



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 – March 2015

Centre News

Easter is almost here, this year we are going to have our Easter Bonnet Parade on Thursday, 02nd April. Parents are to help their children to make an "Easter Bonnet". The children will parade their hats this Thursday and we will do the egg hunting as well 😊

Our centre will be closed from 03rd April, Friday and we will reopen on Tuesday, 07th April. Happy Easter everyone!

Sustainable Practice

We planted some tomato seeds in our garden, look at them now! We can pick some tomatoes to make a yummy salad.



Tomato Plant



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Look at our Mango plant, it has grown so tall, can't wait for the fruits now. We have three Mango Plants at Pumpkin, they all are growing so well.



Our Mango Plant.

On Sunday, the 01st of March 2015, we celebrated Clean Up Australia Day. Ms Cory showed the Starfish children how to celebrate day, the children watched some videos from computer.

Summer: "The koalas picking up the bottle.."

Yana: "And the kangaroo too. He picks up the can."

Cory: "That's right. Clean Up Australia Day is when we help each other to clean our environments, for example pick up rubbish that we can see when we play at the park or at the beach."

Staff News

- Ms Pimpini will be away from the 07th of April and she will be back to work on Monday, 13th April 2015.
- Ms Maylene will be away from the 08th of April and she will be back to work on Wednesday, 15th of April 2015.
- Ms Cheryl will be away from the 10th of April and she will be back on Monday, 04th of May 2015.



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News Topic at Pumpkin

The Pumpkin children had such a wonderful time with the News topics in 2014 that we have brought it back with a lot more, updated topics for the children to talk about. Each weekly/fortnightly topic relates to the new Early Years Learning Framework's five outcomes. These include:

1. Children have a strong sense of identity
2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world
3. Children have a strong sense of well-being
4. Children are confident and involved learners
5. Children are effective communicators

By involving these outcomes, the children's learning is supported and enhanced continuously as children learn to communicate properly, and respect one another, which ultimately supports a child's transition into school.

In the Jellyfish, Lionfish and Starfish room, the children will briefly tell their news, and describe their photo or drawing, and then choose a friend to ask a question using our question sight words - *Who? When? Why? Which? Where? How? What?* Following this, the children will receive positive feedback regarding their news presentation.

News time was first initiated after a parent suggestion was made in our first parent meeting back in February 2011. They asked that we include a more structured school readiness program in the Starfish room that would further stimulate the older pre-schoolers. From last year, we started to introduce the News topic in every room and they have shown to be most



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successful in guiding children's learning by challenging them to think more for themselves, as well as building each child's confidence and self-esteem.

Please bring your News in a piece of paper not book, so we can display them in our room.

We look forward to another year ahead of fun times learning about your child and their family life, interests, and adventures together as a group! If you have any concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Pumpkin Educators

April 2015 Calendar of Events

02nd - Thursday - Mahavir Jayanti - Jain, celebrates the birth of Mahavira.

02nd - Thursday - Easter Bonnet parade and egg hunting.

03rd - Friday - Good Friday - Centre closed - Christian tradition, this day remembers the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

04th - Saturday - Easter Saturday .

05th - Sunday - Easter Sunday - Christian tradition, Easter commemorates the resurrection (return to life) of Jesus Christ following his death by crucifixion.



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05th - Sunday - Orthodox Easter.

06th - Monday - Easter Monday - Centre closed.

Clownfish News

In February, during indoor and outdoor play, the Clownfish children explored more on creativity and built relationship with their friends and environment. The children shared and worked together in their play time, Mason is passing the Lego block to Noah so he can build up his tower.



From Mason's parent input, we found that he likes bubble so much. So we have been blowing and playing with lots of bubbles in the Clownfish room.

News topic 5 - friends.....

Archer, William, Muhid, Mason, Mia, Annabelle brought in their News about their friends. They all enjoyed having the playdates with their friends, such as going to the park together, swimming and other activities, they also love their friends at Pumpkin☺





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Calendar of the month.....

St Patrick's Day, Sea Week and Easter

The Clownfish children did lots of painting to celebrate these special days.



News topic – Holiday

Annabelle, Lara, Amelia and Muhid brought in their News about their holidays. They all loved going to the beach and Amelia saw the whale for the first time 😊 We read the book about the whale together, we also sang the sea animal song with Ms Elly...

A Jellyfish....a Jellyfish.... Sliding through the water....

A Jellyfish....a Jellyfish... Oh....Oh

It's got eaten by.....

To extend children's interest Miss Criselda showed the sea animals' toy and she talked about different kind of animals that live in the sea.

We also made our own Jellyfish using our finger tips with the blue paint.





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News topic—Celebration

Anabelle, William, Nadal and Amelia brought in their News about the Celebration. They talked about celebrating Christmas, Easter, Australia Day and Birthdays with their families and friend, Nadal went to watch the fireworks at Coogee to celebrate Christmas.



*The Clownfish children loved reading the books, they read the book every day with Ms Maya and Ms Chun. They loved the "Mouse's Magic Paints" book, **Anabelle** and **William** excitedly pointed the mouse on the picture. William said: "Mouse". We loved our singing time as well, we sang "Head, shoulder, knees and toes" together. Children pointed their head, shoulder, knees and toes, well done Clownfish!*



Sea Week.....

March 01–09 is Sea Week. We introduced sea creatures to the children so they can understand the ocean and its inhabitants. We put water inside a plastic container and put some sea creatures inside such as whale, fishes and stingray. The children enjoyed playing and touching the water with the sea animals.



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To extend on their learning, Ms. Criselda read them a book, 'Discovering My World, Life on a Coral Reef'; the children listened to the story and enjoyed looking at the colourful pictures as well. They were able to identify different kinds of animals that live around the reef such as fishes and sharks.

Till next month,

Clownfish Educators



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Jellyfish News

Jellyfish March Newsletter: Happy 3rd birthday to Xavier! And a big welcome to Lucas, Eli and Minka!



Happy Birthday Xavier!

The topic of Celebrations continued this month. We explored Koby's, George's and Emilia's favourite celebrations by talking about Easter, Halloween, Christmas, birthdays and weddings.



Emilia with her News in the Sunfish room, she was the Flower girl in her nanna's wedding. All the children in the Sunfish room wanted to be the Flower girls as well 😊

This month, we also discussed holidays and found out where our friends have been for theirs and what fun things they explored and discovered while away. We talked about short holidays, such as Sueann spending a day at the National Park and weekend holidays, such as the one Peyton had. After learning that Peyton went to a farm, we had a lovey discussion about



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farm animals, vehicles and produce. The children found out about Miss Alessandra's short holiday and her plane rides. That led to a discussion about the different ways to go on holidays, such as by plane, car, boat, bus and trains.

An interest towards learning letters continued this month. The children are enjoying learning about the alphabet through the alphabet teaching system called Letterland. So far, they have learnt the initial letters of their own and their friends' names. They are also getting familiar with the action song of each of those letters. They enjoy watching a video of the Letterland pictogram characters. We have been focusing on learning the sound that each letter makes through the alphabet songs and the video, such as 'Annie Apple, she says 'ă'. As a group, we have been discussing the different words that also start with each child's initial letter to find a link between the sounds each letter makes.



As our friends Conor and Peyton celebrate St Patrick's Day, we celebrated it here too by learning about shamrocks and later painting our own.

Another fun celebration this month was our Harmony Day celebration, where the children decorated different coloured paper of human shapes in whichever way they felt like people should be represented. It highlighted that we are all different but that we all belong and should be respected.



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One day, Sebastian enthusiastically requested the book *Caterpillar Dance*. The children liked naming the caterpillars' colours and counting them as we read. But the most exciting part of the book was seeing them become butterflies. We talked about caterpillars eating leaves, building a cocoon around themselves and coming out as a butterfly. Then, we talked about butterflies flying around and leaving eggs on leaves, from which more caterpillars will come out. Later on, the children were very excited about our painting a caterpillar activity! Following Alessandra's sample, they were encouraged to use circle shapes to make their caterpillars. They did a great job!

We ended the month by learning about one another's friends and focusing on being kind to others, sharing and taking turns. We discovered Hide and seek through our learning and have been enjoying playing it together.

Thank you to all the families that have been contributing to the topics! It has been so much fun getting to know more about our friends through the many topics we have discussed so far. We are currently on the Friends topic. Please don't forget to add your input!

Until next month,

Jellyfish Educators



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Lionfish News

For Letterland this month, we have introduced the letter 'c', 'd' and 'e'. We have met the characters Clever Cat, Dippy Duck and Eddy Elephant, and read their stories. The children have enjoyed engaging in the arts and crafts for each letter. They made caterpillars for 'c', dinosaurs for 'd' and easter crafts for 'e'.

Moving into Easter, the children are getting very excited for their visit from the Easter bunny. We have been decorating the room with our Easter crafts. We have also made and decorated baskets for our egg hunt soon!

The children have been very good with our calendar this month. Each day we changed the day, date and had a weather person decide on our weather forecast for the day. We also discussed the changing of the months and seasons, for example, when we went from February to March we discussed the change of season from summer to autumn. The children talked about how the leaves fall of the trees in autumn as the weather gets colder.



This kind of knowledge doesn't just remain in the classroom though. One day Sebastian was playing outside when he found a leaf. He told Miss Charlotte, "This is an autumn leaf!" Miss Charlotte asked why, and Sebastian explained to her it's because it fell off the tree onto the ground. Even Olivia brought in an Autumn leaf to show her friends for news.



Miss Rebecca decided it'd be a great idea to get the Lionfish to create their very own Autumn tree artwork, by painting using the Autumn colours; Red, Orange, Yellow and Brown,



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some paintbrushes and paper. Some children needed some help painting the tree stump and branches. Xavier was quite excited to do an Autumn painting and was the first to have a go. With a little guidance the children were able to depict their idea of what an Autumn tree looks like and increased their autonomy, confidence and independence.



The news for this month has been extensive. The children bring in things to show and talk about every day! We have had to make a roster so that we can ensure every child has their go. Dominoes have been a popular topic this month. Sailosi brought in his Dominoes that he had been collecting. He said "I got these at the shop", then demonstrated to his friends how to line them up, then knock them over.



This prompted other children to talk about their dominoes, for example Dakota, Xavier, Olivia... Abigail was keen to show her Dominoes as well. She showed everyone the characters on each of them, and talked about how when she buys groceries, she gets them. Everyone loved her dominoes... Abi even showed us how she lines them up on the table and plays with them. After news, a few of the children suggested playing with some dominoes during indoor play.

To extend on the dominoes interest, the children played with the Lionfish dominoes. They were very excited for this after listening to Abi's news. They lined them up, and pushed them over like Abi had showed them. Then they began making little houses out of them. Very creative Lionfish!

The children have particularly enjoyed playing with the animal toys indoors this month. They love roleplaying with the different sea creatures and telling the teachers their names, as they





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recognised them. They also mimic the farm animals noises when they play with each other.

We celebrated 'Sea Week' this month by playing around with the ocean animals and shells during indoor play, reading books, and arts n crafts. Ms. Tracey set up the painting activity for the children to play with, she put out some of the sea creature stickers for the children to stick on the paper, all children were very excited and interested with the stickers, Oliver said "my mum would like my stickers, and Marco said" my mum would be proud of me".



After rest time on the 17th, the children engaged in some arts and crafts to celebrate St Patricks day. Earlier on we talked a little about the day, and why some of us are wearing green, so then we thought it would be a good idea to make our own clovers. The children did an excellent job, and almost everyone had a go!

The children get very imaginative during outdoor play. One day, a few of the boys were pretending to find treasure on a boat. When some of the other children found out what they were playing, they joined it. Roman, Dakota, Xavier, Sailosi and Sebastian were all pretending to be evil pirates and chased Olivia around the playground. Olivia said, "ahhh, miss Charlotte! The pirates are going to get me! But they won't catch me..."



We also celebrated Harmony Day. We talked about how it's important to love one another and make them feel special. Then we talked a little about who we love. "I love mum and dad and my sister!" Dakota said, "I love my little pony" said Abigail. Then Miss Charlotte read a book, it was called "I'm feeling loved". After that, the children asked for another book so Miss Charlotte talked a little about how



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loving people and having people love us makes us feel happy, then we read "When I'm feeling happy".

Until next month!

Charlotte, Tracey, and Rebecca 😊

Starfish Newsletter

Welcoming autumn...

There has been a lot of discussion on autumn among the children at the beginning of this month. During group discussions, Cory showed and read an information book called Cool Autumn. We discovered that in autumn, the leaves on the trees change colour. They turn from green to brown, red, and gold, and then they drop from the trees.

Some children suggested to paint their own autumn tree and decorate the tree with collage materials, such as pipe cleaners, felt materials, cardboard and brown leaves. The children painted and shared their creations enthusiastically and were very proud with their autumn tree....





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Counting the autumn leaves...

Another learning experience the children enjoyed exploring was counting the autumn leaves. The children practiced their counting and number recognition skills through counting and sticking the autumn leaves on the paper.



To participate in St Patrick's Day that falls on Tuesday, 17th March 2015, the children and educators decided to do our own St Patrick's Day parade. We created and decorated green hats that we put on during parade. The children had a wonderful time dancing, singing and playing music instruments.

THANK YOU to the families for your contribution in our St Patrick's Day celebration! =D





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Harmony Day!

Another celebration that we did was Harmony day that falls on Saturday, 21st March. Cory introduced a new song called People all around the world where we learnt greeting words - how to say Hello in different languages. The children really enjoyed singing the song and learning new languages. We bowed our head and said *Konnichiwa* and *Namaste*, we waved our hand and said *Bonjour*, *Ola*, *Ni Hao*, *Gi'Day*, *Guten Tag*, *Bula...*



Exploring insects and bugs...

Over the past couple of weeks, the children have been very interested looking at some insects and bugs we found in our garden. The children enjoyed observing the bees flying around the basil plants, the ants, spiders and its web on the grapefruit tree and butterflies flying around the garden. During group time, we looked at an information book called *Big Book of Australian Backyards*. The children were very curious to learn lots of new information on spiders, ants, bees and butterflies.

Some children requested to make their own insects so we decided to make our own spider using egg cardboard. We also created ants trail through painting the ant with our finger... The children have also been learning to



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do one-to-one correspondence counting through counting the ants' and spiders' legs.



It has been a very busy months for Starfish children as there were lots of interesting and exciting learnings happening throughout the month....

Till next month... Cheers! =)

We can't believe we are approaching the end of March!

This month in Starfish room, the children are learning about changing season - from summer to autumn. They are also very interested in exploring bugs and insects in our garden - ants, bees, ladybugs, spiders, and butterflies.

We also participated in several celebrations in the month of March - St Patrick's Day on the 17th March and Harmony Day on the 21st March.



It has been a very busy month for Starfish children as there were lots of interesting and exciting learnings happening throughout the month....

Till next month... Cheers! =)

Till next Month,

Starfish Educators.