



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

NEWSLETTER | **26 July 2018** | VOLUME 3:14

Dear Parents

After our Reddam Rumble last week our teachers returned to school inspired and ready to closely observe their children through a new lens. Gavin Keller, the keynote speaker and Principal of Sun Valley Primary School in the Cape has over the years developed a keen interest in how to ensure that all children, despite their chromosomes are given a chance to taste success.

Keller believes in a 'brain-based' way of learning that helps children build foundational neural pathways that grow and connect and help them to think. He maintains that schools are all about the tick and the cross – but 'life is not about I've got it right or I've got it wrong.'

Life is about 'show me how I can do it better'.

Success, he believes, is dependent on having a good self-esteem, being in a learning organisation where there are high expectations and being given the skills to cope effectively with what the world demands. Therefore, it is the school's role to develop a good self-esteem in each child, to set high but realistic expectations and to predict what the world will demand by the time our children graduate.

He further asserts that school is about making memories! We have thirteen years from Grade R to Grade 12 (a mere 13 000 hours) to offer our children the best possible education, but more than that—we have thirteen years to generate memories that learning is fun and that school is a good place to be.

I always maintain that our ELS is indeed a great place to be! Our children learn so much through play, through exploration and by having fun. Our children have an emotional connection with their teachers; feel safe and have a sense of belonging as they continue to build lasting relationships with their teachers and friends.



We have two Parent Talks featured during this term.

Firstly we have Nicky Slow presenting at an ELS Coffee Morning and Paul Bushell at a Parent Evening Talk. Both these presenters have contributed most favourably towards making our Reddam Rumble Day a huge success.

ELS Coffee Morning

Presenter: Nicky Slow, Transformational Coach and Corporate Trainer. Her aspiration is to raise the consciousness of leaders across the world.

Topic: Family Constellations – *we see patterns in families that are carried – it may be illness related, or simply patterns of limiting beliefs and limiting behaviours – how do we release ourselves from carrying the hardships of our family line?*

Date: Friday, 3 August 2018 @ 08:00

Venue: ELS Staff Room

RSVP: Pat Nkonyane at Reception or pat.nkonyane@reddam.house before Wednesday, 1 August 2018.

Parent Evening Talk

Presenter: Paul Bushell, Clinical Psychologist and Author

Topic: #raisingkids To Thrive in a Constantly Changing World: *Why Emotional Intelligence is one of the most important job skills for the present and the future.* Paul will discuss various aspects of Emotional Intelligence which includes empathy, resilience, curiosity and innovation, self-image, embracing diversity and communication.

Date: Tuesday, 28 August 2018 @ 18:30

Venue: George Balios Auditorium in SP Building

2018 School Magazine

Please note: the termly billing for the School Magazine will be reflected on your 1 August 2018 statement. (R43,00 per family).

Warm regards

Dr Bev Evangelides

FOCUS ON | STAGE 1 TO 5



Stage 1 – Our Mirrors



There is something alluring about mirrors, particularly to children. They mirror whatever is in front of them, they make letters look different and strange, they bounce sunlight off of them and when combined with other mirrors, they reflect reflections infinitely.

Mirrors are more than just fun! For toddlers, mirrors are an important learning tool. Playing games in front of a mirror helps the children learn how to focus, track images and explore the wonderful things a face can do. It also develops an awareness of self as well as promotes social and emotional development as they interact with those around them.

The children loved the new mirrors in our class.

Teacher Amorei, Mammy and Patience



Stage 2 – Exploring our School Environment



Play is one of the key aspects of the total development of a child. It aims at developing the child physically, socially, mentally and emotionally. During the first week of school, the children came back energised and eager to explore their environment. The children in Stage 2E were seen observing, experimenting, interacting and sharing ideas in the different stations during outdoor play. Whilst most children could not get enough of each station, some girls drifted towards the wonderful sandpit and sensory areas and most of the boys were attracted to the jungle gym. This observation clearly highlighting what Gavin Keller mentioned about the differences in a 'blue' and 'pink' brain.

Teacher Se and Deliwe

Stage 3 – Growing our own No Stain Yellow Beetroot



As part of our provocation on roots and how things grow we were fortunate enough to have a visit from Dirk from Mayford Seeds. He discussed with the children which plants grow vertically in the garden, for example sweet peas and tomatoes grow on the vine. He explained to the class that the beetroot is the taproot portion of the beet plant and it's full of vitamins especially iron and is a popular super food.

He then invited the children up to his table in small groups. The children were so excited to each have the opportunity to plant their own seeds. Each child was given a bio-degradable pot in which they placed their own compost. Dirk then showed the children the tiny new yellow beet seeds. They each had the opportunity to count the seeds before placing them gently into the soil. Dirk explained to the children that they had to spread them out in their pot so that they had enough space to grow.



Dirk explained to the children that they have to place their pot on a plate and place water in the bottom of the dish. It was interesting to learn that if we water from the top the seeds will rot.

The seeds will take sixty eight days to harvest. The children can then place the pot in the ground so it can continue to grow, as it is a bio-degradable pot it will break down in the soil. We are excited to see our new type of beetroot grow which will not stain clothes.

Teacher Liz & Goodness

Stage 4 – A Child’s Perspective of Science



Kajal: ‘Science is an experiment’

Onalenna: ‘you can make anything with science’

Amy: ‘you can build robots, I want to be a scientist but a teacher one’

Pop up balloon experiment

This experiment is a simple experiment that can be performed in the classroom without any danger to those performing it. The ingredients can be obtained from a household store and consists of baking soda, vinegar and a party balloon.

The experiment is performed by filling a container half way with vinegar (ensure that the opening of the container is small enough for the balloon mouth to fit over it), add a few teaspoons of baking soda into the balloon, carefully stretch the mouth of the balloon for the container opening. Ensure that it is tight and secure over the opening. Request one of the children to gradually lift the balloon with the baking soda allowing the baking soda to fall into the container of vinegar. Observe the reaction. The mixing of the baking soda and vinegar produces a gas that slowly but surely causes the balloon to inflate until it is vertical.

What do observe?

Jasen: ‘the balloon blows up’

What caused it to happen?

Casey: ‘from the air’

Kajal: ‘the vinegar made it blow up’

Onalenna: ‘the baking soda’

Teacher Jane and Manisha

Stage 5 – From a Distance



Last week the Stage Fives noticed that objects in the distance appear smaller than they actually are.

We decided to explore this concept further and sent Tristan to stand on the opposite end of the playground.

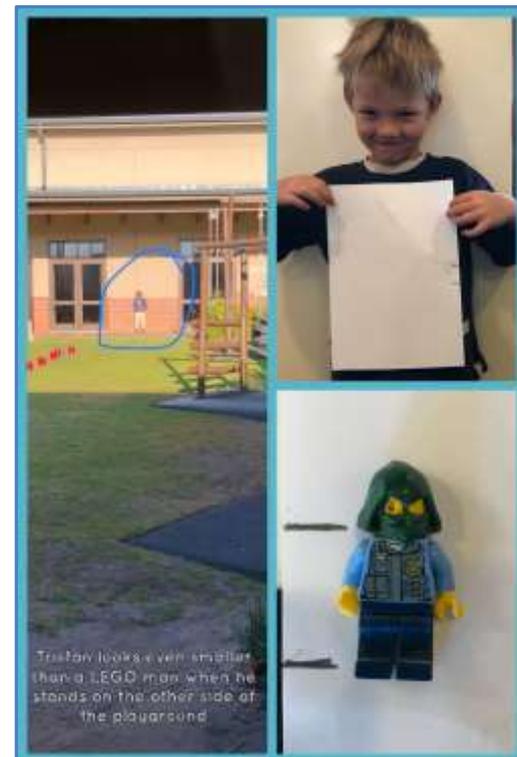
We then held a piece of paper against the window to record his height. When he returned to the classroom we compared the markings to a Lego man.

We discovered that, from a distance, Tristan appears to be smaller than a Lego man.

We took this concept a little further, and took photos of children standing various distances apart from each other.

We found that even the children who are a little taller than their classmates may appear very small when standing far behind them.

We are looking forward to expanding on these discoveries and making use of our new understanding in our artwork.



Teacher Jenny and Fadzai



Adventure Zone



I cannot believe that Term 3 is already upon us. What fun we had during the holidays. The cold weather did not stop us from enjoying the activities we had planned.

The children had fun making and baking their own jam tarts from scratch but definitely had more fun eating them. The jumping castle always is their firm favourite and the freezing weather on that particular day didn't change their minds. We had fun constructing trees using wire for the stems and branches, buttons and beads for the leaves. It was beautiful to watch the children independently create the straight wire into something so simple yet magnificent.

Just Fun parties set up their obstacle courses on the playground and their enthusiasm had the children laughing and participating throughout the session. The children also painted t-shirts and ceramic bowls which they were excited to take home. Our brave young ones took turns wrapping a snake around their necks and some simply took the first small steps by touching and feeling the textures of different animals during the Pet Show.

Holiday Club was great fun.

Nathi and the Adventure Zone Team



DATES TO DIARISE

02 August

Stage 5 to Grade 1 Information Evening 18:00

03 August

ELS Coffee Morning 08:00

09 August

National Women's Day - School and Adventure Zone Closed

10 August

National School Holiday - School and Adventure Zone Closed

16 & 17 August

Stage 4 Mornings of Song & Dance

28 August

Parent Evening Talk – Paul Bushell 18:00 George Balios Auditorium



Save The Date

ELS Spring Sports Day
Friday 31st August
9am - 11am

a big
Thank You
from Kitty and Puppy Haven!



We Change Their Destiny!

Reddam House School

Thank you for aiding us in our time of need.
It warms our hearts to know what incredible supporters we have.
We sincerely appreciate your support and generosity.



Samantha Berger
Founder

19 June 2018

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