



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – January 2019

Centre News

Happy New Year 2019 and welcome back to Pumpkin! We hope you have had an enjoyable summer break. The children have certainly had lots of exciting stories to share. We believe these stories, no matter how big or small are the best educational resources you can provide for the centre. We use these stories in our curriculum/program and the ideas explored from your stories 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 service, this also strengthens the learning link.

We also believe that working in partnerships with families is central to ensuring continuity and progression in a child's learning, development and future success!

Our Service will cater for different capacities and learning styles and invite children and families to contribute ideas, interests and questions (Early Years Learning Framework).

Christmas Concert 2018

What a successful concert we had last year (even with the rain)! Thank you to all the parents, families, educators and of course the children who worked and practised so hard in preparing the concert.





Calender of Event February 2019

4th – Monday – World Cancer Day

05th - Tuesday – Chinese New Year (Year of Pig)

10th - Sunday - 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- Thursday - Valentine's Day.

19th - Tuesday - Lantern Festival - Chinese Tradition.

19th - Tuesday – Magha Puja – Buddhist Festival.

28th – Thursday - Parent Information Night at 6.30 pm.



Clownfish News



Welcome to the first month of the year 2018! We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and are ready for the great year ahead. We welcome all our new friends Billie, Matilda, Elias, Hazel, Milla,



Kingston and Joziah to the room and hope they enjoy their time with us 😊.

The Clownfish children have been building relationship with their new peers and



educators as the children were also heard verbally making a request and expressing their needs for comfort and help. Our month begin with the children's interest in sound from books, songs, animals and everyday



life. To support their interest further, the educators read several animals books to get the children familiar with the animals sounds, prepared the musical instruments, cars and trains. The children were able to mimic the



familiar sound such as the roaring lion, the squeaking mice, the quacking duck the monkey etc.

Role play and water play had been dominant in the children play. Water play become their favorite's media to express their imagination and creativity as well to exercise their motor skills. The educators

prepared a variety of resources such as animals, kitchen sets, pretend food and ball. The children showed their creativity differently as they pretended to cook, eat, water the plants or just had fun splashing and pouring the water out.

Happy Australia day – To commemorate the Australian Day, the children had the chance to research about Australia national flag, the shapes and colours. The educators prepared a painting experiences where the children could exercise their grip as well as increase awareness about Australia.



Parent reminder:

- Please ensure to pack spare clothes for your children as some experiences can get them messy or wet. As the weather keep changing, it may be a good idea to pack thin jumper for outdoor play
- Please remember to bring in a family photo for the family tree. The photo will be displayed in the room to support the children's sense of belonging
- Family input is very important for children's learning and development. Please share any information we could use and include into children's learning plans such as family weekend, current interest, favourite song/books or any exciting news 😊

Until next month,

Clownfish educators

Jellyfish News



Happy New Year 2019 to all Jellyfish children and families. Wishing you all the best, may this year be filled with happiness, health, blessing, and love. Thank you to all families who have given your best to support the children' learning. It has been wonderful being a part of this learning journey! We started strong this month as the children showed various interests from home and their relationship with peers and environment. Big welcome to Ayden, George, and Sophie to the Jellyfish room! ☺

Fireworks



At the beginning of the year, the children at Pumpkin have been sharing their experience watching firework with his family during New Year's Eve. They were actively sharing the colours that they saw such as green, red, and yellow. Miss Stella decided to further the learning by displaying Australia midnight firework over the harbour during group time. The children were encouraged to use their sensory capabilities to identify the colour and hear the sound. The interest was being extended as the children were instructed to show their creative arts making their very own firework painting!

Water play experience



The Jellyfish children were openly requesting for water play experience throughout our outdoor play. Educators set up various water activities to further the learning such as cooking role play, coloured water exploration, water ball experience, exploring waterfall, experimenting icy water, and many more. They used investigation to solve problem and make predictions. Beside the

water play, sand pit and other physical experiences were also prompting their imagination and curiosity! The Jellyfish children have been interestedly practicing their jumping skill throughout the outdoor play. The outdoor environment was designed differently to further their learning experiences.



Bear stories interest



The interest occurred at the middle of the month, where the children were showing great interest reading various bear stories such as ‘the very cranky bear’, ‘the very hungry bear’, and also ‘we are going on the bear hunt’. Then, children also had an opportunity to have a ‘Teddy Bear Picnic’ on the 10th of January. They were bringing lunch boxes and their very own teddy bear! We had fun singing nursery rhymes, talking about healthy foods, reading a bear story, eating, and drinking while enjoying the picnic.

Gardening



Soil – seed – water – grow! – Towards the end of the month the Jellyfish children have been showing active participation in demonstrate knowledge and care for their natural environment. They often found a tiny little seed from the ground and initiated to water it. Miss Stella then decided to read a story

called 'Little Green Helpers Grow!' to further the children's learning. Right after the story, we had a quick visit to our neighbourhood investigating the natural environment such as grasses and flowers. The children exchanged ideas and interest while trying to smell and touch the plants. Afterwards, we had a chance watering the garden with Miss Stella and played around with water mist. The children also had an opportunity to further the learning by setting up a garden painting activity where the children could paint on the transparent easel!

Parent reminder:

- Please remember to pack and clothe your child in weather appropriate clothing. We also require **a shirt with sleeves** and **a bucket hat**, for full sun protection during outdoor play.
- If your child is in the process of toilet training, please pack **3-4 changes** of clothes as our spare clothes is **limited**.
- We will be having our new family wall, if you want to share your updated family photos, feel free to send it to us!

Until next month,

Jellyfish educator

Lionfish News

January is nearly over but I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break, both new and old families and children. The Lionfish children are settling well into the routine with the Starfish children. We have had several new children move up from the Jellyfish Room and the other children have been very welcoming, helping them settle into their new room.

The Lionfish children have shown a great interest in role play throughout the month of January, both indoors and outdoors. They have used their imaginations and creativity as they prepare meals in the home corner areas as well as other areas of the playground. They have also enjoyed baby play, looking after their babies, feeding them, getting them to sleep and taking them on picnics. They even asked to take the baby dolls outside so they could continue their play.



They have also enjoyed joining in with the Starfish children, using a variety of construction pieces including, lego, project blocks and mega blocks to construct a variety of buildings, towers and houses. They have also continued their work throughout the week, returning to their constructions. They have added a variety of Super heroes and other people to their work.



Because of the hot weather this month, we have been participating in a lot of water play at the children's request. We have practised our colour and number recognition as well as our counting skills as we caught fish using small nets. We have also learnt about other mathematical concepts as we have used different sized containers in the water, measuring and learning about volume.



Miss Rebecca has also been organising a variety of art'n'craft activities for the children to participate in, including making our own Family tree wall, incorporating all the different rooms in the centre.



The Lionfish children are also very enthusiastic about news, bringing in photos, toys and books and information about experiences they have participated in with their families. We have developed a new news roster and also a news basket for the children to place their news in when they arrive in the morning.



Until next month,

Lionfish Staff 😊

Starfish News

Miss Nicole (Starfish room leader) and Miss Rebecca (Fabulous room educator) would like to welcome all children and families to the Starfish room for 2019. We are very much looking forward to working closely with our Starfish children and their families and eager to see what 2019 brings! Let the journey begin!

If you have any enquiries, questions, concerns or information regarding children's needs, please speak to Miss Elly, Miss Nicole, or Miss Rebecca.

This month we have welcomed new friends who have moved up from the Lionfish room. We have also said goodbye and good luck to some friends who will leave for primary school at the end of this month. To give our friends a good send off for Big School, Starfish were involved in a cooking experience-making savoury and sweet pizzas.

Parent Reminders:

- Please check your emails to keep updated on what's happening within the room.
- Please label all children's belongings including drink bottles, hats and jackets/jumpers.
- Please provide at least 2 spare changes of clothes, including socks.
- With the current warmer weather please ensure your child has a wide brimmed hat and their shirt/dress covers their shoulders. Please no thin straps, singlets or clothing, which exposes the back.
- If your child has any shirts, pants or shorts that they have grown out of and willing to donated for the centres' spare clothes, please bring them and give them to Miss Rebecca, Miss Nicole or Miss Tracey. They will be much appreciated.



Water Play- The high temperature this month lead to a growing interest in water play. The Starfish children would frequently request for the water table to be set up. Collaboratively we firstly explore mixing colours through adding various differing food

colouring as requested and even soap for bubbles. The Starfish also used plastic nets to catch toy fish, when doing to categorising by colour and discussing numeracy concepts. For example counting how many they caught and simple addition and subtraction. We poured and transferred water from different sized containers and gave animals a bath using sponges.





News- The Starfish were eager to share their news with their peers and educators. We learnt about various holidays, family outings and special toys and gifts received over the Christmas break. It is great to see the Starfish sharing their news, this will provide a basis for future learning experiences and strength the connection between the home



and school environment. Please remember you can e-mail news and photos into us too. This year we will be using a news basket, which will be located on the dress up shelf near the kitchen. The Starfish are encouraged to place any news items in the basket upon arrival and back into their bag once done. Please note that if your child is bringing something from home, that it will fit into their bag. The reasoning being as we don't want the item to be misplaced while at Pumpkin.

Family Sea Wall- The Starfish children and educators have also been working with the Lionfish room to create our very own family sea wall. This is this year's representation of the family tree. This connects back to how Pumpkin's rooms are named after sea animals and how in each room we are a family and a large family together as a centre. The Starfish have used various art and craft techniques to create our family sea wall, these including but not limited to painting using



water paint, collage, paint dripping. They have also commenced suggesting other animals to add. **We invite all families to share a current photo (please bring in or e-mail) to add to our growing family sea wall.**



Construction- Within both the indoor and outdoor learning environment the Starfish assembled, invented and constructed using various resources. The large and small Lego blocks were used in order to construct various houses, buildings and towers. Some of the Starfish brought in their Treasure X toys, which in turn lead the Starfish



to use the Lego and the indoor wooden blocks to create their own treasure chests and hide treasure inside. The Starfish also created birthday cakes and were seen role-playing cutting them, sharing them and pretending to eat

them. There was a high level of collaboration and communication, as the Starfish frequently explained and discussed, what they built with other peers and educators.



Dramatic Play and Games- While in the cubby house the Starfish were frequently engaged in



dramatic play. They took on the roles of mummies, babies, daddies. This was further enhanced through the dress ups and use of the home corner resources.

It was great to see the Starfish assisting each other put on and take off the dress ups. While in the sandpit the Starfish once again employed their brilliant imaginations and creativity as they began to cook up a storm. There



were cakes, cupcakes, muffins, and soup; you just needed to watch out for the poison's ones! Also, this month, the children

have been showing an interest in large group games, including 'Duck Duck Goose', 'The Grinch', 'Doggy Doggy where's your bone', demonstrating the children's abilities in pro-social behaviours involving turn-taking and fairness.



Australia day- To celebrate Australia Day, Starfish children were given the chance to discuss with



the educators and their classmates what they got up to with their families and friends. Through learning relationships with their teachers, the children were able to recognise the iconic symbols of Sydney, including 'Sydney Harbour Bridge', 'Luna Park' and 'Sydney Opera House'. The children then



used their artistic abilities to draw these structures during outdoor play, along with being given the opportunity to listen to a traditional song called 'Inanay Gupu Wana', the Australian version as well as the Aboriginal version of 'Advanced Australia Fair'.

Until next time,

Starfish educators ☺