony to the sheer joy expressed by both the children and grandparents alike. There is something incredibly special about the bond between grandparents and grandchildren and it's so much deeper than treating them to ice-cream or offering to babysit. Being a grandparent myself has changed my world, my thinking, my being ....

When grandchildren foster a positive relationship with their grandparents, our children benefit. It's often said that grandparents are prone to babying the next generation, but all that extra love doesn't make them soft—it makes them strong. Heather Marcoux, News Editor for *Motherly Media*, a digital lifestyle brand identified five reasons why a close bond with one's grandparents is an amazing gift:

- They will have a built-in support system

Research conducted at the University of Oxford found children who are close to their grandparents have fewer emotional and behavioural problems and are better able to cope with traumatic life events, like a divorce or bullying at school. Grandparents may provide a sense of security and support that benefits their grandchildren through adverse childhood experiences.

- Having an intergenerational identity increases children's resilience

Further research suggests that having an intergenerational identity, or an understanding of one's family history and where they fit in, can make children more resilient and help them feel more in control of their lives, even when the world outside their family seems out of control.

As Bruce Feiler notes in his book, *The Secrets of Happy Families: How to Improve Your Morning, Rethink Family Dinner, Fight Smart, Go Out and Play, and Much More* psychologists studying resilience in children after the September 11 terrorist attacks found those who knew a lot about their family history were better able to cope with stress. Sharing stories about where their grandparents were born, what jobs they did when they were teenagers may allow a child to understand that they are part of something bigger than themselves. They will come to realise that previous generations survived their own hard times which subsequently helps children learn to cope and bounce back from their own adversity.

- Close ties to grandparents make kids less ageist

Luckily, the best antidote to ageism is to foster positive relationships between children and their grandparents. According to a study involving 1 151 Belgium children aged seven to sixteen, children who are close to their grandparents are less likely to show bias towards older adults. On the other hand, children who had a poor relationship (not necessarily in terms of quantity of contact, but rather the quality of it) were more likely to have ageist views.

- Staying close with their grandparents protects children from depression as adults

A 2014 study conducted at Boston College linked close emotional relationships between grandparents and adult grandchildren to lower rates of depression—for both the elderly and their adult grandchildren. For the grandparents, having a close relationship with an adult grandchild exposes them to new ideas, and the adult grandchildren benefit from the life experience and advice they get from a grandparent, the *Boston Globe* reports.

- Kids help grandparents live longer

Research further informs us that staying close to your child's grandparents (even if you don't live right down the street) is good for everyone. Children become more resilient and grandparents become healthier. Grandparents who are close to their grandchildren add an average of five years to their lives.

Is this intergenerational connection just not a win-win situation? Grandparents do indeed play an integral role in supporting, nurturing and caring for our children together with parents, teachers, care - givers and significant others in their lives.

Long live our grandparents!

**Please note:**

Now that we are enjoying the warmer weather please make every effort to be punctual in the mornings. Children who arrive during or after the early morning ring compromise their own teaching and learning processes and at the same time disrupt the rest of the class. Collection of children punctually at the end of the school day is of prime importance too as the safety and security of our children is not to be compromised.

Our next **Coffee Morning** will be held on Tuesday, 23 October at 08:00 in the ELS Staffroom.

- **Presenters:** Therapy Works
- **Topic: 21<sup>st</sup> Parenting – Understanding your child in a new era**
  - *Stages of a child's development*
  - *The role of the parent*
  - *Parenting Styles: which one are you?*
  - *Underlying principles of parenting: strategies for forward thinking.*

Please RSVP Pat Nkonyane [pat.nkonyane@reddam.house](mailto:pat.nkonyane@reddam.house) by Friday, 19 October to secure your seat.

Warm regards

Dr Bev Evangelides

## DATES TO DIARISE

**23 October**

Coffee Morning at 08:00 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parenting

**05 November**

Diwali Prayers 08:30

**13 to 16 November**

Stage 2 Mornings of Song & Dance 08:30

**20 & 22 November**

Pro-Ed Sportz Parent Rings

**23 November**

Stage 5 Assembly

**23 November**

Laser Show 18:30

### Opening Hours for the Reddam House Waterfall Uniform Shop

During the term: **OPEN from MONDAY to FRIDAY: 08:00 – 16:00**

### DECEMBER 2018 AND JANUARY 2019 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SHOP HOURS

- The shop will close at 16:00 on Wednesday 19 December 2018.
- The shop will be open as from Wednesday 2 January 2019, as per the shop school term hours above.
- The shop will be open from 09:00 to 13:00 on Saturday:

3 November 2018, 1 December 2018, 5 January 2019 and 12 January 2019

**Reddam House Waterfall shop telephone number: 010 0600759**



### This week in the Art Atelier – Getting ready for our Stage 5 Send Off



The Stage 5s are getting ready to wrap up their final year in the ELS and part of this is preparing for their Send Off. They have been hard at work learning songs and dances as well as creating artwork and notably, the t-shirts they will be wearing on the night. Each class is working with a design related to the decade they are representing which has been integrated into their provocation for the term.

These t-shirts will be theirs to keep to remember both their special night and the happy and creative years they spent in the ELS.

**Sarah Spring**  
Atelierista



**Stage 1 – Nature is a Wonderful Sensory Material**



Nature is a wonderful sensory material for children to craft. This activity was brilliantly, yet magically simple for teaching my little ones about their imagination and how a simple leaf can take on a new form of something so different for each child.

I placed white paper, crayons, chalk and a container of dried-out large leaves that were discovered in Emily’s garden on our “Object of Beauty” table. The children began exploring the shape, colour, texture and different patterns on the leaves.

During the process of exploring the texture of the dry leaves and trying to draw on them the leaves started breaking and crumbling into pieces. My little ones started giggling because every time they tried drawing on it, it started breaking. Ethan and Erasmus discovered that if they roll loose car wheels over the dried leaves they will break. Emily tried drawing with chalk on the leaves, making patterns and breaking the leaves. Aleksandra discovered that she could use her leaf as a hand fan, with that the song “*Twinkle, Twinkle little Star*” came on. Singing loudly Ethan came running to the iPad saying, “Star, Star Nicky, Look!”

**Teacher Nicky, Ruth and Bronwyn**

**Stage 2 – Tortoises Came for a Visit**

We had the opportunity of having two tortoises visit our classroom. The children were fascinated by this experience. Some children were very eager to touch them while others were a little wary of them. When Divyan moved his hand close to the tortoise’s face, the tortoise moved his head back into the shell for protection.



We spoke about how we need to be gentle and how not to touch them on their faces. The children stroked the tortoise on his shell and did so very calmly and gently. The children wanted to know if they bite and why they have a hard shell.

We looked at the anatomy of the Tortoise and we explained that the growth rings around scutes can be counted to determine the approximate age of wild tortoises. Stephen asked if tortoises eat chicken burgers, we explained they just love their vegetables!

What a fantastic way for the children to learn about and interact with such special creatures.



**Teacher Betina and Florence**

### Stage 3 – Special Guests



The first week of school was full of exciting activities. Emily brought her silk worms to class and Jordan brought his two pet baby tortoises. Emily brought the silk worms last term for the first time, while they were busy fattening up by eating mulberry leaves. This time they were all in silken cocoons.

Emily: Silk worms like to eat leaves. They spin silk.

Rihaan: They made their cocoons from silk.

Abhay: Just like a spider spins a web. The silk worms come out of the cocoons as butterflies.

Jordan introduced his pet tortoises to his class.

Jordan: This is Michaelangelo and Raphaela. They eat grass from my garden. They eat blueberries from my garden.

The children were very caring, gentle and hospitable to our special guests. They cut fresh spinach leaves from our back garden, tore them into little pieces and fed the tortoises. The children were also very gentle with the cocoons as they did not want to disturb their special time.

**Teacher Moushini and Buhle**

### Stage 4 – Sensory Play



The children mixed cornstarch with shaving foam to create dough. This was an interesting experience for the children as the dough's texture kept changing as they played with it. They were given the opportunity to add more ingredients to experiment with the texture.

During this activity the children's senses were stimulated. The activity facilitated exploration and naturally encouraged the children to use scientific processes whilst playing, creating, investigating and exploring. Sensory play supports language development, motor skills, problem solving skills and social interaction.

Arya: If we add more foam, it makes the dough stick together.

Fletcher: The foam smells good.

Kelello: The more we play, it goes crumbly.

**Teacher Lauren and Abigail**



## Stage 5 – Our Rainbow Nation Mobile



As we have journeyed through the ages with our provocation for our upcoming Send-Off we have been taking a closer look at the birth of our Rainbow Nation in the 1990s.

One of the most fascinating and exciting things about our people is our diversity. We are all unique, and while we have some similarities, overall we are one of a kind and we are special.

It is important for children to value their uniqueness and appreciate who they are in our nation. It is also invaluable for them to comprehend their contribution as individuals.



We can begin to explore these concepts visually. The children were encouraged to draw monochromatic portraits of themselves as a starting point for our rainbow mobile.

What we notice and remember about people we see is always rather interesting. I asked the children to try including a special characteristic of themselves.

Whilst discussing our creations we spoke about the facial features they had drawn. It was delightful to hear about which special feature they were excited to add.

We will continue to enhance our South African inspired artworks by adding South African flowers, iconic animals and wire creations to our mobile. We look forward to sharing our completed homage to our Rainbow Nation in a few weeks.

**Teacher Angela and Ednah**

## Reddam House Waterfall - ELS Planner Term 4 - 2018

October			November			December		
Mon	1	Adventure Zone open	Thur	1	SoccerStarz S4 & 5 Stage 5 Send Off 18:00	Sat	1	
Tue	2	Adventure Zone open	Fri	2	Dance Tots - Moms & Tots	Sun	2	
Wed	3	Adventure Zone Open	Sat	3		Mon	3	
Thur	4	Adventure Zone open	Sun	4		Tue	4	
Fri	5	Adventure Zone open	Mon	5	Diwali Prayers 08:30 SoccerStarz S2 & 3,Pottery S4 & 5,Dance Tots	Wed	5	
Sat	6		Tue	6	Pottery S2 & 3, Cricket S4 & 5	Thur	6	School Closes 11:00 - Reports handed out No Adventure Zone
Sun	7		Wed	7	Diwali Lego Club S5, Dance Tots, Drama S3&4, Kidi-Sports S2	Fri	7	
Mon	8	Term 4 Commences	Thur	8	SoccerStarz S4 & 5	Sat	8	
Tue	9		Fri	9	Grade 1 Orientation Day Dance Tots - Moms & Tots	Sun	9	
Wed	10		Sat	10		Mon	10	
Thur	11		Sun	11		Tue	11	
Fri	12		Mon	12	SoccerStarz S2 & 3,Pottery S4 & 5,Dance Tots	Wed	12	
Sat	13		Tue	13	Stage 2 Morning of Song & Dance 08:30 - Hilda Pottery S2 & 3, Cricket S4 & 5	Thur	13	
Sun	14		Wed	14	Stage 2 Morning of Song & Dance 08:30 - Se Lego Club S5, Dance Tots, Drama S3&4, Kidi-Sports S2	Fri	14	
Mon	15	SoccerStarz S2 & 3,Pottery S4 & 5,Dance Tots	Thur	15	Stage 2 Morning of Song & Dance 08:30 - Sharusha SoccerStarz S4 & 5	Sat	15	
Tue	16	Coffee Morning 08:00 - Caroline Poonan & Natalie Aghostino Pottery S2 & 3, Cricket S4 & 5	Fri	16	Stage 2 Morning of Song & Dance 08:30 - Betina Dance Tots Moms & Tots	Sun	16	Day of Reconciliation
Wed	17	Lego Club S5, Dance Tots, Drama S3&4, Kidi-Sports S2	Sat	17		Mon	17	Public Holiday
Thur	18	SoccerStarz S4 & 5	Sun	18		Tue	18	
Fri	19	Stage 5s join Grade 1 Assembly Dance Tots - Moms & Tots	Mon	19	SoccerStarz S2 & 3,Pottery S4 & 5,Dance Tots	Wed	19	
Sat	20		Tue	20	ProEd Sportz Parent Rings Pottery S2 & 3, Cricket S4 & 5	Thur	20	
Sun	21		Wed	21	Lego Club S5, Dance Tots, Drama S3&4, Kidi-Sports S2	Fri	21	
Mon	22	SoccerStarz S2 & 3,Pottery S4 & 5,Dance Tots	Thur	22	ProEd Sportz Parent Rings SoccerStarz S4 & 5	Sat	22	
Tue	23	Coffee Morning 08:00 Pottery S2 & 3, Cricket S4 & 5	Fri	23	Dance Tots - Moms & Tots Laser Show 18:30	Sun	23	
Wed	24	Lego Club S5, Dance Tots, Drama S3&4, Kidi-Sports S2	Sat	24		Mon	24	
Thur	25	SoccerStarz S4 & 5	Sun	25		Tue	25	Christmas Day
Fri	26	Dance Tots - Moms & Tots	Mon	26	SoccerStarz S2 & 3,Pottery S4 & 5,Dance Tots	Wed	26	Day of Goodwill
Sat	27		Tue	27	Pottery S2 & 3, Cricket S4 & 5	Thur	27	
Sun	28		Wed	28	Stage1 Morning of Song & Dance 08:30 - Katy Lego Club S5, Dance Tots, Drama S3&4, Kidi-Sports S2	Fri	28	
Mon	29	SoccerStarz S2 & 3,Pottery S4 & 5,Dance Tots	Thur	29	Stage1 Morning of Song & Dance 08:30 - Amorei Stage 5 Pantomime - Snow White SoccerStarz S4 & 5	Sat	29	
Tue	30	Pottery S2 & 3, Cricket S4 & 5	Fri	30	Stage 1 Morning of Song & Dance 08h30 - Nicky Dance Tots - Moms & Tots	Sun	30	
Wed	31	Lego Club S5, Dance Tots, Drama S3&4, Kidi-Sports S2				Mon	31	

# REDDAM HOUSE CALENDAR 2019

Gauteng & KZN

JANUARY 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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FEBRUARY 2019						
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MARCH 2019						
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31						

APRIL 2019						
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28	29	30				

MAY 2019						
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JUNE 2019						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY 2019						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST 2019						
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SEPTEMBER 2019						
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29	30					

OCTOBER 2019						
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NOVEMBER 2019						
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DECEMBER 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## REDDAM HOUSE SCHOOL TERMS

STAFF CONFERENCE: 14/15 January 2019  
 TERM 1: 16 January to 20 March  
 TERM 2: 08 April to 21 June  
 TERM 3: 16 July to 20 September  
 TERM 4: 07 October to 04 December  
 (Staff final day: 06 December)

College examinations on these days

## IEB DATES

Marking commences: 05 December 2019  
 IEB National Conference: 02 February 2019

School Commences in 2020 on 15 January\*  
 Staff Seminar in 2020 on 13/14 January\*

## REDDAM HOUSE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

21 March to 07 April  
 22 June to 15 July  
 21 September to 06 October  
 05 December to 14 January 2020 \*

\* Provisional

Adventure Zone open during March/April,  
 June/July and Sept./Oct. holidays from  
 08:00 to 17:00

## PUBLIC/SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

21 March: Human Rights Day  
 19 April: School Holiday  
 22 April: School Holiday  
 27 April: Freedom Day  
 01 May: Workers' Day  
 30 - 31 May: School Holiday  
 16 June: Youth Day  
 17 June: Public Holiday  
 09 August: National Women's Day  
 24 September: Heritage Day

