



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter – August 2017

### Centre News

Dear parents and families,

The spring is here, we are going to do a lot planting with the children at Pumpkin. Please donate your empty milk bottles so we can use them in our planting project.

Thank you.



There is some confusion about how to balance sun protection with getting enough vitamin D. But, there is one thing all experts agree on – sun protection is needed when ultraviolet (UV) levels are 3 or above.

Although Vitamin D is essential for bone and muscle development, most people will get enough vitamin D from their normal activities.

Here are few important messages from Cancer Council NSW:

- Use a combination of sun protection measures (broad brimmed hat, covering clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses and shade) when the UV level is 3 and above.
- Being physically active while outdoors will assist with increasing vitamin D levels.

***We are playing outside now in the morning, when the centre is open. Please bring in your child with a hat (bucket or legionnaire, no cap and beanie), also please apply the sunscreen from home, because it will need 15 minutes for the sunscreen to be absorbed.***



Happy Father's Day

## September Calendar of Events

**1<sup>st</sup> – Friday - Wattle Day** – Wattle Day is a day of celebration in [New South Wales, Australia](#) of the first day of [spring](#) with the use of [acacias](#), known by the common name "wattle" in Australia.

**01<sup>st</sup> – Friday – Father's Day afternoon tea** – Please come and joins us for an afternoon tea at 3.20 pm.

**03<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday – Father's Day.**

**03<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday – National Flag Day.**



**04<sup>th</sup> – 08/09/17 – Kids Teaching Kids Week.**

**13<sup>th</sup> – 19/09/17 – National Recycling Week.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday – Jeans for Genes Day.**

**25<sup>th</sup> – Monday– Family & Community Day (ACT).**

**20<sup>th</sup> – 22/09/17 – Rosh Hashanah – Jewish tradition,** commemorates the creation of the world.

**21<sup>st</sup> – 29/09/1 – Navaratri – Hindu – Worship of Durga.**

**29<sup>th</sup> – 30/09/17 – Yom Kippur – Jewish tradition.**

**30<sup>th</sup> - Saturday –Dussehra (Dasara) – Indian Festival “remover of bad fate”.**

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

# Philosophy

We reviewed our Philosophy in August, I have attached our Philosophy with this Newsletter. I also attached our Philosophy feedback form, please feel free to give us your input.

## Clownfish News



Another freezing month has passed! This month has been wonderfully filled with wide range of experiences that originated from the children's interest, ideas, and family's/community participation. We have set up a new room look for the children to explore their ideas, imagination, and creativity.



Big welcome to George and the twins, Erin and Xavier to Clownfish room!  
the children discover primary and secondary colours. At the end of the **Colours recognition** - The early interest began



when the children were heard calling out colours of objects and toys throughout the play experience. We recognised their interest and openly responded the interest by enabling them to explore more of colour-related activities. The starting point of this project was when the children spotted 'a rainbow'

during the story time, we then extended the interest by facilitating them a paint set to create their own rainbow art. The following day, we also had 'a colour experiment' where week, the children were also seen enjoying their fun time creating 'a sensory jar'. During **science weeks**, we also incorporated the children interest by experimenting 'Magic milk science experiment' which again built-up their interest and wonder while looking through the continual move and swirl of the colours in the milk.

**Cooking experience** – Alongside with the colour interest, we also noticed the children have been revisiting our brand-new kitchen set, one of the children told the educator that he made 'a toast' for his breakfast. From that, Miss Stella extended the idea by setting up some cooking resources like toaster, bread, butter, plate, and plastic knife for the children to engage in the real process of making a toast right from the beginning.



**Gardening** – This project commenced as we observed that the children have been demonstrating appreciation and care for their natural and constructed environment. As part of our sustainability practice learning experience, we have been discussing about ways to look after our garden and our environment with



the children. We also regularly water our indoor/outdoor plant in the morning and show more awareness of the plants and flowers that start to grow (as it is close to spring season). At the end of the month, we realized the parent/family have been contributing loads of gardening-related information and resources for learning extensions. We greatly appreciate your continuous support. The children have also brought in various interesting story books to be shared during **book week**.



**Parent/family participation – ‘We believe families are children’s first and most influential educators.’** Feel free to write down your fun activities or craft ideas in family communication book or e-mail that the children would enjoy throughout this month as we’re looking for more inspiration in program implementation. We’d also love to extend the community to our children’s learning, if you have any specialization from your hobby or workplace and you want to share it to the children, please let Miss Stella know to arrange it.

Parent reminder:

- Please bring some spare long-sleeved clothes, jackets due to cold weather.
- Please put the children’s fitted sheet and blanket in a separate sleeping bag (not in the bag) to help us differentiate their belongings from the others’.
- Please bring your family photos to complete our family tree (to our new families that just joined in)
- Please donate your recyclable wastes for the children’s learning experience (they can be dropped into the recycle bin provided).



# Jellyfish & Sunfish News

## September Birthday Celebrant:

Jasfer- 4<sup>th</sup> September

Belated happy birthday to Phoebe, Gino, Christian and Connor.



Spring is just around the corner, and at this stage, we have started to plant more herbs and various plants in our garden.

The children were all eager to help Miss Maya in planting some herbs. The children were heard saying, “Can I help?” “Can I do that please?” “I want to try that.” After planting, the children volunteered to water the plants with watering cans. Good helping everyone☺

## Children’s Cake Interest



We have noticed that every time the children were playing in the sandpit, home corner and with playdough, birthday cake and singing happy birthday was always part of their play.



To extend on the children’s interest in cake and making cake, we did a lot of fun experiences, from discussion about children’s favourite cake, cake sizes and colour, painting a cake, baking a real cake to preparing coloured icing and decorating the cakes. We also did a ‘Cake Project’ from recycled materials, and decorated them with pieces of coloured paper to make them looked like rainbow cake.



## Promoting Active Physical Play, Self-help Skills and Sustainable Practice



Each day, the children had the opportunity to be engaged in various physical play. There were bicycles, climbing frames, balancing beams, tunnels, and lots more.



The children were able to make toys out of recyclable materials. In the morning of the 08th, Jackson came in with a pair of binoculars and he was so excited to show and share it with his peers. He let them borrow and look at it. Everyone showed interest in the binoculars and one of the

children asked if he could have one or even made one for himself. When the other children heard the request, they all asked for one as well. Miss Maya helped them look for something to make binoculars and we were lucky to find a box of toilet rolls. The children were all busy making their own binoculars, and they were able to make them without any help from the educators. Some of the children were strong enough to squeeze the glue out and they were seen offering help to those who couldn't do it. At the end, with each other's



help, they were able to make ten pairs of binoculars. The children were



so proud of their work.

The children are becoming more and more confident in practicing self-help skills, from setting up the table, packing away the bedsheet, washing hands, serving and feeding themselves, as well as putting on their shoes.

**Connecting with Aboriginal Community**



On the 24<sup>th</sup> August, we are lucky to be visited by Jaida and Tyler, 15 years old Aboriginal girls from South Sydney High School. They talked about their tribe and a little bit about their culture, and shared some Aboriginal words, e.g. Bouri (Boy), Jarjam (Child), Mob (Family) and Bunji (Friend). They also did an Aboriginal dance for us, which some of the children tried to copy after the performance.

***Happy Father's Day to all our Wonderful Dads!***

Until next month,  
Jellyfish/Sunfish Educators

## Lionfish News

During the month of August, the Lionfish children have enjoyed exploring the garden and help the Educators prepare it for Spring next month. The children have been involved in preparing the soil for planting, helping add soil from our worm farm. They have learnt that they need to wear gloves when helping gardening and make sure they wash their hands afterwards. We have added new plants, seedlings and even planted seeds that some of the Lionfish families have kindly donated. We have also talked about and learnt what other children and their families grow in their gardens or on their balconies at home. The children have also been great helpers caring for our garden, helping to water it in the mornings and afternoons.



We have also continued to enjoy lots of physical activities, during both indoor and outdoor play. During indoor play, we have continued doing our Munch and Move. The Lionfish children love dancing along to the music and following the movements with the Educators. It also teaches them about healthy food and drinking lots of water to keep our bodies healthy and fit. During outdoor play, the Lionfish children have enjoyed practising their climbing and physical skills as they challenge themselves on our new obstacle course equipment.



This month, we have learnt about the letter 'n', naming things starting with his letter, practising our sounds and even practising writing our letters on the whiteboard. We have also continued practising our name writing and letter writing skills using a variety of media. The Lionfish children have also continued their interest in drawing. They have used their imaginations and creativity to draw their representations of spring, their families, rainbows, monsters, rocket ships and shapes.

We have also continued our interest in using our imaginations to explore the sandpit using a variety of resources and equipment. The children have worked independently and in small groups, making cakes, sandcastles, volcanoes, searching for treasure and just exploring the sand.



We also continued exploring our Aboriginal culture during a visit from some indigenous girls from one of our local high schools. The girls talked to the children about different aspects of their culture and then performed a traditional dance for the children. The children were invited to join in and they were very happy to do so, having a great time.



Until next month,

Lionfish Educators ☺

# Starfish August Newsletter



We started the month **learning to read new words** as the children brought in word cards and read words they can already write/read, encouraging their interested peers to learn also! The children also shared words they would like to **learn how to read/write** and have enjoyed experiences related to literacy during the beginning of the month! Another literacy-related interest this month has been the children reading familiar, easy-to-read



stories to the group, as they switch places with their educators and read to everyone! Looks like we are definitely getting ready for big school!



**My big school** – As the children and families have been excitedly sharing about attending school open days, interviews and orientation days, we decided to explore 'big' schools further this month. We discussed what to expect, items they will need for school, new friends, new teachers, the location of their schools, new routines and (delicious and healthy) lunchboxes! Combining the reading interest with the children preparing for school, we read a story designed to help the children enrich and



expand their vocabulary. School words found and discussed by the children were backpack, silent, homework, rule, concentrate, students, cooperate and challenge and considerate. The group was challenged to concentrate and further think about school words and by cooperating, they came up with library, canteen, principal, lunchbox, uniform and excursion! It was great to see the children's understanding of important school words! After a friend brought in a pre-school checklist which listed cutting, the children were very interested about engaging in cutting practice and request cutting for 3 straight days!



**Magnet interest** – After a child brought in a magnet from home and his peers showed curiosity and interest towards it, we decided to start exploring magnets! As an extension, the children experimented with our Shaw Magnets. They have since been exploring a large assortment of different types of magnets including rings, balls, rectangular wands as well as containers with fine



iron filings throughout the month. Throughout these experimentations, they have been learning about magnetic fields, about negative and positive charges, atoms and North South Poles. During these experiences, the children learnt new words such as 'Repulsion' and 'Attraction'. Their interest in magnets kept growing as they continued showing a deeper curiosity about what is and what isn't magnetic around our room. They engaged in interactions with the educators and peers about what is and what isn't magnetic as they experimented with varied items around our rooms, such as furniture, resources, spoons, bowls...

**Gardening –** Gardening this month has been a strong interest for the children. Ms Elly bought us lots of new seeds,

plants and gardening equipment. And the children just cannot get enough of gardening experiences! They have been engaging in gardening maintenance, such as removing excess nasturtiums and stripping the leaves back, airing out the soil from the pot-plants, re-planting some Bromeliads into our indoor pots, saving wriggly worms from being left behind and adding them in to help our plants grow, mixing in the dry soil and using their senses to respond by searching for plants that needed a drink. And inside, the children have also been demonstrating care (and understanding) for their natural environment as they have been looking after our new room plants by watering them with left-over water from their meals! The children started

sharing about their gardens at home by talking about them, bringing in pictures and drawings. Extending on the nature interest, the children engaged in a lovely **nature walk** on our street and collected so many nature items and added those to our room! They have been collecting nature items from our playground since then! Our room is looking so beautiful! Another extension has been a **cooking experience** of pizza using items from our lovely gardens! This has been a great opportunity to discuss healthy eating with the children! Making pizzas was so much fun that the children requested to make cookies for Father's day. What a great idea!

**Getting physical –** The children have been requesting dancing this month as they request and dance to their favourite songs from our **Munch Move** and Dance Cds, both indoors and outdoors. Outdoors, they have been organising races, football games and other games like

'What's the time, Mr Wolf', which they renamed it to 'What's the time, Mr Unicorn'!

**Book Week –** We had many wonderful characters attending Pumpkin towards the end of the month as the children came in dressed up, shared stories and symbols and re-enacted well-known and new stories for book week! We got to re-read many favourite stories as well as get to know new ones.





**Special visits!** – As an extension of all our ‘big school’ learning experiences, we received a visit from a local school principal who answered all the children’s curious questions about what happens at school. The children also received a visit from two local high school girls, who explained about Aboriginal culture to the children. The children’s favourite part was getting to engage in traditional Aboriginal dancing with them!

Until next month, Starfish educators