



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – January 2017

Centre News

Happy New Year 2017 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 centre, 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 2016

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.





Clownfish News

Welcome back everybody! The holiday is over, a new year has begun and what a change we can see in our children as they enter into the room! Some of the children have gained more confidence as well as their social skills have also grown! At the beginning of the year we want to welcome our new younger babies Anastasia, Neo, and Georgia. It's a wonderful journey watching all of them develop and learn in Clownfish room. We also had some of the children move up to the Jellyfish room (toddler) ☺

Fine motor development



The summer breeze allowed us to do lots of outdoor activities, other than that this month we have been spotting a very strong interest of the children towards fine motor activities! It started with a piggy bank and coins that has become the most wanted toy in the room, we have added some more of them in the room! The clownfish children have had the opportunity to explore several fine motor activities to enhance their interest and skill such as outdoor play dough, puzzles, sensory rice box, chalk drawing, water play and painting with different techniques. The clownfish children have become more confident with their learning and are developing skills with their problem solving and social skill while participating the activity in the group.

Feeling



This spontaneous interest have came up again early this year, when we spotted one of the clownfish children was pointing at the feeling chart during their free play. Miss Stella decided to involve the feeling chart discussion into our daily group time, when children can express more of their feeling! We even get them to look in the mirror of how they look when they're doing the

expression. The feeling chart shows us some of the facial expressions such as happy, sad, angry, scared, silly, and excited face. The children have enjoyed the discussion so far!

Summer gardening



On 23rd of January some of the children followed Miss Pimpini around while she was about to water the garden and they spotted big mangoes in our garden, then we explained to the children as it will take several more days for the mango to ripe. They loved sensing the texture as well as showing their ability to reach the mango on the tree! Wow they're growing taller! 😊 During gardening time, we also spotted a lemon came off from the tree, all of the children were happily sensing and smelling the lemon texture curiously. Afterwards, we cut the lemon into small pieces and let the children taste it. Amusingly some of them showing their various facial expressions in result of the sour taste of the lemon! :D

Australian day and Chinese New Year

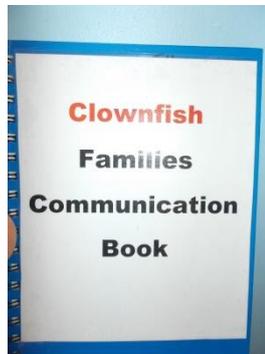


Last week of January has been so busy, we are so happy to be able participate in 2 big celebrations in Clownfish room, we encouraged the children to dress up on the day, we decided to do a aboriginal art activity for Australia's day and for Chinese new year, the clownfish children were watching a mini lion dance puppet that played by one of the starfish children and Miss Stella showed how to do a "gong xi gong xi" song with a hand gestures that usually Chinese children do when they celebrate their new year..



Parent reminder:

- All the Clownfish children are growing up fast. Therefore, their eating and bottle routines are changing. Please keep us updated on what you are doing at home, so we can do the same here.
- As the children are outside a lot more and participate in lots of messy exploration activities. Please pack some spare clothes and a range of clothes for a variety of weather conditions.
- Clownfish Family communication book helps us as educators and families to communicate more in case the clownfish educators haven't come yet during drop off time. Please fill it in if you have any request or information regarding the children's needs on the day. Thank you for your unending support to the clownfish room. We look forward to have more exciting experience with all children and families. 😊



Until next month,
Clownfish educators

Jellyfish/Sunfish News

A Big Welcome to Phoebe, Jackson and Felicity.



January Birthday Celebrants:
Aliyah- 10th January

A great beginning to our New Year, everyone is well and settled as if they've never had a break. Children were happy to see one another again.

The year has started off with a really hot month. In order to stay active and cool this January the children have been exercising indoors and also occupied with toys and activities of their own interest.



On the first day back 3rd January, out on our own Jellyfish playground, all children participated in building all sort of items using their own ideas, making, shaping building things with large building blocks.



12th – 13th January, Jellyfish children showing great interest in trains, noticing Noah, Jimmy and Jackson had worked together connecting track pieces so they can put their trains on tracks making the sound “toot toot”.



16th January, extending children's interest about crab in our playground outside. Miss Maya showed the children how to paint crab using their hands and the children showed tremendous enthusiasm and patience waiting for their turn.



16th – 20th January, the children were interested in showing their feeling therefore feeling books and song were very popular. Moreover, Jellyfish children were very active in their play using dress up as a princess and super hero.





23rd – 25th January, the children's imagination were very apparent in their play. They started to pretend having a picnic, making sandwiches, celebrating birthday, calling their parents, selling ice cream and hunting for a bear.

A lot of conversation between the children can be heard throughout the play, showing that their everyday cultural practices influenced their play a lot.

27th January, to celebrate the upcoming Chinese New Year, Jellyfish children painted a red coloured rooster from a flower sprinkled with gold glitters.



Until next month,

Jellyfish 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 enjoyed sharing what they had received over



Xmas with their friends. We also looked at our Calendar and reviewed the days, months and also the year change.



The Lionfish have always shown an interest in animals. Particularly, this month, they have shown an interest in Dinosaurs, making them using blocks and also using our large plastic Dinosaurs in their role-play experiences. On the 3rd January ,after watching a video on Dinosaurs and fossils, the children asked to make their own. They also used their creativity and made dinosaurs using paper plates and collage materials.

The Lionfish have also shown a particular interest in building and constructing things this month. They have been using their imaginations to build with all different types of blocks. They have made cakes, even adding candles. they have also constructed houses, garages and other buildings. they have even created dinosaurs using the blocks!



The Lionfish children have also continued their interest in role-play . During



outdoor play, they enjoy using the dress ups to create different characters and scenarios. They also used their imaginations, playing families and taking on different roles or pretending to be their favourite Superheroes. They have also continued to role-play in the sandpit, making cakes and discovering hidden treasure.



They have also continued their interest in the garden, helping Miss Charlotte to plant sprouts and capsicum seeds on January 4th and learning about the different



parts of seeds and plants from the internet. They even made their own flowers using recycled materials on 6th January. They have noticed our tomato plants growing and the tomatoes changing from green to red. They have also been interested in how big our chickens have grown!

They have continued their interest in cars and trains, particularly during outdoor play. They have worked together, assembling the train track or even the obstacle course to use their cars or trains on. They have even tested other surfaces to see how their cars move.



They have been eager to show and talk at Newstime about things that they have brought in from home. We will be emailing an updated News roster in the next few weeks, however, we will be following the children's interests rather than providing topics.

We celebrated Australia Day by making a few different things. Miss Tracey talked to the children about Australia Day and how we celebrate and the Australian flag. 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). Just a friendly reminder to bring in a family photo so that we can update our Lionfish family tree! Soon, we will also be sending out



some 'All about me' sheets if you could please fill these in, and bring them

back. This will help us to gain a better understanding of each child and their background, as well as what they like/dislike. Also, please try to remember to label all your belongings, so that we can avoid losing things, or getting belongings mixed up with others.

Until next time,

Lionfish Educators :)

Starfish News

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2017!

This month we have welcomed many new peers, including some who transitioned from the Lionfish room and we have been enjoying getting to know them better!

We started the month creating a lovely family tree for our room, which led us to getting to know more about our peers' family members. Our room has also

been rearranged and the children are really enjoying exploring the new areas and having even more space to play, create and learn. After having a canvas donated by a family, the children painted it and decorated it as they wished and it is now part of the decoration in our room!



The children excitedly came back from holidays with a lot of stories and things to show. When a child brought in a sound book called 'The crunching, munching caterpillar', the children were very interested in it as they loved the sounds the book made and the rhyming words. The next day, Ms Rebecca brought in a cocoon full of caterpillars for the children to explore. The children



collected leaves and flowers to add to the glass container where the cocoon has been placed in our nature bench outside. They have been monitoring the cocoon and cannot wait to see butterflies coming out of it!



Our chickens are getting bigger and bigger and the children have been feeding them left-over vegetables and worms from our worm farm and loving the experience! Additionally, they have noticed the chickens making sounds and love listening and copying them. We now only have one chicken, Nana. Lucy has gone to live with Ms Sabina because she turned out to be a rooster!



At the end of last year, there was a constant request from the children to engage in dancing and those requests have carried over to the New Year. They have been really, really enjoying themselves being robots and



silly sausages this month (their favourite songs from the Jungle Jam CD)! Perhaps this year we will get to know new songs from the album and we will sure continue to enjoy the 2 favourites also! Mid-month, a hula skirt was added to the dress-up corner and the children have been enjoying learning hula dance moves since! After watching the Trolls movie, a peer showed everyone how to dance to his favourite song from the movie and everyone joined in, following his steps!



The children have been very interested in reading and have been requesting story time quite often this month. They have been encouraged to read familiar stories on their own and/or as groups, calling on their memories, sounds of letters and words they recognise on the pages as well as on rhyming words to figure out the next words of the stories.



The children celebrated both Australia Day and Chinese New Year this month. Since it is the year of the rooster and we miss our rooster Lucy, we decided to dedicate our celebrations to Lucy. The children engaged in rooster-themed craft and learnt from their Chinese peers how they celebrate. A peer brought in a Lion

Dance puppet and that led to us learning more about the traditional dance and even having our own Lion Dance here!

For Australia Day, based on the children's ideas and thoughts, we celebrated by engaging in a learning discussion and craft. We talked about what the day is all about as well as what the children were planning on doing with their families to celebrate. The children viewed a short video depicting how the country celebrates and listened respectfully as some information was read out to them in regards to the official National Day of Australia. Miss



Rebecca spoke about the many cultures that now call Australia home and the children reflected on their own families. The children created some lovely artworks of soldiers, flags and fireworks!

Our Webbing Wall is ready for the new year of programming. Our programming started again from the 30th of January, as did our topics. The news topics have changed this year. We will not have set topics, instead following the children's interests even further, we will provide new topics as children's interests are observed. All families are very welcome to share children's topics of interests noticed outside of Pumpkin, to be further explored. We will try to stick to the usual fortnight period, however we will also be flexible as we follow the children's lead. Whenever there is a new topic of interest, we add it to our daybook and to our Notice Board. Bring on the interests,

children!



Our current topic of interests are:
Dancing and Rhyming books.

Until next month,

Starfish Educators :)