

NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Dear 345 families

We are readily 'shocked' that it is already August, but if we look at just how much each of our children has grown and developed, we must agree that it has been a most productive eight months. Each little one is getting to the stage where they are very ready for the step to the next phase of their development. As a school, we are excited about the coming changes: a new head of the 345 schools as well as our move towards the Reggio Emilia approach.

Welcome our new Head of 345 Nursery Schools

Please welcome Suzanne Rossouw who joins us at the end of September as our new head of our 345 Nursery Schools.

Suzanne comes with a wealth of experience from not only wonderful South African schools in Johannesburg and Cape Town, but she has also worked in the preschool environment in Poland, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore. It is while in Singapore that Suzanne obtained her Master of Education degree in Early Childhood.



Our nursery schools are embarking on an exciting change in education-thinking as we shift towards the Reggio Emilia approach to better support young minds. Suzanne's experience extends extensively in Reggio Emilia too as she has not only taught in schools offering this approach, but has presented at the African Reggio Emilia.



Alliance over several years as well as been a principal of such a preschool and a Reggio Emilia consultant. We look forward to the leadership that Suzanne will bring to our schools as we make this exciting shift which will undoubtedly benefit our young ones as we better prepare them for their future learning.

What is Reggio Emilia all about?

Many parents may not know what the Reggio Emilia approach is about. This approach makes our children academically stronger and better prepared for learning as they move to the higher grades. Our modern world requires new approaches, especially as new technologies become more dominant – we cannot expect to simply do what we always did when everything else is changing.

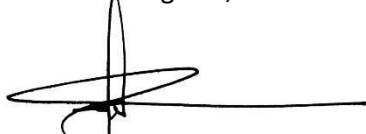
Here is a quick summary. These are some of the basic tenets of the Reggio Emilia approach:

- (1) Reggio Emilia is a child-centred approach. It recognises that every child is different and allows them to direct their own learning experiences.
- (2) Emphasis on critical thinking & creativity. Young children are given the tools to express themselves through art and other materials, which are opportunities to grow their imagination.
- (3) Strong emphasis on parental engagement. The Reggio Emilia approach emphasizes parental collaboration and learning at home. It strives to create a seamless learning environment at school, as well as at home with the help of parents.
- (4) Flexible teaching methods. Reggio Emilia schools are flexible and adjust accordingly to what a child needs when it comes to learning and care.
- (5) Environment as a third teacher. Reggio Emilia schools place heavy emphasis on the learning environment as they believe a conducive environment is important for a child

Parent Workshop

We will be running a parent workshop during the next term (date to be confirmed) to engage with you about Reggio Emilia and modern learning practices – looking at the practicalities of embarking on this approach, how parents are partners in learning and why we have included this approach into our teaching and learning.

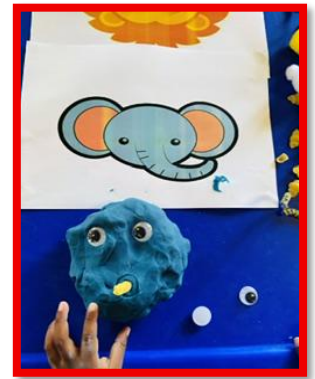
Kind regards,



Mark Heidmann
Headmaster



We always enjoy sharing the joy of learning that takes place in our Ladybug class. Despite the chilly winter weather, the children have been busy learning, exploring, and having lots of fun! This month, we enjoyed engaging games using winter-themed objects to reinforce counting skills and number recognition. We also incorporated yoga and dance into our daily routine, helping to develop the children's coordination, balance, and overall physical fitness. Outdoor play continues to be a favourite part of our day, providing opportunities to strengthen gross motor skills while encouraging teamwork, sharing, and cooperative play. A heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful families for your generous Mandela Day contributions. Your kindness and support have made a meaningful difference, and we truly appreciate your generosity and willingness to help those in need. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to another exciting month of learning, laughter, and new adventures together!



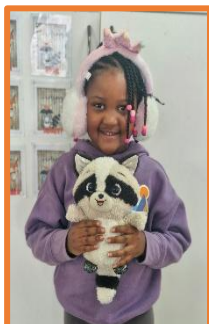


What an exciting and memorable month July has been in the Butterfly Class! We celebrated Madiba Day by spreading kindness and giving back to our community. A huge thank you to all our wonderful Butterfly families for your generous donations. The Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre that received them was incredibly grateful. It was truly heartwarming to see the kindness, generosity, and compassion shown by our Butterfly children. Thank you, moms and dads, for helping teach your little ones the joy of giving and making a difference in the lives of others. This month has also been filled with wonderful Reggio Emilia-inspired learning experiences. Our little explorers have been incredibly creative as they designed and built aeroplanes, cars, and other exciting creations using recycled materials. They have enjoyed "travelling" around the world, going on imaginative game drives, building homes, learning about wild animals, and expressing themselves through a variety of natural and recycled materials. Our music and movement sessions have brought our themes to life, filling our classroom with singing, dancing, laughter, and smiles. The children continue to amaze us with their enthusiasm and curiosity as they learn through play, hands-on exploration, and creating colourful bubble maps together. It has been such a joy to watch each child grow in confidence, creativity, and independence throughout the month. As we continue through the winter season, we hope you all keep warm and healthy. Spring is just around the corner, and we have so many exciting adventures, discoveries, and special events to look forward to in the months ahead! Thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of our Butterfly family.



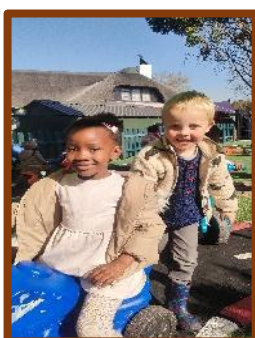


It is hard to believe that we have already reached the halfway mark of the year and are now more than halfway through winter. Time certainly flies when we are having so much fun! The Fox Class has had another exciting and busy month filled with learning, creativity, and plenty of opportunities for exploration. One of the highlights of the month was our Mandela Day collection, which was a huge success. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our Fox families for your incredible generosity and support. Your kindness helped teach the children the importance of caring for others and making a positive difference in our community. Our Wild Animals theme sparked lots of curiosity and excitement. We began by creating a bubble diagram where the children shared everything they already knew about wild animals. It was wonderful to see how much knowledge they could recall and how eager they were to learn even more. Throughout the month, we explored different wild animals through stories, discussions, songs, and creative activities. The children have also thoroughly enjoyed our construction activities, using a variety of materials to design, build, and create. These activities encourage problem-solving, teamwork, creativity, and fine motor development while allowing the children to use their imaginations. During art, we painted animal footprints using leaves, creating beautiful textured prints, and we had great fun moulding and sculpting a variety of wild animals out of playdough. It has been wonderful to see each child's creativity shine through in their unique creations. As always, it has been a joy to watch the children grow in confidence, develop new skills, and embrace each new learning opportunity with enthusiasm. We are so proud of all they have achieved this month and look forward to another exciting month of learning, discovery, and fun together as we continue our journey through the year.





What an exciting month we have had in the Owl Class! We slowly introducing the Reggio Emilia approach to our learning, encouraging the children to explore, discover, create and learn through meaningful experiences. The children thoroughly enjoyed creating beautiful artwork using a variety of natural and recycled materials, allowing their creativity and imagination to shine. We also continued to strengthen our fine motor skills through fun hands-on activities such as cutting, threading, drawing, and building, helping to develop the muscles needed for writing. During our Think Equal lessons, we focused on kindness, empathy, and understanding our emotions while learning how to care for one another. To celebrate Mandela Day, we generously donated clothing, food items and toys for children who are less privileged. Thank you for your kindness and support in helping us make a positive difference in our community.



The collage consists of 20 individual photographs, each framed with a thick orange border. The photos depict children in a classroom or playroom setting, engaged in a variety of activities. In the top row, children are seen playing with blocks, drawing on paper, and using tools like a hammer and saw. The middle section shows children playing with a ball, drawing, and using tools. The bottom row features children playing with blocks, drawing, and using tools. The children are of diverse backgrounds and are smiling and enjoying their time.