



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

7 O'Connell Avenue & 286 Beauchamp Road

Matraville 2036

Phone: 02 9311 0044 & 9661 9521

Management@PumpkinLDCC.com.au

Newsletter - January 2015

Centre News and Upcoming Events

Welcome back to everyone, hope you all enjoyed the break! The month of January finished so fast! It is time to say goodbye to all the pre-schooler that are going to big school.

We say goodbye to Aiden, Ryan A, Ryan Z, Ruby, Sarah, Jasmine Guard, Chloe Stire, Chloe Stone, Aleya, Christopher, Raditya, Levi, Mia S, Emily N, Emily W, Joshua C, Jeremy L, Charlotte, Olivia and Clarice.

We also welcome all the new children and families in the Clownfish, Jellyfish/Sunfish, Lionfish and Starfish room.

We hope everyone had a great break before starting this New Year, 2015. All of the educators at Pumpkin have been working hard in re-arranging their rooms and preparing children to start in their new rooms.

We are typing and sending our daybook by email now, please feel free to give us your feedback.

We are going to start our News time on the first week of February, topics for each room (Clownfish, Jellyfish/Sunfish, Lionfish and Starfish) have been sent out by emails this week and last week. You can prepare your child's News in any exercise book or paper. Please let us know if you have not received the email.

Pumpkin Educators.

Calendar of Events of February 2015

All Month - Dental Health Month

4th - Wednesday - World Cancer Day

4th - Wednesday - Vasant Panchami – Hindu Tradition, dedicated to Saraswati, The Goddess of Learning. During this festival, children are taught to write their first words, ancestor worship is performed and the colour yellow is widely used.

14th - Saturday - Valentine's Day



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15th- 16th – Purim – Jewish tradition, Purim celebrates Queen Esther's saving of the Jewish people from Haman, advisor to King Ahauerus of Persia. The traditional practices of Purim include public reading of the book of Esther, feasting of charity to the poor and gifts of food amongst friends).

19th- Thursday – Chinese New Year – A Goat year

26th – Thursday - Parent Information Night at 6.00 pm

Staff News

Ms Sabina (Jellyfish and Sunfish room) will be on her annual leave from the 19th of January and she will be back to work on the 03rd of March 2015.

Ms Chunli (Clownfish room) has come back from her annual leave.

Ms Rozina will come back to work from her annual leave on the 06nd of February 2015.

Ms Elly will be away from the 16th of Feb and she will be back on the 23rd of Feb 2015.

As everyone knows, Miss Juliet has left us to pursue her teaching career in UK. We have a new Early Childhood Teacher in the Starfish room, Miss Cory Hendra.

She will be working full time in the Starfish room from the 12th of January 2015 as an Early Childhood Teacher. She comes from Indonesia and has lived in Australia for the past 10 years.

She graduated from Macquarie University in August 2009 with a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education).

Parents Reminder

If you come before 8.00 am or after 5.15 pm, please come in from 7 O'Connell Avenue Matraville.



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A Nut Free Centre

Pumpkin is a nut free centre, due to a number of children having high risk allergies. If you want to bring your own food to Pumpkin, please be aware of peanut butter, Nuttela sandwiches along with cookies, biscuits, muesli bars and other food products that contain nuts.

Thank you for your cooperation, this is due to the safety of other children with high risk allergies.

Clownfish News

Hello Families! It's another year and we would like to welcome the new additions to the Clownfish Room. Minka, Noah, Kingston and Blake have joined the group late last year, while Sunny, Amelia, Etonia and Luca have just joined in this year and all of them have settled in well.



As everyone knows, starting this year we will be sending news topics to families every fortnight. This would be a great way for us to get more family input, to learn more about the children, especially their activities outside the centre. Through this, we would be able to extend the children's interests by incorporating them into our curriculum.

During this month, the children were very interested in music and reading as well. Everyday, we tried to include music and book reading in our group time. They love listening to nursery rhymes and doing some dancing and action songs, particularly the 'When you're happy and you know it' song.

As most of the children have been together for almost a year now, they have started to treat each other as friends and enjoyed playing together, especially the older ones.

We have lots of outdoor play during the month. The children enjoyed engaging in various activities requiring both fine and gross motor skills.



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We also did some painting and drawing during the end of this month. Ms. Pimpini introduced to the children the Australia flag through painting to remember Australia Day.



Jellyfish News

Happy New Year to all the children and families! And happy birthday to Nadia!

Some of the Jellyfish children started the month celebrating a new achievement, as some are now out of nappies and using the toilet. Congratulations, what an achievement! The children also welcomed new friends in the New Year, including some transitioning from the nursery room. A big welcome to James, David and Nadia!



See you later alligator was still the children's favourite story time book, with them requesting it often, and participating out loud in the reading as Miss Alessandra read it.

It was great to see a lot of social play this month. The children showed their sharing and turn-taking skills, and enjoyment for social play many times throughout the month. Holding hands and singing ring-a-ring-a-roses was a popular activity.



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Our weather/date chart has been cleaned and updated for the new year. The children like discussing each day's weather, by either verbally talking about the weather or by pointing to the weather picture on our chart. They also enjoy singing our days of the week chart and having a go at the day of the week. However, what has been really impressive is their recognition of the numbers on the chart and their ability to count to 20!

The children worked on their smiles and poses as they had their photos taken for their 2015 portfolios. Our routine photos from around the room were also updated.

The topic of gardening started when Peyton brought in carrots from her garden to share. Miss Alessandra became the intentional teacher and talked to the children about how it is possible to grow our own fruit, vegetables, flowers, herbs and trees. The children liked hearing about the process of growth of Peyton's carrots, from seeds, to watering, to growth! Later on that day, Miss Alessandra encouraged the children to notice all the things we are growing in our gardens, such as strawberries. During our topic of garden, we read a book called 'How does your garden grow?' We discussed the sun's help in warming the soil, the birds pecking at flowers, the wind blowing seeds around, and the caterpillars munching and crunching on juicy leaves to later become beautiful butterflies that flutter to trees. After learning about all these other elements that make a garden, we made our own paper gardens! The children also enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a butterfly this month, and they painted their own butterflies.



We learnt more about penguins after discovering that Aiden had watched the movie Penguins of Madagascar (shared by email from mum, Nancy). We compared photos of two penguins, one of the rockhopper penguin and another of the king penguin.

We celebrated Australia day by making our own representation of the Southern Cross constellation after seeing Ariella's stick-on tattoo of it. We also learnt more about some Australian animals after finding out that London went to the zoo.

Our Topics started again on the 27th of January, with the topic All about me. For new families, a topic is given to the children (discussed at Pumpkin) and families (via



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email) every fortnight and with the children's and families' inputs, each topic is explored with the children. Please don't forget to add your input, it is great to learn as much as possible about the each child and create a link between us and home.



Until next month,
Jellyfish Educators

Lionfish News

During the month of January 2015, we had been busy settling all the Lionfish children into the room. We redecorated our room around to create more inviting atmosphere for the children to play and learn, and we have some children that are doing the transition. Few children have moved to the Starfish room, we said good bye to Jasmine, Laura, Tamas, Kai-Mani, Aryan, Annabia, Bronte, Caitlyn, Isabella, Cassandra and Marco. We also welcome our new friends in the Lionfish room: Dakota, Marco, Kayla, Sailosi, Gloria, Anouk, Lysia, Samantha, William and Tudor and they all have settled very well☺

The Lionfish children brought in their favourite books and toys from home to share with their friends during our group time. Thank you to all families that have supported us and their children learning by participating in our parent input daily or weekly.

Activities of the month, 'The Lionfish' children enjoyed indoor painting, physical activity, fine-motor skill and freely expresses their emotions and were involved in meaningful interactions with peers and educators through outdoor physical activity.



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The Lionfish children also have been bringing their family pictures, we share these with everyone in the room. The Lionfish children also drew their own families, we displayed these drawings in our room ☺



The children always look forward to playing together outdoors. Fadi brought in his mini basketball net and ball to hang in the playground and share with his friends. We tied it to one of the poles, and the children took turns throwing the ball into the net. The children will, however, never get old of the sandpit. It is always packed with Lionfish when we open it for them. Whether it's making a cake for mum, or pretending to be at the beach, the children always have a blast playing around with the different sand utensils.

We welcomed a few new friends this month, including Siena and Dakota. They have settled in with us very well, and made all new friends in our room.

The Lionfish have spent a little time in the Starfish room at the beginning of this month due to smaller numbers of children during the holiday period. They have involved themselves in Starfish routines such as, the weather and date chart. This has been particularly valuable for those who are soon going to move into the Starfish room permanently.

An all-time favourite Lionfish book is still "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". The children have heard it so many times they are almost able to recite every word with the reader.

Till next month!

Lionfish Educators.



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Starfish Newsletter

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015 to all Pumpkin families!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday over the Christmas period.

We would like to welcome our new teacher Cory to the Starfish room. Cory will be working full time alongside Catherine and Leanne. Please do not hesitate to come and talk to her. =)

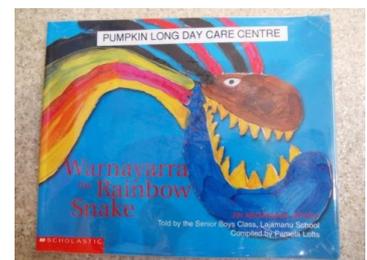
We did various learning experiences to celebrate Australia Day on the 26th January 2015.

We looked at a couple of Aboriginal stories called 'Rainbow Snake' and 'How the birds got their colour'. The children enjoyed painting their own Rainbow snake. We discussed about the earthy colour Aboriginal people use to illustrate the picture in their story books – red, brown, and black.

We also looked at some Aboriginal music instruments such as the didgeridoo and bamboo rainsticks. The children took turn to explore the rainstick and didgeridoo. They shook and turn the rainstick upside down and listened closely to the sound of rainstick. They also danced and used them as music instruments while listening to Aboriginal music.

Besides painting, we also learned a new Aboriginal song. Cory introduced a song called Wombat Wobble, where the children were asked to do different actions of some of the Australian animals. We wobbled around like a wombat, we clapped our hands like a crocodile snap, we flapped our hands like a cockatoo flap, we walked like an emu's walk, we jumped like a kangaroo and we made noises for the didgeridoo...

After dancing, we spent some time looking at some Australian native animals on the computer. We looked at a video of wombats digging holes to make their houses. We also discussed about what wombats like to eat....





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Wombat Stew!

As a continuation of the Australia Day celebration, we looked at a story called Wombat Stew to learn more about native Australian animals. The children love to sing the rhyme:

Wombat stew
Wombat stew
Gooley, brewy
Yummy, chewy
Wombat stew!



We also made our own wombat stew using ingredients we found in our room. The children were very excited to put each ingredient in the bowl. We put water, mud, some feather, creepy crawlies, and some gumnuts.

After finished reading the story, we passed the bowl around for the children to stir and look closely at the stew. Most of them commented, "Eww...that's not a nice stew... The dingo was poisoned from that stew." The dingo is very mean. He wants to eat the fat wombat."



Welcoming our new friends... =)

We would also like to welcome new children to our Starfish Room. We introduced the new children during group time and explained to them some of the areas they can explore in the room. We also discussed the rules in Starfish room every morning during group time so the children.





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