

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 2020

Centre News

Happy New Year 2020 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!

Christmas Concert 2019

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.







February Calender of Event

4th - Tuesday – World Cancer Day

08th - Saturday - Lantern Festival - Chinese Tradition

09th - Sunday – Magha Puja – Buddhist Festival

09th – 10th - Tu BiShvat is the 15th day of the Jewish months of Shevat

14th- Friday - Valentine's Day

21st – Friday – Maha Shivaratri, Hindu tradition

25th – Tuesday - Shrove Tuesday – Pancake day, day before lent begins

26th - Wednesday – Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent 2019

27th - Thursday - Parent Information Night at 6.30 pm



Clownfish News

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year and Happy new year! We are excited to enter the new decade and cannot wait to explore what the year has in store for us.

We wanted to say happy birthday to 3 Clownfish children, Matilda and Amelia who turned 2 and Lisboa who turned 1 this January. Happy birthday again! In addition, we had new friend, Jaxx who joined our room this year. We can't wait to see him grow during his time in the centre.

This month the children have been exploring messy play, pretend play, and celebrating Lunar New Year and Australian Day.

Messy play

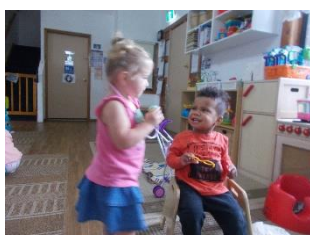
Clownfish children have been enjoying messy play in the centre. The educators prepared different types of messy play for them to explore, such as play dough, goop dough, sand pit etc. The children showed their excitement of the play by being engaged for considerable long time. Through these activities, the children investigated and made new discovery, expressed their creativity and imagination through play, and used their senses to explore different texture (soft, grainy, smooth etc).



Pretend play

Pretend play was the highlight of the month for Clownfish children. It started with them playing in the kitchen corner and pretended to blow a birthday cake. It was such a coincidence with few of their birthdays were coming up. We set up the birthday cake and they were excited to sang "Happy birthday", blew the cake, cut it and pretended to eat it. To keep them more engaged, we

added more resources such as making birthday feast or changing the them into doctor play or va. The children were happily playing with their peers or with the educators as we scaffolded their play. Through these, the children were developing their linguistic skills, broaden their understanding about the world around them and confidently exploring and engaging with social and physical environments through play.



Celebration

We had two celebrations this month, which were Lunar New Year and Australian Day. For Lunar New Year, we watched the dragon and lion dance, looked at 12 animal zodiacs and even made our red pockets. For Australian Day, we read a story called I am Australian too and looked at similarities and differences us such as hair colour, eye colours but we are Australian. These activities were used to learn the concept of diversity and acceptance as well as to explore and celebrate diverse cultures.



Parent reminder:

- Please pack several spare clothes for the children as some experiences can get them messy or wet as well as clothes that suit the unpredictable weather.
- Please remember to bring in a family photo for the family tree which will be displayed in our room to support the children's sense of belonging.

- Family input is very important for children's learning and development. Please share with us any information we could use and include into children's learning plans. Example of the information are family weekend, new favourite books or songs, current interests or any exciting news will be appreciated.

Until next time,

Clownfish educators

Jellyfish News

A big welcome to all our new Jellyfish friends! **And please email us a family photo for our 2020 Family corner!**

Book interest - The children started the year demonstrating a strong



interest towards books, especially towards the 'The very hungry caterpillar' book. They request the story frequently, which has led to a very fun and educational learning story for our room.



As well as reading the story, we have watched it in digital form, the children have told the story as a group using felt pieces, we have been learning the days of the week and counting along with the story! The children also created collages of food and talked about everyday/sometimes



food. The children also engaged in creative work, making

their own cocoons, butterfly painting, and a joint caterpillar!

Spontaneously, some children started bringing in 'lift-the-flap' books. Combining the hungry



caterpillar interest and 'lift-the-flap' books, for our first topic of the year, the children have been invited to share their favourite books (the 2020 news roster has been emailed), so don't forget to share!



Lunar New Year – To mark the year of the rat, the children engaged in varied experiences such as dragon painting and dance. They enjoyed watching a video of a lion and dragon dances and then did their own interpretation of animals' dance such as bird, dragon, lion, snake etc. The children also created their own lanterns as a way to mark the celebration. Ms Maya told the story about The Chinese New Year celebration and how they celebrate it.



I am Australian too – We marked another celebration this month, Australia day! The children listened to a story called "I am Australian Too" to mark day, made their own Australian flags with handprints and explored Ace's book all about Australian animals.



Superhero Week! – We also celebrating superhero week this month with the children coming in with their costumes. We spoke about superheroes being heroes because they help others, just like we were doing that week for the people and animals affected by the bushfires.



Starfish and Lionfish News

Welcome to the Starfish and Lionfish first newsletter of 2020. We welcome back Starfish and Lionfish families and children from last year. Welcome to any new Starfish and Lionfish families and children who are new to the centre or have moved up rooms. A big goodbye and good luck to the Starfish children who are moving onto their next big adventure- primary school.

Christmas Concert.... Thank you to all parents, families and friends who joined us for our 2019 Christmas Concert. We were very proud of all the Starfish and Lionfish for their hard work in rehearsal and the final performance.



Parent Reminders

- Please ensure all your child's belongings (hat, water bottle, sheets, etc...) are all clearly labelled.
- Please ensure your child has at least two spare changes of clothes which are weather appropriate.
- If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please see Miss Elly, Miss Tracey (Lionfish room leader) or Miss Nicole (Starfish room leader)



News.... From the first week in February we will be starting children's news (Show and tell). The news roster will be e-mailed to families in the last week of January with the news topics e-mailed fortnightly. Please be aware that the news roster is now fortnightly so your child is invited to share one time per fortnight in order to reduce the time children are sitting on the mat. We kindly ask no toys are brought in due to them being misplaced or broken. You are more than welcome to e-mail your child's news into us. We encourage Starfish and Lionfish children on arrival to Pumpkin to place any news into the news basket. The basket is located on top of the dress up shelf near the kitchen.



Family Sea Wall... We will be using our family sea wall to develop and express a sense of belonging within the Starfish and Lionfish room. The Starfish and Lionfish have begun to and will continue to decorate the larger sea animals which will be hanging. We encourage families to



fill out an all about me sheet for your child. This will be shared for your child's news and will assist us to get to know your child more. Also please bring in a current family photo which will be hung on the family sea wall.



New Year's Eve... While outside on New Year's Eve the Starfish and Lionfish collaborated with each other in order to discuss the upcoming fireworks and create their own firework displaying using food colouring and straws. When returning back to Pumpkin in the new year the Starfish and



Lionfish children were eager to share their own firework experience. This led the Starfish to paint their own fireworks using paint and cotton buds.



Dancing... Throughout January the Starfish and Lionfish have requested music to be put on to dance. While dancing the Starfish children have expressed happiness and excitement when showing their peers and educators their dance moves. The Starfish and



Lionfish have also been requesting songs and seen including others peers when dancing.



Dramatic Play.... While within both the indoor and outdoor learning environment the Starfish and Lionfish have expressed an ongoing interest in dramatic play. While indoors and outdoors the Starfish and Lionfish have dressed up before taking on the role of the person they dress up as. We have had countless creations using playdoh. This including people, animals and cars. The Starfish and Lionfish have been cooks in the home corner and cooking for dolls, peers and educators. The Starfish and Lionfish have shared the role as doctors and patients when using the doctors kit. While outside the Starfish and Lionfish have expressed creativity and imagination while in the sandpit. As they build many, houses, cakes and even large holes which lead to various areas. The Starfish have also requested the fairies and have been observed creating various fairy houses.



Construction... The mega blocks, lego, mobilo and magnetic blocks are frequently used by the Starfish to create, assemble and build. It has been amazing to see the creativity expressed as they build. We have had numbers house, castles, cars, planes and trucks created. Once created the Starfish and Lionfish, have expressed happiness and satisfaction share their creations with peers and educators.



Writing... We have begun encouraging the Starfish and Lionfish to practice the writing of their name and numbers (one to ten) in the afternoon. The Starfish and Lionfish have expressed a great interest in this and are proud to show their educators once done. Throughout the year the educators will continue building on this skill with the Starfish.





Bushfires and Bushfire Relief... Earlier in the month the Starfish and Lionfish have shared their stories and understanding on the bushfires. This led to Miss Nicole reading the story of "Birdie and the fire" book which dealt with the subject matter of bushfires and how we can rebuild.

During discussions about this subject matter the Starfish and Lionfish wanted to help the people impacted by the bushfires. In the middle of January, we collected various non-perishable items which were donated to the food bank and then distributed to those in need. In the

second last week of January the Starfish participated in Pumpkin's hero week. The Starfish and Lionfish children and educators dress up to raise money. A big thankyou to all children and families you donated for the

bushfire relief. **During hero week we have raised \$244 and we donated \$400.- to Australian Red Cross 😊**



Environment... Throughout January the Starfish and Lionfish have assisted educators when caring and upkeeping the natural environment. Each day the Starfish and Lionfish help water the various flowers and plants outside. Also, when they see an educator sweeping the leaves up the Starfish and



Lionfish will ask to help. During the month the Starfish and Lionfish worked with Miss Tracey to plant various succulents which are now inside the room.



Lunar New Year... The Starfish and Lionfish entered into a learning relationship relation to the Lunar New year. Together we discussed what the Lunar New Year was and made two dragons made from recycled materials. The Starfish and Lionfish listened to a book dealing with how a Chinese girl and her family celebrate Chinese New Year. Once down the Starfish and Lionfish role-played setting the table and share a meal like in the book. The Starfish and Lionfish danced to Chinese music as well as did a simple dragon dance. The Starfish and



Lionfish were also read another Lunar New Book and expressed an interest in the dragon. To extend on this the Starfish created their own dragon combining a handprint decorated by the Starfish children.

Australia Day... To introduce Australia Day the Starfish and Lionfish listened to the story “I’m

Australian too”. This book explored that even though we look different or come from different countries we are all Australian. While reading this book that we looked at the flag seen and as a researched the Australian, Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Flags. Using the easels and oil pastels the Starfish and Lionfish created their own interpretations of the three flags. The Starfish and Lionfish also worked collaboratively to create their flag by reusing recyclable materials. The Starfish and Lionfish expressed their creativity as they used the Australian flag colours of red, white and blue to paint.



Ball Games... During the last few weeks of the January the Starfish and Lionfish have expressed an interest in ball games. While outside the Starfish and Lionfish requested to have the ball, soccer net and basketball hoop brought out. While out they have been observed

taking turns and sharing the balls as they effectively demonstrate the use of their fine and gross motor skills.



Until next month,

Starfish Educators ☺