



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter – September 2016

### Centre News

Due to the warm weather, we have started our summer routine which means we go outside in the morning now. Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child's face and body prior coming to Pumpkin in the morning, it will take 15 minutes for the sunscreen to be absorbed. The skin has seven layers, allowing the sunscreen to absorb into the skin before going out in the sun, will ensure its effectiveness, it allows it to set. Please also bring in your child with a hat (bucket or legionnaire, no cap please).

### **Excursion to Bowen Library**

The starfish children visited the Bowen Library this month.

**Before the excursion, Miss Alessandra and Rebecca** had the discussion about the important things they need to remember to have a safe and fun excursion. They also discussed how their routine would change a little bit that day, as they will have lunch earlier and rest later than usual. The children showed just how well they have been listening☺

**On the way to the library and back** – After finding their seats and fastening their seatbelts (something they had discussed many times lately), they were off. The Starfish children enjoyed the ride, pointing out to peers and Ms Alessandra familiar community places, such as streets they recognised, route to Pumpkin, restaurants, buildings and family member's place of work. It was great to see the children helping each other with the seat belts and holding hands on the bus. (4.3 Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another, 1.4 Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect).



## **School Photos 2016**

PLEASE CHECK YOUR PHOTO DATES

**PHOTO DATES**

Wed 19.10.16  
Thurs 20.10.16  
Fri 21.10.16

A colorful pirate-themed poster for school photo dates. It features a pirate ship with a skull and crossbones on the mast, a parrot, a girl in a pirate hat, and a parrot. The text 'PLEASE CHECK YOUR PHOTO DATES' is at the top, and 'PHOTO DATES' is written in large, stylized letters. Below that, the dates 'Wed 19.10.16', 'Thurs 20.10.16', and 'Fri 21.10.16' are listed. A logo for 'FOTEX THE PHOTO PEOPLE' is in the top left corner.

# October Calendar of Events

**All Month** – Energy Awareness Month.

**01<sup>st</sup> – 09/10/16** – Navaratri – Hindu – Worship of Durga.

**03<sup>nd</sup> – Monday** – Labour Day – Centre Closed.

**02<sup>nd</sup> – 04/10/16** – Rosh Hashanah – Jewish tradition, commemorates the creation of the world.

**05<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday** – The Walk to School Day.

**11<sup>th</sup> – 12/10/16** – Yom Kippur – Jewish tradition.

**11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** – Tuesday – Indian Festival “remover of bad fate”.

**10<sup>th</sup> - 11/10/16** – Eid Al Adha – Islamic tradition.

**10<sup>th</sup> - Monday** – Vijaya Dashami – Hindu tradition, this marks the triumph of good over evil.

**16<sup>th</sup> – Friday** – World Food Day.

**21<sup>st</sup> – Friday** - Loud Shirt Day – Wear a loud shirt and help deaf children.



## **Clownfish News**

First of all, we would like to welcome all the new family to clownfish room, we got the twins Michelle & Daniel; Adriana; Blair; Isaac; Penelope.W and Adem. Wow! Lots of new faces and new explorations this month! 😊

Throughout this month we have been noticing children's ability to recognize some of their friend's name and speaking more of new words! 😊 We will be supporting their social development further by adding more of small/large group experiences during the day that requires the children expand their verbal/non- verbal language knowledge (social skill). Its great too see the children make friend with each other as well as taking care of each other throughout the day.



## **Dental health**

At the beginning of this month, the clownfish children haven been focusing on “dental health” discussion, we read a story called “Dr.Rabbit meets a brush-a-lot-a-must” and also sang a song “this is the way you brush your teeth”; the children are being reminded to brush their teeth twice a day(after breakfast and before you go to the bed) as well as a reminder that sugary food is not good for our teeth!

Lots of family inputs have supported children's interest during that “health week”, proving that the children have been doing this hygiene practice at home too!



## **Planting the Sunflowers ☺**

Gardening has become children’s most exciting routine in this happy season, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September we planted sunflower seeds on our new garden bed, we noticed children initiated and showed their interest to take care of their environment. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of September we spotted some sprout came out from the sunflower seed. We couldn’t wait to see the actual sunflower pop-up!



## **“Book week”**

Observing children’s current interest towards books, pictures, sounds, rhymes, counting, talking we then realize that we need to actively support their social development by providing more activities that support their verbal/non- verbal language. During the week (26<sup>th</sup> September – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016) They proudly brought their favorite book from home and shared it during group times, they even brought up the prop of the story telling. Thank you for sharing boys and girls! ☺



## Constructive play

Towards the end of the month, we got lots of new resources coming to our room, one of children's current favorite toys is "magnetic shape"! At first Miss Stella demonstrated certain ways to build and stack all those shapes together, the following days, the clownfish children quickly responded to the demonstration, Penelope successfully built a bridge out of it, other children cooperatively created an ice cream cone using triangle shapes, castles, houses, and many more.



## FAMILY PHOTOS

Please bring your family photo, you can send it in via email or you can just put the copy inside the children's bag. We would like to display it at our room to complete Clownfish family tree.

We would like to thank all parents and families who always support us in delivering the best service to the children through daily communication and the fortnightly input. 😊



Until next month,  
Clownfish educators  
Cheers!

# Jellyfish & Sunfish News

A Big Welcome to Novo, Jaziah and Zachary!

Belated Happy Birthday to Ben, Chase, Russell and Archer😊

Three of our children has left this month. Elodie has moved to the Lionfish room, Skye is now attending preschool, whilst Renee has to stop coming to Pumpkin for at least six months due to medical condition. Hopefully Renee will be better soon and be back at Pumpkin early next year.



October Birthday Celebrants:

Michael- 14<sup>th</sup>

Zachary- 11th



We welcomed spring by looking at the images of spring in Australia, and discussion about the weather change. We saw lots of beautiful flowers and Skye shared to us that they have flowers in



their home. Elodie and Archer said that they have flowers in their garden as well. Archer added that he helped his Daddy in looking after their plants. Since it's the start of spring and the children are showing interest in gardening, we decided to start



planting seeds and make their own little garden to look after. We agreed that to grow our plants, we need soil, seeds, water and sunlight.

Ms Sabina prepared the pots and the seeds and the children helped in sprinkling the seeds and covering them with earth, then they watered them.



To further extend the children's interest in gardening, Ms Elly bought a planter box and some flower seeds for us. For our group time, we looked at photos of beautiful flowers and everyone agreed to help in sprinkling flower seeds to our planter box.



### **Father's Day afternoon tea**

We celebrated Father's Day at Pumpkin on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Weeks before that, the children were busy helping making the card for their Dads.

Thank you to all Dads who took time to join their child/ren for afternoon tea. ☺



### **Looking after Our garden**

Every day, we try to involve children in looking after our garden by giving them chance to water our garden both indoors and outdoors.



### **New Toys**

Ms Elly bought lots of exciting new toys for our room which the children are enjoying. We got new sets of sorting eggs, magnetic blocks, musical toys, medical set, mini battery operated cars and lots more. We got lots of exciting story books as well for our group time that we read each day.



### **Reminder:**

The weather is getting warmer now. Please pack appropriate spare clothing and blanket in your child's bag according to weather conditions and please refrain from dressing up your child in singlet/sleeveless top.

Until next month,  
Jellyfish and Sunfish Educators

## Lionfish News

This month, as Spring has arrived, the children have been interested in exploring the garden, helping to plant seeds and seedlings and also helping to care for and nurture it. We have also been learning about Sustainability, caring for our worm farm, feeding the worms the left over scraps from morning and afternoon tea and then using the nutrient rich soil in our garden and planting activities.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September, Ariella brought in some flowers to show us and Hart and William brought in news about doing some planting in their gardens at home. We also learnt about what plants need to grow and the different parts of plants and flowers. Outside, we planted some flower seeds in clear cups, using cotton wool so we can watch them germinate. We also planted our fruit seeds we have been collecting in the worm farm.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September, the Lionfish children explored the garden, spying a butterfly and watching as it flew around then landed on different plants. They also saw some bees, and we talked about not touching bees and how they collect the pollen to make honey. The children were also eager to observe our seeds, that we had planted last week in the clear cups with cotton wool, and see if any had germinated. We noticed small shoots growing from the Sunflower seeds and the Swan River Daisy seeds. The children were very excited to see the change!

We have also enjoyed participating in a variety of physical activities outside, due to the beautiful Spring weather. On 8<sup>th</sup> September, Arya and Seraya refined their gross motor skills as they climbed the rock wall, becoming more confident each time they attempted it. Seraya then moved across to the obstacle course, working with Harrison and Ethan (Starfish) to set it up.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September, we also continued planting some seeds, using the soil from our worm farm. The children gathered around to watch as Miss Rebecca collected the nutrient rich soil from the worm farm to use in our new planter boxes. They were fascinated, looking at the worms wriggling in the soil. Miss Rebecca transferred the soil into the planter box and the children helped plant baby beetroot and sunflower seeds. We also made our own Spring flowers using different coloured patty pans and circles for the pollen.





We have also enjoyed participating in a variety of physical activities outside, due to the beautiful Spring weather. On 8<sup>th</sup> September, Arya and Seraya refined their gross motor skills as they climbed the rock wall, becoming more confident each time they attempted it. Seraya then moved across to the obstacle course, working with Harrison and Ethan (Starfish) to set it up.



When they had moved all the pieces, they combined gross motor and balance skills as they walked around it. Nadia, Koby and William also joined in when they arrived, refining their gross motor and balance skills.



Also on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, the Lionfish again showed great collaboration and cooperation as they worked together to assemble the cones and planks into an obstacle course. When they had finished, they practised their balancing and jumping skills. Later on, Koby and Aiden moved the pieces further down the yard and worked together to construct their own course to use.



Jamal and Eli were busy in the top playground, practising their pedalling skills as they rode the bikes around the yard. Jose and Felipe also practised their ball skills in the top playground. They practised throwing the ball into the hoop and also kicking the ball around the yard. They had great fun together!



On the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September, the Lionfish children again showed great teamwork, imagination and cooperation as they worked together, using a variety of equipment, to set up their own obstacle course. They asked Miss Tracey if they could have the hoops out, so they could extend the course and make it more interesting and challenging. When the course was completed, they took it in turns to practise their gross motor and balancing skills. They walked, jumped and hopped across the course, having a great time together!



We have also enjoyed using our cognitive and memory skills, participating in a variety of games. On 5<sup>th</sup> September, Miss Rebecca set up a table with a Giant Snakes and Ladders Game. Some of the Lionfish children gathered around as Miss Rebecca explained how to play, eagerly waiting for a turn. When it was their turn, they chose what colour counter they wanted and took it in turns to roll the dice. They practised their counting skills, on the dice and also as they moved their counters around the board. They also practised their counting skills with each other.



On 6<sup>th</sup> September again, some of the Lionfish children enjoyed practising their memory recall and turn taking skills as they participated in a game of Memory. Just a reminder to not bring small toys into the centre as these can become a hazard. Also, please label your child's water bottle and clothing so we can keep track of whose is whose!

Until next month,

# Starfish News



## **A big welcome to Aiden!**

The children continued to learn and engage in their own and their peers' favourite games as the month started. They continued playing some of their favourites such as hide and seek, Jenga and Twister. And learnt to play



Connect4, Trouble, Snakes and ladders, memory games, I spy with my little eye, Jumping frogs, Hungry hippos, a card game from Italy and Tick tack toe. The children came up with 'Piggy in the middle' outside and with chanting during games! Throughout the month, they continued initiating games amongst peers.

On the 1<sup>st</sup>, they celebrated the start of spring by exploring a bright flora Ms Rebecca brought in. They also engaged in a discussion about Wattle Day. When shown the sprig, the children were invited to use their senses to describe it as they got to explore it. Outside, they engaged in Still Life painting to create wattle flowers.



The children showed curiosity in rulers and measurement after being introduced to a workbench donated by Ms Rebecca. To extend on their interest and also to teach them a little about how to read the measurements, Ms Rebecca used a long role of

paper and asked each child to lay down, so that she could mark their heights, explaining that once she had finished, they would then have a chance to use the ruler to add the numbers on the side and that way they can match them up to the marks and find out how tall the children are. They continued using rulers in activities throughout the month. For example, on the 18<sup>th</sup>, they used the rulers that interested them and created straight and curved lines, patterns and also pictures. They also measured Ms Rebecca and varied objects. We now have a height chart in our room!



The children got to see what happened to the density tower they made during last month's Science week. They were able to observe bacteria growing and were shown some additional information on the computer to enable them to learn more about why their towers changed. That led the group to learning more about microbes, viruses and bacteria. They even drew their own microbes!





The nature interest returned this month with the children paying attention to lizards, butterflies, snails and bees. They also enjoyed exploring creepy crawlies found around the yard such as a baby huntsman spider and a



grasshopper. They even go to keep the spider as a pet for a few days in our bug catcher. The children engaged in discussions this month with their educators about keeping safe near the garden creepy crawlies and insects. Extending on their observed interest, the children were provided with opportunities to rotate and feed the worm farm, to handle worms and baby



snails. Lots of gardening was facilitated this month: they helped to sew Bok choy seeds into containers, planted sunflowers, marigold, Californian poppy, lettuce and beetroots in the new garden beds. They have been excitedly observing the growth in the beds. Additionally, they engaged in a Gumnut Still Life painting experience after Sally brought in a Gumnut flower to share, drew their representation of spring time after Samantha brought her drawing in and made birds with seed pods from a Kurrajong tree brought in by Ms Rebecca from her house!



And of course, we had our library excursion this month! Throughout the excursion, the children demonstrated that indeed they listened to all our safety discussions and showed excellent listening, behaviour



and manners. They were praised on their efforts and promised another excursion! At the library, they enjoyed songs, many stories, a video about the importance of reading for about 20 minutes a day, decorated bookmarks, learnt about library memberships and went on a tour of the junior section where they explored books and dvds and learnt about the special order in which they are placed. What a great day of learning!

Towards the end of the month, the children started showing an interest in hula hoops. They enjoyed challenging themselves and learning new tricks.

Until next month, Starfish educators ☺