

# Celebrating Childhood

1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

From Sue

Dear Parents

## Teaching Thinking!

In an age when knowledge is growing exponentially, the big ideas and the 'how' and 'why' of knowledge is becoming the focus in education. Thinking skills, problem-solving, higher-order reasoning, teamwork and lifelong learning are all critical for future success.

One of Redhill School's Values is Curiosity and in the Pre-Preparatory Phase, we manifest this value by tapping into and driving the children's need to find out and discover. The teachers are encouraging critical, creative, caring and collaborative thinking in the children by engaging in Philosophy for Children (P4C) in the classroom and also through incidental learning.

This is just one of many strategies we use to teach children to express their ideas and viewpoint, and to listen to and question the opinions of others in a collaborative space. The more we use inquiry-based strategies, the more insightful the opinions and questions become. However, it is NOT about supplying an answer but rather about giving our children the opportunity to discuss and debate a variety of opinions and if need be, change their original view. They are eventually asked to reflect on the answers that arise and on their learning. The content of the discussion is less important than the quality of the reasoning, and the role of the teacher is to develop higher level of thinking, through using guiding questions.

Below are two delightful examples from the KG2 children:

1. The children were asked to THINK about the question- *would you rather be an adult or a kid?* Once thinking time was over, the children could each offer their opinion with a reason. This was recorded on their picture. Most children who chose to be a kid stated they loved to PLAY! The children who wanted to be adults gave some interesting reasons!



I would rather be an adult because they work hard for money!



I would rather be an adult because they tell you what to do and I want to do that!

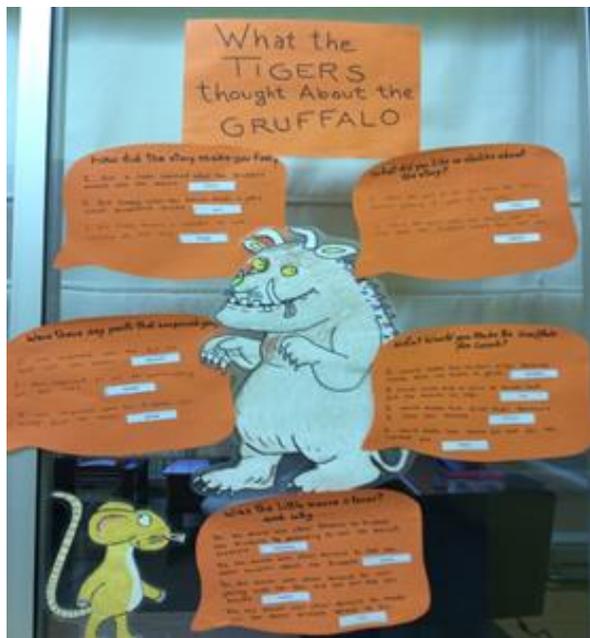


I would rather be an adult, so I can have a phone!

# Pre-Preparatory School Notification



2. The children were asked to THINK about several questions after hearing the story of the Gruffalo. Some of their responses are shared below.
- How did the story make you feel?  
*I felt a little worried when the Gruffalo ate the mouse.*  
*I felt happy because I remember my mom reading me this story.*
  - What would you make the Gruffalo for lunch?  
*I would make him mouse pie and for me, normal pie.*  
*I would make him chicken wings because a mouse does not taste so good.*
  - Were there any parts in the story that surprised you?  
*I was surprised when Gruffalo ran away from the mouse.*  
*I was surprised when the fox did not eat the mouse.*
  - What did you like or dislike about the story?  
*I liked the part when the mouse told the owl that the Gruffalo would have owl tea.*
  - Was the little mouse clever and if you think so, why?  
*Yes, the mouse was clever because he tricked Gruffalo by pretending he was the scariest creature.*  
*Yes, the mouse was clever because he was joking with the fox and the owl and the snake.*



# Pre-Preparatory School Notification



## Old McDonald had a farm...

This week, a mobile zoo visited our school, bringing learning about The Farm, to life for the Grade 0 children. They thoroughly enjoyed this interactive experience engaging with ducks, chicks, guinea pigs, rabbits, goats and a calf. We cannot wait to have incubators delivered next week so we can watch the chicks hatch!



## Farewell and thank you!



It is with a very heavy heart that I am informing you of a Megan Smith's resignation as of 1 July 2018.

Megan has been offered a wonderful opportunity at a Private school, Bishop Bavin, which is close to her home and consists of a Remedial Facility her son, Mikey can attend. Her role will be that of PA to the Academic Head in the High School.

I know that Megan's leaving is going to be felt in the Pre-Preparatory and across the Campus by the staff, parents and children! I can see the absolute value she has brought to the school and how integral she has been as the glue in our school. Her personality has been the perfect fit to this relationship-based phase and her positive, calm and professional approach has always ensured the smooth daily running of the school.

Megan, on behalf of the Redhill Community, we extend our grateful thanks for your absolute sense of commitment and incredible work ethic, which have been most appreciated. We wish you all the very best with much happiness, joy and success in your new venture. You will be dearly missed by all but know that your generous spirit and quiet strength will stay with us as we continue building Redhill Pre-Preparatory.

# Pre-Preparatory School Notification



HAPPENINGS for the 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June

A reminder: We are a nut-free school

Day	Date	Happenings
MONDAY	4 June	Lunch: Beef sausages, rice and gravy
TUESDAY	5 June	KG2 & GR0 Gross Motor exercises: please wear comfortable clothing (shorts or leggings are better than dresses). Lunch: Cottage Pie <b>Tin Tuesday Learning the gift of giving &amp; Ready to Recycle</b>
WEDNESDAY	6 June	Lunch: Chicken Strips, mealies and potato wedge
THURSDAY	7 June	Spaghetti and meatballs
FRIDAY	8 June	Fishfinger, chips & jelly
MONDAY	11 June	Lunch: Beef sausages, rice and gravy <b>GR0 Mobile incubator/KG 2 Puppet Show</b>
TUESDAY	12 June	KG2 & GR0 Gross Motor exercises: please wear comfortable clothing (shorts or leggings are better than dresses). Lunch: Cottage Pie <b>Tin Tuesday Learning the gift of giving &amp; Ready to Recycle</b>
WEDNESDAY	13 June	Lunch: Chicken Strips, mealies and potato wedge
THURSDAY	14 June	Spaghetti and meatballs
FRIDAY	15 June	Fishfinger, chips & jelly

## INVESTIGATION TOPICS

KINDERGARTEN 1	*	<b>Patterns</b>
KINDERGARTEN 2	*	<b>Space</b>
GRADE 0	*	<b>Farm products – Grain &amp; Transport</b> <b>The Letter d</b>