



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 2016

Centre News

Welcome back to a new and exciting year at Pumpkin! We have sent out the News topic and All About Me's forms to all families. We believe that everything parents and families do interest children and these events, no matter how big or small are the best educational resources you can provide for the centre. We use these events in our curriculum/program and the ideas explored from your weekend can last for weeks. This allows you to see firsthand what we do and your child sees that there is a connection between home and the centre. This also strengthens the learning link.

As a part of the continuous improvement required by the National Quality Standards, we will be focusing on: engaging in open, meaningful interactions with children. Please let us know if we are not picking up your child's nonverbal cues. Please also find attached the Parent Survey with this Newsletter, your feedback will be greatly appreciated and used to maintain or improve our high quality standard here.

Christmas Concert 2015

What a successful concert we had last year! Thank you to all the parents, educators and of course the children that worked and practised so hard in preparing for the concert.





Staff News

- Miss Charlotte will be away from the 9th of to 18th of February 2016.
- Miss Sabina will be away from the 25th of January and she will be back to work on 07th of March 2016.

Calendar of Events

4th – Tuesday – World Cancer Day

08th – Monday - Chinese New Year – a Monkey Year.

09th – Tuesday - Carnival/Shrove Tuesday – Pancake day, day before lent begins.

10th – Wednesday - Ash Wednesday.

13th – Saturday – 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 - Sunday - Valentine’s Day

22nd - Monday – Lantern Festival – Chinese Tradition.

23rd- 24th – 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).

24th – Wednesday - Parent Information Night at 6.30 pm



Clownfish News

How amazing was the concert on the 11th of December? The Clownfish children were of course up first. Getting in our line and sitting down in our positions we were so excited to show you all what we have learn over the last few weeks. They surprised a lot of the families as they performed at their very best; singing, dancing and making shaking our bells along to the Jingle Bells song. Some of the children dressed in costumes and they were so precious. Here a couple of their individual photos that Corina could capture on that fun filled day. We would love to see if you took some photos or videos.



We hope you all had an amazing End of year break. It was awesome to hear the families' stories as they returned from their different adventures and holidays. It was a surprise to see some of younger Clownfish children return meeting different mile stones while on their break, from sitting up by themselves, some cruising and a couple now walking. It has been a great delight to return back to 2016.

This year we have begun the year a little quiet as some of the children were still on holidays out of Sydney. The Clownfish interest has really begun to take off. Having only four children return with us on the 4th of January they really wanted to focus on the Thomas the tank engine theme; using the trains we have here at the center, but also using the Ipad to listen to the theme song. This has carried threw the month of January. They have really taken to this area of interest. Emerging from the train to transport the clownfish children have begun a verse interest. Using the cars, trains and airplanes to explore. Rolling them around the room, we added the garage/ ramp for them to continue exploring. Some of the children rolled their transport item of choice down the ramp and some used the magnetic trains to connect to each other making trails. We then added some train tracks to their interest which a family donated to the center. The children were so excited to see this racing their trains and cars around the track. They have begun





Threw the month of January we have had a few calendar events that we have focused on. The 5th of January was the 14th Annual 'National Bird Day'. The health of the global bird population is a reflection of and early warning system for our wider ecological health, and current research indicates that up to 12% of all species of birds may be at risk of becoming extinct in the next century.

That morning we decided to make an artwork that we will do step by step and will continue for the whole week. It is a bird that we will make with paper plates, paints and some feathers. We started by cutting some paper plates into half and let the children paint them with blue and are still handing in the room.



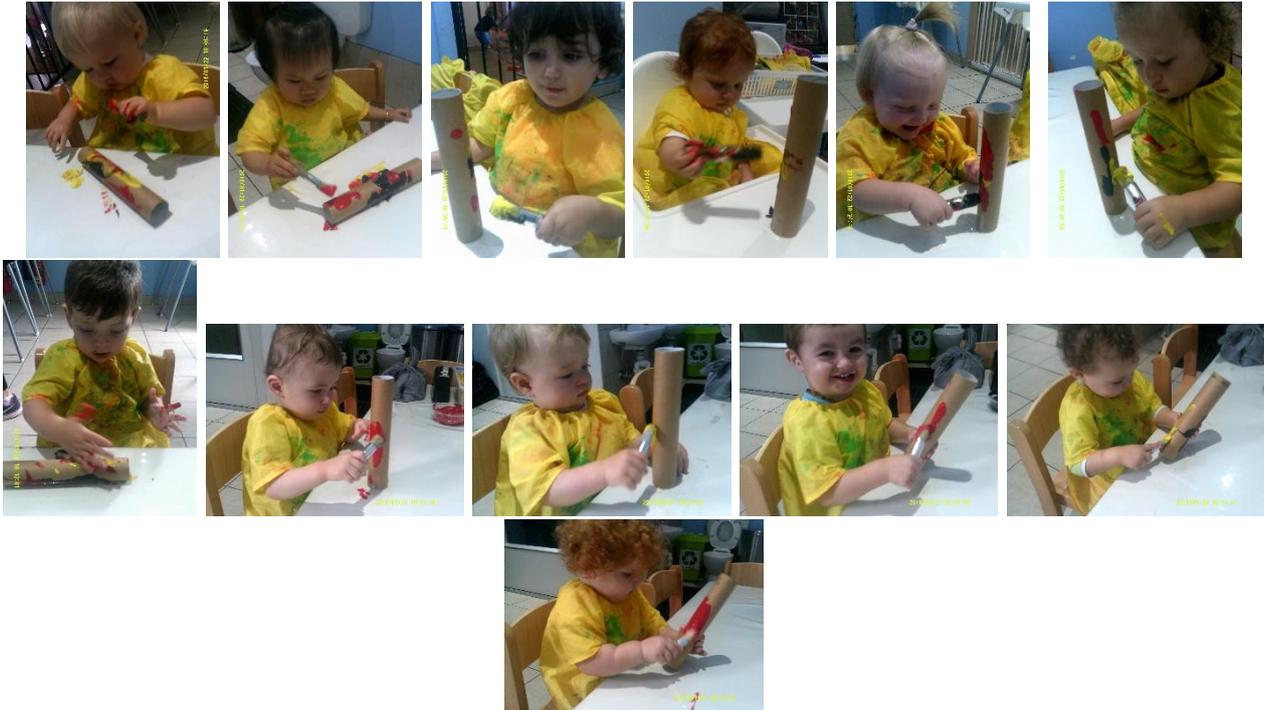
On the 7th we looked into the Orthodox Christmas the Clownfish children given the opportunity to paint and glitterise a typical older Orthodox Cross also knows as a Suppedaneum cross which we looked up and noticed they were gold or copper.



Then the 14th was the Orthodox New Year; where the children made cards to take home for their families. Leading up to Australia day 26th of January we knew the center would be closed so on the 22nd and the 25th we looked at the Australia

Leading up to Australia Day next week; we listen to the Australian National Anthem on the iPad. The educators sung the song while dancing alongside with the children. Then the clownfish continued to some other common Aussie songs; Waltzing Matilda, Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree and Click go the shears. The Friday 22nd and Monday 25th January children all had the

opportunity to paint a Digeridoo. The didgeridoo is a wind instrument developed by Indigenous Australians of northern Australia potentially within the last 1,500 years and still in widespread use today both in Australia and around the world. It is sometimes described as a natural wooden trumpet or "drone pipe". Musicologists classify it as a brass aerophone. The Clownfish children used the three colours from the Aboriginal flag; red, black and yellow and a recycled paper towel holder. Some of them used paint brushes to paint it, some used their hands following the brushes and some were content to just paint with their hands.



We also celebrating 'Tu B'Shevat' (Arbor Day): Jewish New Year of the Trees on the 22nd when during this day, people are encouraged to plant and care for trees. We read a story to the children about 'The Echidna and the Shade Tree' to incorporate this to our program.

Next month we will begin our month with the Chinese New Year celebrations. They Year of the Monkey; keep an eye out for the celebration topic and other interests.

Until next month,

Clownfish Educators

Jellyfish/Sunfish News

Happy New Year to all the children and families! A big welcome to Ben, Aliyah and Isaiah!

We started the month by cleaning and updating our date/weather chart as we got it ready for 2016. The children like talking about each day's weather, by verbally discussing it or by pointing to the weather pictures on the chart. They also enjoy singing our days of the week song.



At the aquarium – On the 4th, we explored William's book about the aquarium. Through the book, we discussed facts about many sea animals, such as about seahorses, rays, jellyfish, starfish and penguins. Thanks for sharing your great book, William!

National bird day! – On the 5th, the children learned that it was national bird day. As a group, they searched online for different kinds of birds. After discussing different types, the children got to explore feathers from the birds they had just seen pictures of. They were encouraged to notice the different sizes, colours and textures of the feathers. They explored feathers from a peacock, chickens, a turkey, magpies, pigeons and a cockatoo.



The children also engaged in artwork, making their own birds.

After the recent National bird day learning, the children got to see a flock of black cockatoos just outside our door on the 7th! They watched them flying, making loud sounds and being playful. They were encouraged to notice their yellow tails and cheeks. When we came back inside, we searched online to find out more about them. We learned that the yellow-tailed black cockatoo is a large cockatoo, is from our country and likes to eat seeds. On the 19th, the children got to know more birds (Eagle and Snow Pheasant) through a book requested by Koby – The Eagle who was afraid of flying.

A stop sign! – Also on the 5th, Archer found a stop sign in his vehicle play and proudly showed it to Ms Yuki, saying



“Stop sign”. Later on, Ms Alessandra encouraged a group discussion about traffic signs by showing the children a picture of a stop sign. The children were aware that stop signs ask cars to stop, as do red lights. Pedestrian safety was also discussed and the children agreed that they should hold hands with an adult to cross the road and always look both ways! The next day, the children used red, yellow and green to paint their representation of traffic lights. As the children painted their lights, a discussion about road safety was encouraged, such as sitting in a car seat with the seat belt on, keeping arms inside the car and respecting the traffic lights when crossing the road.



My photos! – The children showed enjoyment as they spontaneously found pictures they recognised around the room this month. They pointed to photos of themselves, their families and friends, discussing them with their peers. **So families, please make sure you keep sending in photos for the children to share, including a family photo if you have not done so yet. The children enjoy sharing their photos and having them to look at around our room.**

Fireworks – On the 7th, we received photos of Selena watching the fireworks in Coogee on New Year’s Eve. The children were reminded of similar photos from Eli’s time watching fireworks in Coogee (on the 5th) and discussed that watching fireworks at Coogee was something that many of them did since it is a beach in our community. Since we had been talking about fireworks for a week, we decided to engage in an indoor activity of painting fireworks. The children liked the twist in this painting activity, as they used forks instead of paint brushes to paint their fireworks.



Isaiah’s Holiday - On the 11th, we found out about Isaiah’s holiday (family input form). Ms Alessandra explained that he went to another country called New Zealand. The children looked at photos of the city he visited, Whakatane and learned that it is a very sunny place. Photos of the Kohi Point lookout (where he visited) were also explored. Next, the children learned about another type of



bird: the Kiwi bird! Isaiah went hiking to find the Kiwi birds. The children learned facts about it,

such as that it is a native bird from New Zealand, that it does not fly and that it lays very big eggs. Finally, the children found out that Isaiah also saw horses and cows on his holiday. Koby said “Milk from the cow” and “I love horses”. That encouraged a discussion about what products we get from animals, such as eggs from chickens. Later on, the children drew pictures of animals and engaged in animal play.



More Kiwi Bird – On the 13th, Ms Alessandra noticed that Jamal had a picture of a Kiwi bird on his t-shirt. Jamal was asked to show it to his friends since the Jellyfish children had

learned about Kiwi birds just on the previous Monday. But the children didn't show any recognition towards the bird on the t-shirt. So Ms Alessandra reminded them about Kiwi bird facts learned on the Monday: they are flightless birds from New Zealand, have a long beak, look a bit like a kiwi fruit and lay big eggs! The children were enthusiastic about engaging in a Kiwi bird activity, where they painted their representation of the bird, adding eyes and of course, a long beak!



The Tasmanian Devil – Also on the 13th, Archer brought in presents he received from his grandparents to share with his peers. He placed his Tasmanian devil puppet on his hand and showed it to his friends. The children learned that Tasmanian devils are Australian like them, and not from New Zealand as discussed about the Kiwi birds. It was also pointed out that they live at a place called Tasmania, where Archer's grandparents bought him the gifts. The children listened to Archer's book called Little Devils and enjoyed seeing the Tasmanian



devils and other Australian animals in the book. Minka pointed to a picture and said “I saw that one. A long time ago with Mummy and Roman”. It was explained that she was talking about an Echidna and the children were encouraged to notice how it looks a little



like a Kiwi bird because of its long snout but different due to its spines.

A cork stopper! - When we were transitioning inside from our early morning play on the 14th, William showed Ms Alessandra something he had brought in, "Look, Ms Alex! My cork from home". He was encouraged to show it to his peers. The Jellyfish children did not show any recognition towards the cork stopper. It was discussed that it probably came from a glass bottle from William's house as it is usually found on top of some bottles, much like a lid, keeping the liquid inside. The children watched a video of such a bottle being opened, watching how the liquid rushed to the top without the stopper in it. But they especially liked the 'pop' sound the bottle made and wanted to listen to it again and again. Ms Alessandra invited the children for a different painting experience. Using William's cork stopper and some stoppers we have on our artwork resources shelf, the children engaged in cork stopper painting. Thanks for bringing something different from home to share with us, William!



Skye's trip to the Blue Mountains – On the 19th, we explored photos and postcards of the sights Skye visited during her trip to the Blue Mountains, learning that she visited the Jenolan caves, rode on the big dipper train and went very high over the valley on the sky train to see the view below. The children learned that the big dipper train is the steepest train in the world and they were encouraged to notice its steep position in the photo. They also explored postcards of the Three Sisters and of the Katoomba Falls.

Finally, in an information booklet Skye also brought in to share, the children talked about pictures of birds they could see. Ms Alessandra explained that they were part of the wildlife in the Jamison Valley and were called Lyrebird, Rosella and Cockatoo. The children were also encouraged to

notice how the birds differentiated and were reminded about seeing the black Cockatoos not long before that. Thanks for sharing your trip pictures with us, Skye!



The mail - On the 18th, Isaiah, Muhid, Ben, Jamal, William, Eli and Archer spotted the postman arriving and quickly ran to watch him delivering letters. They



greeted the postman with smiles, waves and hellos and watched with curiosity as he delivered letters. Archer and Isaiah checked



the mail box when he was done and collected the letters for Ms Elly. Back inside, the children listened to a story called 'Postie Katie'. The children were encouraged to notice that postie Katie wears the same uniform as the postman from that morning and learned that they wear the yellow safety vest so that drivers can easily see them. There were discussions about how the letters get sent and delivered as Ms Alessandra read about it in the story. On the 19th, the topic of mail came up again as we spotted notes being sent in envelopes in a book. It was discussed that the name and address of the person who is receiving a letter goes on the envelope. Later on outside, Isaiah and Archer checked the mail box once again. Archer found a big envelope and handed it to Ms Alessandra. She pointed out the address and Ms Elly's name on it. On the 20th, the children engaged in a letter writing activity today. They wrote letters and/or made drawings and then folded them to fit in envelopes. They also learned new information about sending letters, as Ms Alessandra talked about stamps on letters and showed them different stamps online.

My feelings – The children have discussed how they were feeling on some days this month by finding the correspondent feeling picture on our Feelings chart for that day's feeling, and by verbally talking about them.

We celebrated **Australia day** by learning to sing Advance Australia Fair and by painting our own representation of the Australian flag with red and blue paint. We also discussed Australian animals as we read William's book, "Possum Magic". To extend the story we also decided to paint kangaroos.



Until next month,
Jellyfish/Sunfish Educators

Lionfish News

It's a brand new year in the Lionfish room! We have said bye to some old friends who have moved into the Starfish room, and invited in quite a few new friends. The Lionfish told Miss Catherine



about all the fireworks they saw to bring in the New Year. Barbara said I went to Coogee, while London said I saw them on tv, and Oma said me too. They then watched some on the computer. Heloise said "they are pretty", Ethan said, "They are loud". The group then made their own fireworks with glitter and glue. Xavier was one of the first to ask to do it. The group enjoyed creating the various shapes and colours with their glitter.

The Lionfish Have always shown an interest in animals. Particularly, this month, the children have enjoyed playing with animal toys during indoor play. They like to group the similar animals together in groups, and make their animal noises. On the 4th, Sueann said, "Look Miss Charlotte, there's two of these", holding up two turkeys. Conor and Aiden played with the dinosaurs together. They made loud dinosaur noises and pretended to eat one another. They found this very funny.



The Educators also put out some puzzles to extend on the children's interest in animals. Hailey, George, Christopher, Heloise, Eve and London all enjoyed doing them. Christopher pointed to the numbers and named them, he held up a number and said, "It's 6!" Eve pointed out the zoo animals to London and named them. She said, "that's an elephant!"



They have never lost interest in the home corner. Heloise and London played in the home corner together on the 4th, "I want to be the dad", said Heloise, "I'm the mum", said London. They pretended to kiss their baby doll and feed it and change it. Then, London instructed the girls, "you need to get off the mat because i need to



vacuum it, off everyone!" She did a very good job at vacuuming it. The other Lionfish watched her. Xavier and Conor also played in home corner together. "I got you some ice-cream" Xavier said to Conor passing it to him, "eat it quickly or it will melt!" and Conor pretended to eat it. "Thank you Xavier", said Conor.



The Lionfish have also shown a particular interest in building and constructing things this month. They are always asking for the playdough to be brought out so that they can play with it. For example, on the 7th, they had great fun with the playdough , manipulating the dough with their hands , then cutting it into shapes or making different things. London said, “Look, I’ve made a big circle!” Conor held up his and said, “Mine’s a Xmas Tree!” Xavier found a cone and added play dough, “Look I made an ice-cream ...a pink one!” he said.



They like to build with the blocks together too. Conor and George played together with the lego blocks on the 8th... “We’re building George a house”, said Conor, “and I’m helping”, said George. They built it up very nicely, and then all knocked it down at the same time. They would laugh about this together and say, “let’s start again now”. They played very nicely together helping one another out, “this one should go here”, and “this one should go on top of that”, they would say to one another. “Conor’s my best friend”, said George, and Conor agreed.

We celebrated Australia Day by making a few different things. The children made Opera Houses, to display in our room. A few of the Lionfish recalled having seen the Opera House with their family before, and so they watched a short video to refresh their



memory of what it looked like. Also, Miss Tracey talked to the children about Australia Day and how we celebrate and the Australian flag. We learnt its history and talked about where we see it . Sue Ann said, “You can put it on the Harbour Bridge!” We started making our own flags over the next following of days.



We have really enjoyed getting to know our new Lionfish (as well as some new things about our older Lionfish) through listening to their news which is "all about me" at the moment. If you could please fill in an "all about me" sheet which has been emailed out, and bring it back to us, that would be greatly appreciated! :)

Until next time,

Lionfish Educators

Starfish News

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016!!!!

We would like to welcome new and existing families and children to Starfish Room. We are very excited to see lots of new and familiar faces in Starfish room.

Just a quick recap of things we did over the festive season in December... Starfish educators would like to thank all of the children and families who participated in our very successful Christmas party. We hope you had as much fun as we did! =)

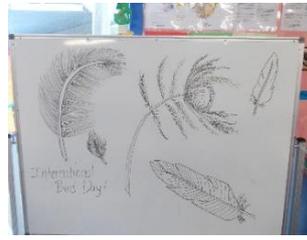
We were really pleased with how our Christmas Craft had turned out, as we had created a large '3D Christmas Tree' complete with 'Star' for our room, made completely from Cardboard boxes, paint and glitter.



Santa Pancakes! Yummo!!

We also did cooking experience – making Santa Pancakes. We looked up the recipe from the Internet and decided to use strawberries for Santa's hat and nose, and sultanas for his nose. And to make Santa's fluffy white beard, the children helped add some fresh whipped cream. With Miss Rebecca and Miss Maya taking turns with cooking the pancakes and Miss Cory decorating them with the children, Starfish worked quite well as a unit and the taste testing verdict according to Miss Cory and the children? They were delicious!!





National Bird Day!

Earlier this month on the 5th January, we celebrated '**National Bird Day**', a day where we can raise awareness as well as improve our education about the physical and behavioural needs of Birds here in Australia and around the globe and how to improve their wellbeing in captivity and in the wild.

To further their knowledge and understanding, the children were given the opportunity to closely observe and handle some feathers that Miss Rebecca had collected from the local community. The children were able to name some of the birds, as they had recognised the colours, being able to name the Cockatoo's and the Rainbow Lorikeet's feather.



Miss Rebecca began Introducing feathers to the children as they sat down at the tables., As the children were given feathers to hold and share amongst their little groups, it was explained that these feathers had been collected from the birds in our area, such as;

Ibis, Corella, Cockatiel, Wild Budgerigars, Magpies, Currawong, Peewee, Peacock, Emu, Australian and Indian Minor Bird, Duck, Chicken, Rainbow Lorikeet, Princess Parrot, Rose-Crested Galah, Crow/Raven, Turtle Dove and Pigeon.

Each child was able to choose their own image of either a Peacock Feather, Pigeon Bird or the Duck feathers. To give the Pigeons and feathers a shiny look, the children were provided with a little glitter to sprinkle over the feathers. Muhammed and Summer chose to do the Peacock feathers and both did very well in depicting the 'eye' on the feather by using different coloured

paints. Xavier decided that he'd change his pigeon into a duck and painted a longer beak on his picture. They look great Starfish!!!



Australia Day Celebration!

The children were very busy on the week leading up to Australia day – participating in various art and craft for the Australia Day celebration. We looked at the map of Australia to find out where we live. When asked what is name of the city we live in, some children said, “Sydney!” Cory said, “Well done Starfish. You are right. We live in the city of Sydney...”

We also looked at some of the famous icons in Sydney, such as the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. After some group discussion, we decided to create our own Harbour Bridge and Opera House where children shared their personal experience seeing and being on the Harbour Bridge and Opera House.



Painting and Learning about our Australian flag!

The children and Starfish educators decided to create Australian flag using a recycled cardboard box. We counted the stars on the flag and Miss Rebecca explained about the stars and the meanings of the symbolism of the flag, being explained that below the Union Jack is a white Commonwealth or Federation star.

They look awesome Starfish, well done!!! ☺



A for alligator, ant, anteater, animal, and Australia!

On the last week of January, we started our Letterland learning experience. The children enjoyed painting lots of A on our brand new see-through painting easel, which then were transferred to a piece of paper.

To extend on our Letterland learning, we created a life size Alligator with cardboard! Awesome! The children suggested to decorate the alligator with recycle materials such as egg cartboards, paper plates and used papers. What a creative art work Starfish! Very impressive! =)

Till next month!
 Cheers,
 Starfish Educators

