



# 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 - February 2015

### Centre News

All children have been settling very well at Pumpkin. We have started the News topic in every room. Children and families have been bringing lots of input from home to share with everyone here, thank you to all the parents and families that have been bringing their news from home 😊

We started our program already in every room and we also started to introduce the Letterland in the Jellyfish room.

The Jellyfish children enjoy the reading from the Letterland book, they are also learning all the alphabet songs from the cd.

Ariella said: "a is for apple".

*Pumpkin Educators.*

### Sustainable Practice

"Our worm farm is ready!" Ms Elly and the children took out the last box of the worm farm and used this fertilised soil in the garden. We grew new seeds, some carrots, parsley and basil. All the children were surprised that the last box had no worm left. Ms Elly said: "That's why



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*we put all the food in the first box, so all the worms will go up to the first box and eat all the food there 😊*



## Staff News

*Ms Criselda will be away from the 12<sup>th</sup> of March and she will be back on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2015.*

*Ms Alessandra will be away from the 16<sup>th</sup> of March and she will be back on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2015.*

*Miss Catherine will be away from the 30<sup>th</sup> of March and she will back on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2015.*

*Ms Leanne will be away from the 09<sup>th</sup> of March and she will be back on Tuesday, 07<sup>th</sup> of April 2015.*

## 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.*

## *Celebration of Achievement Charts from EYLF*

*This chart will be used for the duration of the child's care period, it won't be finished by the end of every year (please find attached the Celebration of Achievement Charts with this email).*

*Parents and families are welcome to fill in the chart for their children. Some Learning Outcomes may have occurred as the child may have started at the centre at an older age. Please do not hesitate to come to us for more information on these charts 😊*

*Your children's portfolios are available in their room for viewing at any time.*

### *How wrong do we get it?*

*The theorist Jean Piaget says everyone prejudges a situation by linking it to their own past experiences. How wrong are our prejudged observations of children? Children strengths are a better way to observe children.*

### *Turn Strengths into Observations*

*Let's try something new and get rid of ages and stages based observations that need to be locked away in secret folder. From now on, all observations should be completed as a celebration of achievements and children's strengths.*



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## March 2015 Calendar of Events

**1<sup>st</sup> - 09<sup>th</sup> - Seaweek** - It's about exciting and inspiring all New Zealanders to renew their connections with the sea! Not just for children or those involved with formal education - it's a time for all of us to get to know our ocean, its habitats, characteristics and inhabitants better.

**02<sup>nd</sup> - Monday - Clean up Australia Day**

**03<sup>rd</sup> - Tuesday - Lantern Festival - Chinese Tradition.**

**05<sup>th</sup> - Thursday - Magha Puja Day - Buddhist tradition - Full Moon Day.**

**06<sup>th</sup> - 07<sup>th</sup> - Holi - Hindu Tradition.** originally Holi was a festival to commemorate good harvests. People paint each other with bright colours and splash coloured water.

**12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> - World's Greatest Shave** - Every March thousands of people **shave**, colour and wax their hair to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation.

**17<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday - Shrove Tuesday (Pancake day) - Christian Tradition,** day before lent begins.

**17<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday - St Patrick's Day.**

Come dressed in Green on, St Patrick's Day is an annual observance that is popular in Australia on March 17. This event serves as a tribute to Ireland and one of its patron saints, St Patrick.

**17<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday - Maha Shivaratri-** Hindu Tradition, celebrates Lord Shiva's marriage to Goddess Parvati. The festival is principally celebrated by offerings of Bael (Bilva) leaves to the Lord Shiva, all day fasting and a night-long vigil.



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**18<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday** – **Ash Wednesday** - Christian Tradition, first day of Lent. Lent lasts for 40 days and involves fasting and reflection.

**21<sup>st</sup> - Saturday** – **Harmony Day**. It's a day where all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. The day is also the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

**24<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday** - **Grandparents Afternoon Tea** - Bring along your grandparents for tea and cakes (03.15 pm).

**28<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - **Ram Navami-Hindu tradition**, celebrate the birth of Lord Rama. The day involves visiting temples and telling stories

## Clownfish News

Time really flies, another month has finished as well as the summer season. During the month of February, we welcomed Mia, Celine and Daisy to our room and they are all settling very well. On the other hand, we said good bye to Koby and Rohin that have moved to the Jellyfish room.

For the past few weeks, we have been receiving more family input, thank you to all the families that have been sharing these inputs with us. Through these inputs, we were able to learn more about different cultures and interests and to incorporate them into children's learning and experiences.





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*This month, the children enjoyed story telling times. They especially liked a book about animals. That book was a favourite for Minka, Muhid, William and Koby. Archer, Muhid, Noah and Steven also loved book reading this month.*

*Due to all the interest in book reading, Miss Chun introduced numbers to the children through a numbers' book. Anabelle enjoyed learning about numbers. She pointed to the number one and said, "One". Well done!*



*Outdoor play this month was a lot of fun. Looking after our plants, riding the seesaw and playing in the fort were favourites! The children just love exploring their outdoor environment.*



*According to the parent's input that we have received, most of the children love singing, dancing, playing outdoors as well as reading books and most of them have pet dogs. To extend on the children's interests, we ensure that we always include these in our group time.*

*One day, when it was raining, we sang 'Rain, rain goes away' and we used each of the children's names in our personalised version. They all enjoyed singing and dancing together!*





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On Monday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, Miss Pimpini also continued to introduce numbers to the children through reading the "Five Little Puppies" book and encouraged them to engage in counting and number recognition.

Another celebration this month was the Chinese New Year. The children learnt that in the Chinese culture, this year is the year of the goat. Miss Pimpini and the children painted red flowers to celebrate the New Year.



This month we also celebrated Valentine's Day. Ms. Pimpini and the Clownfish children made a red heart with the children's picture on it to give out to the parents for Valentine's Day.



Another celebration this month was the Chinese New Year. The children learnt that in the Chinese culture, this year is the year of the goat. Miss Pimpini and the children painted red flowers to celebrate the New Year.

During one of our lovely book reading times, Miss Pimpini named pictures to the children to encourage recognition, such as a ball, a butterfly and a bee. Later on, we extended the picture recognition learning by providing the



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*children with paint, so that they could paint whatever picture they wished.  
They just love painting!*



*As this month is Dental Health Month, Miss Pimpini introduced to the children a video called "This is the way to brush your teeth", and while watching Miss Pimpini encouraged the children to make the actions of teeth brushing. The children watched with interest. After watching the video, Miss Pimpini invited the older ones to show the group how they brush their teeth.*



*Till next month,*

*Clownfish Educators*



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## Jellyfish News

A big welcome to Rohin and Koby who have transitioned from the nursery room this month! Also, happy birthday to Rohin!

The children celebrated the Chinese New Year by learning about goats, watching the lion and dragon dances, making lanterns and goat artwork, and learning about traditional food and clothes. It was also a lot fun to later discover how the children and families celebrated the New Year. They also celebrated Valentine's Day by making cards and talking about their loved ones. Extending on so much celebrating, we learnt more about each other's favourite and most important celebrations through our Celebrations learning story, such as birthdays and St Patrick's Day.

The children planted carrot seeds with Miss Elly. They used the very fertile soil from our worm farm, thanks to the worms! The children had a look at just how full of worms the top part of the worm farm is. It was so much fun getting to see it, as the children feed them their food scraps daily. We love our worm farm!

We continued to learn more about our friends through our All about me topic (started last month, on the 28<sup>th</sup>). We talked about Safirah, George, Aiden, Peyton, Stella and Max. Miss Alessandra explained to the children that Aiden's family is from the Philippines, just like Miss Maylene. We already knew about George having a French Canadian background and we often celebrate it by singing good morning in French when we sing our multicultural Good morning song. Peyton loves seeing The Wiggles. We discovered that she still sings Jingle bells (from our Christmas concert) around the house. Since she likes singing and the children got excited when hearing about The Wiggles, they were asked if they would like to sing a



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Wiggles' song. They chose to sing and dance to 'Rock a bye your bear' as a group.

After finding out that George had Brazilian friends visit him on one weekend (via the family input form), and show him videos of traditional Brazilian dance. Miss Alessandra is also Brazilian and is assuming the videos were of Samba dancing. Miss Alessandra reminded the children that in Brazil, the language Portuguese is spoken. The children know how to say good morning in Portuguese (Bom dia), as they sing it as part of our multicultural good morning song we sing often. Becoming the intentional teacher, Miss Alessandra showed the children a video of a big Brazilian festival, called Carnival, which included lots of Samba songs and dance, as well as colourful costumes.

It was a lot of fun learning about each other's family through our My family topic. We talked about and saw photos of London's, Nadia's David's, Aiden's, Ariella's, Peyton's, Conor's and Sueann's families.

Thank you to all the families who have responded to the Topics 1 and 2 emails. It was so much fun getting to know our friends individually through the All about me topic and about their families through the My family topic! We are currently on Topic 3, Celebrations, until the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. Please don't forget to hand in/email your input!



News times in the Sunfish room



Singing at outdoor play



"Our worm box"



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Reading the book with Miss Stella



Letterland's time with Ms Ales 😊

Until next month,  
Jellyfish Educators.

## Lionfish News

*What a busy month we have had in the Lionfish room!*

*All of our new children are settling into the room really well and getting to know our routine.*

*February was 'Dental Awareness Month' so we have been talking to the children about looking after our teeth and also healthy eating.*

*We have watched Educational videos demonstrating how to clean our teeth properly and also about healthy eating. We have even been doing craft activities about this topic.*

*This month we also talked about 'Chinese New Year', which was the year of the Goat. We talked about how Chinese people celebrate and even made our own fireworks display. We also made goats using paper plates, and*



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lanterns to decorate our room. Thank you to Abigail's mum for sending in some photos and information.

The Lionfish children love bringing in things from home to show for News. Please check your emails if you want to know what our News topics is for the week and fill out our 'Family Input' form if you have done something on the weekend that you like to share with us. News times help the children become confident when talking in front of their friends.

We are also getting very good at helping to change our Calendar every day, changing the day, date, month, season and weather.

Outside the children love working together to assemble the train track. They then push the train tracks all around the track that sometimes stretches right across the yard!

They are also enjoying making music with the musical instruments on the mat under the tree.



We have started our Letterland program, introducing the characters Annie Apple, Bouncy Ben and Clever Cat. We have been practicing writing our letters, sounding them out and doing craft activities for each letter.



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*We have also enjoyed sharing books that some of the children have brought in from home. If your child has a favourite book, please bring it in so they can share it with their friends 😊*

*Till next month,  
Lionfish Educators.*

## Starfish Newsletter

*What a busy month to start off the year in the Starfish room!*

*Early this month, the children were showing great interest in exploring the train track during outdoor play. We looked at an information book about different type of trains during group time - steam train, bullet train, and electric train. The children were very interested about the steam train and bullet train.*



Catherine also introduced different type of transports to the children and discussed whether they are on land, in the sea or up in the sky. We then made a table to classify the mode of transport. They showed understanding as they were able to classify each transport and put them on the appropriate column. The children were also able to name most of the transportations... Well done boys and girls! =)





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One of the highlights was creating trains using different shapes, such as using rectangle for the body of the train, circle for the wheels and triangle for the top part of the train. The children helped each other in creating the train and explained to their friends the things they put to make their train.

During outdoor play, we also played a game "Let's go on a train ride" where the children held their friend's shoulder and we walked around the playground while singing the Down by the Station song...



## Worm farm...

We have been looking after our worm farm box since the beginning of this month.

Every morning after the morning tea, we took the left over fruit to the worm farm box. The children were very curious each time we opened the worm farm box and some of the children's comments were:

"Eww... It really stinks!"

"I can see one worm is crawling out of the box!"

"There's more and more worms now."

"I can see the worms eating the apple skin!"





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## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The children in Starfish room had a busy and productive week to participate in Chinese New Year celebration that fell on the 19<sup>th</sup> February. We had a cooking experience - learning how to make rice paper roll, making paper fan and lantern, and watching lion and dragon dance. The children enjoyed the lion dance and decided to do their own lion dance using the streamers and music instruments in the playground....



Till next Month,

Starfish Educators