



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter – May 2016

### Centre News

2016 Mother's Day, thank you to all the mums who have come and joined us for our afternoon tea☺

The children also prepared some yummy and healthy yoghurt for their mums.



As the weather is getting colder now, please do not bring your child in his or her beanie only as it does not provide enough sun protection.

Educators and children at Pumpkin are required to wear sun safe hats that protect their face, neck and ears. A sun safe hat is:

- legionnaire hat
- bucket hat with a deep crown and brim size of at least 5cm (adults 6cm)
- broad brimmed hat with a brim size of at least 6cm (adults 7.5cm).

***Please note: Baseball caps or visors are not sun safe because they do not provide enough sun protection.***

# Excursion to Australian Museum

The Starfish children went to the city to visit Australian Museum on Thursday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2016. We went there by mini bus, they were all very excited because they got to see lots of interesting things, such as hospital, horse racing track and lots of office buildings☺



When they arrived at the museum, a lady from the museum explained briefly about places they can visit inside the museum. She also showed the children how to pet and touch the animals because some of the animals were allowed to be touched.



After the visit, we had our lunch together at Hyde Park, few parents that work in the city have joined us as well.



**Thank you to all of the Parents and Grandparents for your tremendous help and support during our excursion, we really appreciate it!**

# June's Calendar of Events

30/05/16 – 10/06/16 – Parent-Teacher interview.

07<sup>th</sup> - Friday – Ramadan begins, Muslim tradition.

12<sup>th</sup> - Sunday – Shavuot, Jewish Holiday.

13<sup>th</sup> - Monday – Queen's Birthday, Centre closed.

19<sup>th</sup> – 25/06/16 – Refugee Week

26<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Red Nose Day.

# Clownfish News

*A big welcome to our new friend, Patrick! 😊*

HELLO MAY! 😊 This month has been going so fast! As the clownfish children has experienced a lot of exciting celebration, activities and explorations. For the first week of May clownfish children celebrated “MOTHER’S DAY”!!! The following week we also had more fun in our first ever “PYJAMAS WEEK” in clownfish room!!! Here’re some highlights of Clownfish May stories!

## MOTHER’S DAY!



Clownfish celebrated mother’s day by having a lovely “Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea” on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016. We have created a little surprise for mommies when they came to pick the children up. Clownfish children were so excited while having their mother’s day afternoon tea outside. Miss Maya helped Savannah, Felicity, Lilly, Brooklyn, Ella T, Celine, Ella A, Claire, Evie, Penelope, Lucie and James to make their special gift for their mom, guess what? It’s a **“a mini love jar”** filled with **a yoghurt, muesli, and fruits!** Wow looks yummy! From the past weeks before, we have made **a mother’s day card** as well as a **special plant** for all moms! Clownfish children had a lovely celebration! Hope all moms love our surprises! 😊

## PYJAMAS WEEK!!



To further extend our fortnightly topic “MY BEDTIME”, Clownfish children had a “pyjamas week” from 16<sup>th</sup> of May to 20<sup>th</sup> of May! They were dressed in their own pyjamas during that week, the children also brought their favorite book story, blankie, dolls, and many more! 😊 Throughout the pyjamas week, they had their pyjamas party outside when Miss Maya brought a small tent with pillows, cushions, and blankie for children to explore and play. Jacob, Ella.A, Ella.T, Patrick, Celine and Frankie swunged their pillows together and played “peek a boo”; we heard a big laughter from outside tent! 😊 At indoor the children also continued their pillow play, they were pretending to sleep with the baby doll and trying to pat each other. Frankie said “ssshhh...!” (be quiet as everyone are sleeping! :p). After we had our pyjamas party, the children sat quietly listening to what Miss Stella read for them, a story called “THE THINGS I LOVE ABOUT BED TIME” 😊



Miss Pimpini and Miss stella also had an idea to make clownfish bedtime story poster to be displayed in our room. They pasted their own photo wearing pyjamas, stars, and moons on the poster. We also had a “dot art” experience during the week; we printed out a pyjamas picture and let the children decorate it. Frankie recognized the picture, and said “its pyjamas!” Harry also recognized he’s wearing pyjamas on the day, he kept pointing at his pyjamas and pointed out Celine’s pyjamas. Clownfish children had a memorable experience during pyjamas week, we want to thanked all the parents and families that have been involved throughout the week! We appreciate your support! 😊 What a week full of fun, joy, and excitement! 😊 wohoo...



**FRUITS EXPERIENCE!**



We have been noticing clownfish children interest towards fruits for these past weeks, they have been exploring different kinds of fruits from our garden, starting from orange, starfruit, apple, banana, Watermelon and lemon. They have experienced picking up the fresh fruit from the tree as well as tasting it afterward. Miss Maya and Miss Catherine has been assisting the children while picking up the fruit, cutting it up, squeezing it, making it into a pop stick fruit and many more ways to let the children to taste the fresh fruit taste. They loved it! We have been discussing about fruits topic from 23<sup>rd</sup> of May.



Until next month, cheers! 😊

Clownfish educators

# Jellyfish News

A big welcome to **Bryson** and **Sophie** who joined us early this month and to **Chase, Gino, Caleb** and **Ella A.** who just joined us recently.

Belated Happy Birthday to **Bryson** who turned 2 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and to **Eli** and **Jamal** who both turned 3! They both moved to the Lionfish room.

## MOTHER'S DAY Celebration...



We started the month preparing for Mother's Day. From last week of April to first week of May, the children were busy preparing for Mother's Day surprise. They helped in sprinkling the seeds in the pot and every day, we made sure that we water



them and had them ready for our Wonderful Mums.

On the 06<sup>th</sup> we had Mother's Day afternoon tea. On that day, the children gave their surprise to their mums. Thank you to all Mums who came and joined their child for



special afternoon tea.



The children had lots of outdoor play this month. Hopping on one leg, playing 'Ring a ring o' rosy' together, **Skye, Daisy** and **Elodie** were heard singing, "Ring a ring" while holding their hands and turning around then pretending to fall down. One by one, the other children were encouraged to join in. One

small group has turned into a big circle. They were singing together, holding hands, turning around and would fall down. They played cooperatively with lots of giggles and laughter.



As the children were observed to be enjoying playing cooperatively in groups, we try to further enhance their developing social skills by providing lots of opportunities that will encourage group play. They love playing and doing role play in the sandpit, having a pretend picnic both indoor and outdoor and lots more.

We are also focusing on literacy and numeracy. For our group time, we try to always incorporate letters and numbers. For this month, we started with letters A to D and numbers 1 to 10 and we will keep on continuing until everyone is familiar with them.





Fire Drill... On the 11<sup>th</sup>, we had fire drill. To prepare the children, we talked about the scheduled fire drill, but still Daisy got a bit scared when she heard the signal whistle and she said, "No fire, no fire." Ms Maylene had to carry her for comfort. The children were a bit confused during the fire drill, most of them don't want to go out without their hats. We gathered around the assembly point and asked the children to sit down while doing the roll call, ensuring that everyone was safely out. The drill went well in the end...well done everyone 😊

**Parent-Teacher Interview...** The scheduled Parent-Teacher interview is on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. The appointment form is located on top of the sign in/out form. Please check for available dates and sign your child in if you haven't done it yet.

Reminder: We're on the last month of autumn. Winter is in the air now. Please dress your child appropriately and ensure they have extra warm clothes packed in their bags just in case they have toilet accidents.

Please advise us if your child starts toilet training to ensure that we work together with you.

We have a new topic, 'My Favourite Restaurant', which will run from 23<sup>rd</sup> of May to 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. Thank you to all parents who consistently giving us inputs.

Until next month,

Jellyfish Educators

# Lionfish News

This month, we celebrated Mother's Day by planting flowers and making cards for our mums. The children got to plant themselves. On the 2nd, Safirah and Elina chose what type of seeds they wanted to use, looking at the pictures on the packets. Miss Tracey put some seeds on their hand and they sprinkled them on the soil in their pots using their other hand. We also made crepe paper flowers for our mums. The children chose what colour crepe paper and pipe cleaner they wanted to use. Ariella commented, "They look like the flowers on my dress!"

We learnt about the letters G and H this month in Letterland. For G, we talked about things starting with 'G', especially gardens. Ariella said, "i help Grandma in the garden.....she grows petunias, they're red, purple and pink!" We also praticed our letterland H by naming things startig with the letter, and then did an arts 'n' crafts of houses.



The Lionfish's interest in construction continued this month. While we were outside on the 3rd, Sueann was busy building with the large plastic blocks. She spent a long time, joining square blocks together first, then adding some triangle ones at the end. When she had finished she said to Miss Tracey, "Look it's for a dog!" She pointed to the area at the end and said, "The dog goes in there!" Hart was sitting on the mat nearby. She had joined several square

blocks together to make a cube shape. When she heard what Sueann said, she said, "Mine's for a kitty cat...it sleeps in here!"

During outdoor play on the 5th, Ethan, Nadia, Leo and Xavi sat together on the block mat building with the large plastic lego. Leo said, "We're building a tower!" Xavi said, "It's for me car to go in." He showed his friends how he could put his car in the tower. Leo also had a toy crocodile and he said, "My crocodile can go in here!" They kept on working together to make the tower taller and taller.



The Lionfish have also continued to show interest in play dough. Hart and Sueann asked for the playdough to be put out on the 9th, and quickly the table filled with other children eager to have a turn! They used their hands, the rollers and cutters to manipulate and cut the playdough. Raffi rolled his playdough flat, then pressed the train cutter on the flat piece. He made a choo choo noise and said, "Look train!" Elina also rolled her playdough flat, then

chose a fish shape to use. She carefully pressed it into the dough to make an imprint and said, "I made a fish!" Hart rolled several small pieces flat, then placed them onto a plate. She said, "I'm making pizza!" Sueann chose a roller to use and rolled her playdough back and forth. She said, "Look how flat I made it!" Safirah rolled her playdough out flat, then looked through the cutters, finding a car shape. She pressed on her playdough and said, "Look at my car!" William also rolled his playdough flat and chose a chicken cutter to use. He said, "Look it's a duck!"

We have also celebrated Book Week from the 9th May till the 20th May.

The children brought in their favourite books from home to share with their friends. On 9th May, William brought in his



Gruffalo book and the next day, Minka brought in her Spot book. The children have also enjoyed the books outside on the mat, choosing their favourite books and sitting quietly reading them or sharing them with their friends! On 11th May, Leo and Xavi found some Superhero books which they enjoyed looking at together.

Miss Elly has been bringing her Ipad outside so the children can listen and if they want, dance to the music. One of their favourite songs is Kate Perry's Roar, which Hart and Sueann enjoyed singing and dancing to with some of the Starfish children on 10th May. Also outside on 18th May, Miss Elly put on some music for the children to listen to and dance too as well. Elina, Sofia, Minka and Ethan all stood listening, but when Uptown Funk came on Ethan moved to the front of the group showing everyone his dance moves. Minka also joined him, moving her body to the music.



The Lionfish children have also enjoyed exploring our new cubby house, whether it be climbing up the rock wall or ladder or sliding down the slide. On 16th May, Eli, our new friend in the Lionfish, climbed up the rock wall then slid down the slide, repeating the same thing over and over



again. William joined his friend Mason (Jellyfish) on the slide. As he slid down he laughed with his friend. When he had finished, they both ran over to the rock wall to climb up again for another turn! They have also utilised the underneath area for lots of role play experiences using different equipment including the puppets.



The Lionfish children have also been a great help looking after our garden. Whether it be helping water the garden or planting some new seeds or plants to keep it beautiful! They also love exploring our garden, looking at the beautiful flowers and plants growing or even finding different insects or animals. On 16th May, Elina and Sofia explored the garden together, looking at the different flowers. Elina said, "My mummy likes flowers!" Sofia added, "So does my mummy!" They chose purple flowers and looked at them closely.



Due to the nice weather that we have been having, the Lionfish children have been enjoying using our bikes in the yard. We have even set aside a special area up the top to avoid accidents! Miss Tracey and Miss Rebecca drew a bike track, including crossings to teach road safety, which the children really enjoyed using!



We also talked about road safety and made some road signs using recycled cardboard and recycled paper rolls. While working on the road signs the children has also started to revisit their shapes and understand meaning of various symbols.

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators :)

# Starfish News

## Welcome to Starfish May Newsletter!

What a productive month in Starfish Room in this wonderful May! We would like to welcome Sueann, Leo and Raffi to Starfish Room!

The children have been powering along with never ending curiosity and enthusiasm for all learning experiences that have been happening throughout the month. They have been learning about wild animals and dinosaurs, exploring their senses, to experimenting with volcanoes science experience.



We kicked off this month with **Mother's Day afternoon tea** that was held on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> of May! The children had opportunity to spend some time with their mums and give them a chance to mingle. It was lovely spending the afternoon with the Mum's who came as well as Grandmas and family friends. We hope the herbs and flowers are still growing beautifully! => **THANK YOU to all MUMS that came and participate in our Mother's Day afternoon tea.**



## Starfish's Adventure at the Australian Museum!

The highlight of this month will definitely be our super fun excursion to the Australian Museum! On Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> May, Starfish children and educators went all the way to the city to visit Australian Museum.

The children have been showing great interest in exploring bugs, insects, and birds in our playground and garden since the beginning of this year. Educators in Starfish would like to further extend children's

interest and knowledge as we believe they will discover lots of new and interesting information and facts about different animals at the Museum.

The children were extremely excited going in a bus as a big group. On the way to the museum, we saw lots of interesting things and familiar buildings, such as Eastgardens, the hospital, the horse racing track, office buildings, etc...



Once we arrived at the Museum, the lady explained briefly about places we can visit in the museum as well as some rules we need to follow. She also showed us how to pat and touch the animals as some animals are allowed to be touched.

We started off exploring the Wild Animals section where we see real-life size animals such as the giraffe, tiger, leopard, emu, rhino, penguins, giant tortoise, zebra and so much more!! The children were thrilled to explore the interactive computers – watching videos and playing games. We were also very fortunate to be able to touch different texture of the animals, such as the scaly crocodile skin, bumpy dinosaurs footprint, and soft fur of the animals.

And the fun didn't stop there! We had our lunch at Hyde Park, which was only across the road! What a glorious day eating food from lunch box under those giant trees!





### **The Mighty Dinosaurs!! Roar!!!**

It was awesome being able to see the mighty Dinosaurs up close, although we had a few children a little taken back by the Roars of the T-Rex. As the children explored the Dinosaur section in the museum, they were able to use their senses to touch the fossils, dinosaur bones and also interact with the computers that provided the information for each of the species of Dinosaurs that were on display.

**We would like to once again thank all of the parents and grandparents for your tremendous support and participation in our excursion!**



### **Dinosaurs are in the house!**

After our trip to the Museum, there have been so much conversations and discussion about dinosaurs among the children. They shared their experience to their friends who did not come to the museum.

They have immersed themselves in exploring dinosaurs theme - from playing dinosaurs hunt, dinosaurs role-play with play dough as well as in sandpit, dinosaurs painting, volcanoes experimentation to creating dinosaur fossils out of salt dough.





**G for green grapes in the greenhouse and H for handstand!**

The children have come so far with their literacy and numeracy skills as they show more effort and initiative in exploring letters and numbers! One of the children’s favourite things to do for our Letterland learning is to create the Letter of the Week with our body.



**STOP! Red, yellow, green... GO!**

At trikes area, there have been lots of role play as traffic controllers holding traffic signs, pedestrians crossing the road as well as the bike riders riding the trikes! More traffic signs were added and we have been learning about road safety as well as various traffic signs. STOP sign was one of the most favourite amongst the children as they like to put their hand out and shouted “Stop guys!”

**Thank you for taking the time to read Starfish's Newsletter. Please remember our door is always open and that we value family participation across all aspects of our program... Till next month! Cheerio! =)**

