



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – November 2015

Centre News

Please remember our Christmas concert next Friday, the 11th of December 2015 at 3.30 pm.

Dress code:

- The Clownfish children, please dress your child in red and or green.
- The Jellyfish and Sunfish children, please dress your child in red and or green.
- The Lionfish children, please dress your child in red and or green.
- The Starfish children, please dress your child in white and or red.

Our centre will be closed from Monday, the 21st of December to 25th of December and we will reopen on the week of 28/12/2015, however due to the Boxing day (public day), we will be closed on Monday, the 28th of December 2015.

We want to wish all the parents and families a Merry Christmas 2015 and Happy New Year 2016. We also want to thank all of you for your support this year, we look forward to working with you and your child again next year.

Pumpkin Educators.

Parents Reminder

- Please take your child's water bottle home every day to be washed and refilled for their next day of attendance.
- We are playing outside in the morning now, because sometimes it is too hot to go outside after the morning tea. Please bring in your child with a hat (bucket or legionnaire, no cap), also please apply the sunscreen from home, because it needs 15 minutes for the sunscreen to be absorbed.

- Please remember to bring your child's sheets/pillows/blankets, as our policy requires children to rest for 15minutes on a bed and we don't have enough sheets to supply for all children attending.

Excursion to the Power House Museum

What a special day for Starfish children on this very special Thursday!!!

We are very fortunate to have an opportunity to go to another excursion!!!

The children were super excited and thrilled when we got to Powerhouse Museum this morning. They checked out the 'Transport' section. They looked at the steam train and Miss Rebecca read some information written on the display. We learn about First Class, Second Class and Third Class train.

We also looked at different type of trains in the miniature model and the diorama train which was built in 1954!



We would like to thank all the parents for your cooperation in this excursion. Also, we would like to express our gratitude to the parents who came to the Museum and joined in the excursion. Your participation and help is highly appreciated.



December Calendar of Events

03rd - Thursday – International Day of People with Disabilities.

08th - Tuesday – Immaculate Conception – Catholic Tradition, feast day in honour of Mary, mother of Jesus was preserved from original sin.

11th – Friday – Christmas Party at 3.30 pm

21/12/15 - 25/12/15 - Centre Closed for one week.

25th – Christmas Day, Centre Closed.

28th – Boxing Day, Centre Closed.

01st – New Year, Centre Closed.

Clownfish November News

Welcome our news friend Zachary and Ella to the clownfish room. They have been busy settling in the environment and exploring everything. They both have settled in; love dancing with their educators and peers to the wiggles. They both loved the outdoor play area.



Where has the time gone can't believe we will be in December in a couple of days and before you know it 2016. The Clownfish children have been so busy looking at what's coming up in December for the centre. The major thing our Centres Christmas Party on the 11th at 3:30pm. We are asking for the clownfish children to wear anything Christmassy; like a Xmas themed dress/ t-shirt or just simple red and green coloured clothing. As preparation for the concert the Clownfish children have been practicing their performance for the concert. Not only have we been practicing for the concert; not only have we have been getting ready for our concert but we have been so busy preparing a little something for all of the families off your child, and the staff here at Pumpkin LDC. We have gone a little festive in the room, setting up decorations with the children. They have assisted the educators with making some of our own decorations. Throughout November the children painted and helped Corina make some Christmas trees that we have hanging in our room. Towards the end of the month we begun making some Christmas baubles that will be hung up in leading into December.



The Clownfish room has taken a new layout to the room. Setting up a new kitchen area for the children to extend their cooking interest from the outdoor. They have been so busy in cubby house cooking that we set up a new area indoors. Elly getting us a new couch to put with it the room has begun having play spaces. Some parents have already commented on the new couch and the change to the room. Feedback is always great.

Check out some of the outdoor kitchen photos of the clownfish over the last month. They have really shown a great interest to this pretend play.



Gardening continued again this month. Continuing from last month the children have really begun to understand the concept of watering the plants. They assist their educators with putting the hose on, spraying the plant and even de weeding. We have noticed in the clownfish outdoor that we had some tomato plants growing too so will be awesome to see if they blossom over the next month.



Jellyfish November News



Happy birthday to Muhid and Mason this month! When talking through our date chart on the 30th of October, we could see that we were at the end of the month and that the next day would be Saturday, which means the weekend! Nadia was a



great helper as she crossed out October on our calendar. Ariella shared about her last weekend with her peers and Ms Alessandra: "I helped mummy to make cupcakes for Joshua and daddy. I put sprinkles." Ms Alessandra encouraged Ariella and the group to think about what ingredients are needed to make cupcakes. Ariella also talked about buying flowers last weekend. We learned that she went to a flower shop in our community called Flower Power. She then helped dad to give the plants a new home by putting them in bigger pots. It was discussed that Ariella will keep looking after her new flowers by watering them, just like we do with our flowers here! Later on outside, we looked after our worm farm by giving the worms the leftover food from our morning tea.



After talking about Ariella's weekend shopping on Friday, we extended on the topic of shopping by discussing Archer's shopping habits on the 2nd. Ms Alessandra read out from the parent input received that Archer and his family shop at local Woolworths in our community, where they buy important things such as meat, fruit, vegetables, milk and bread. Ms Alessandra pointed out that those are all healthy and yummy foods we can buy at the supermarket. Being safe at the supermarket by staying with

their parents was also discussed.



SSSSS for snake - Ms Stella has noticed that the children really enjoy singing along to the Letterand song

about the letter S, Sammy snake. They loudly hiss together “ssss” and **Sueann** likes to point out “S for Sueann and S for snake”. So on the 2nd, Ms Stella introduced a snake activity to the children by using a piece of stocking on her arm as a snake puppet and hissing. The children laughed and liked pretending to be scared. Later on outside, the children used newspaper to fill the stockings as they created two snakes.

Continuing on with our shopping learning on the 3rd, Sueann excitedly talked about buying sunglasses recently. Ms Alessandra explained that they are sunglasses, worn to protect our eyes in the sun. Ms Alessandra read out from the input received that Sueann saw the sunglasses and liked them, but before taking them, she asked her parents if she could buy them. That’s a very good point! The children were reminded that they cannot just take things from shops, as they belong to the shop. However, after paying money for them, like Sueann did when she paid with a one dollar coin for her sunglasses, the item then belongs to them. Next, Koby was encouraged to share about his shopping.



Melbourne Cup day – On the 3rd, Ms Alessandra told the children that it was Melbourne Cup day, asking them if they knew what that meant. The children were a little confused, so she explained that every year in November, there is a big horse race in another city called Melbourne. Looking at our calendar, we could see that indeed, we are in November. Searching online, the children could see photos

of horses racing. They learned that the person who rides horses during horse races is called a jockey and they could also spot jockeys in the photos. They also saw photos of people dressed up to go watch the race, taking notice of the hats being worn by the ladies and learning that they are called fascinators. Next, the children engaged in horse artwork to celebrate Melbourne cup day. Max, Xavi, William, Amelia, Safirah and Ms Alessandra had a horse race with the mini horses we have in our room.

On the 4th, Safirah shared about her shopping habits. The children learned that the place where we can buy meat is called a butcher shop. Ms Alessandra read out from the input received that Mondays are shopping days for Safirah, showing them Monday on our calendar in comparison to that day, Wednesday. Next, Ms Alessandra showed the children shopping lists, asking them if they bought those items from shops, items such as oranges, apples, bread, milk, toilet paper, cheese... Later on, Eli, Max, Xavi,



Raffi, Kingston, Minka, Leo, Safirah and Ms Maylene played a game with the shopping lists. They had to find the items on their list and place them in the trolley.



On the 5th, Amelia approached Ms Alessandra offering lettuce for her to eat that she had 'prepared' at home corner. Ms Alessandra decided to extend our current shopping learning by asking Amelia to 'prepare and sell' a cup of tea to her. They both had a lot of fun acting out the customer/shop worker roles. Later on, the children engaged in collage making as another extension of the shopping learning. Looking through magazines with the educators, the

children found items they usually purchase from shops, such as sunscreen, herbs, yoghurt, corn etc.; cutting and pasting them on the collage. It was great to see the children interacting as they found familiar shopping items in the magazines.

On the 9th, Aiden talked about his shopping habits. The children also learned that Aiden has a piggy bank where he saves money given to him by his mum, to buy toys and treats. Ms Alessandra explained what piggy banks are to the children, also explaining that their parents receive money from work and that's where the piggy bank money comes from. Some children wanted to share about their own experiences with piggy banks.



On the 10th, Francisca talked about her favourite shop with a lot of enthusiasm and confidence, "Francisca, daddy, Bunnings warehouse". When asked why trolleys are helpful, the children were a little confused, so it was explained that they hold a lot of things at once, so that we do not have to carry it all on our arms.

The conversation became about Christmas - Ms Alessandra explained that unlike the supermarkets we have been talking about, Bunnings does not sell food. As an example, we talked about Francisca buying Christmas lights and decorations there last weekend. She agreed, "Jingle bells". Ms Alessandra reminded the children about our Christmas concert last year, when we performed to Jingle bells. When offered, the children were very enthusiastic about listening to Jingle bells. As we listened to it, some children danced and clapped. Later on outside that day, Jayden and Sueann spotted a strawberry growing in our garden. They talked with Ms Alessandra about the possibility of growing their own fruit and vegetables as another option of having them at home, alongside buying them from shops.





On the 11th, Xavi spoke about his shopping time. Looking at his photo, we could see that he also shops at Bunnings Warehouse like Francisca (as discussed the day before). Next, it was Ariella's turn. "I go to Woollies", she said. Suddenly, as we were talking about shopping, Max arrived



showing his lunch box with a lot of enthusiasm. He showed the items he had inside and Ms Alessandra pointed out that those things were bought at a shop. Later on, the children engaged in a drawing activity. They drew the things they like to buy from the shops.



Remembrance Day – The children created their own red Poppy flowers in honour of Remembrance day on the 11th. After searching online for pictures of red poppies, they quickly identified the colours of the flower, red and black. So using red and black coloured paper and paper plates, they made beautiful red poppies.

On the 12th, Ms Alessandra about Mason's shopping many of his friends, Mason that he also shops at other florists. Xavi is familiar with can buy "bread". However, florists. Ms Alessandra



read out from the input received times. We found out that like also shops at supermarkets, but shops, such as at bakeries and bakeries, saying that's where we the children were not familiar with explained that florists sell flowers.

And we got to explore some flowers after that since Ariella had helped Ms Sabina with gardening earlier. She had spotted pink flowers ("I love pink flowers", she said) and Ms Sabina handed her a bunch. It was discussed that we can either plant our own flowers, as we do at Pumpkin, or buy them from a florist. We discovered that just last Friday, Mason bought flowers with dad for his mum's birthday and agreed that that is another reason we go shopping sometimes, to buy a present for someone. Later on outside, William, Xavi and Jayden pretended to be shopping. They filled a trolley up with many blocks and said they were shopping for "food".

On the 13th, Ethan showed his peers a photo of himself with his shopping. Ms Alessandra read out from the input received that Ethan is a good helper during shopping times as he helps mum to carry the shopping bags. During our discussion about Ethan, we learnt about another type of shop, a chemist/pharmacy. Ms Alessandra explained that Ethan shops at chemists for medicine. The children were reminded of all the types of shops they have learnt about recently during our Shopping learning story, such as supermarkets, bakeries, florists and butchers.



Water play – After discussing the weather through our weather chart on the 13th, everyone agreed that it was hot! Ms Stella suggested water combined with sea animal play (animal play is one of the children’s favourite activities) and everyone got excited! She had a lot of helpers as she filled a container with the outdoor hose. She then asked the children to identify the colour of the water and to name the colour of the ocean. They answered

“white” and “blue”. Using blue food colouring, the children turned the white water into blue, ocean water! That was really exciting for everyone and everyone wanted to engage in the water play. So the educators brought out another container to allow everyone to have a turn at the same time. It was a great, refreshing time! On the 16th, the children requested water play again and it became part of our outdoor play time for most days after that.

On The 17th, we discussed Elodie’s and Muhid’s home rules. The children could identify with their friends’ home rules since some of them are their own home rules and Pumpkin’s rules. We discussed rules such as sitting down for dinner (and meals at Pumpkin), teeth brushing, going to sleep at sleep time (Elodie’s rules), being polite, no shouting, packing up after making a mess and no breaking things (Muhid’s rules). The children could see good and not good behaviours as Elodie and Muhid showed photos of themselves doing those behaviours, such as Elodie not wanting to sleep and Muhid eating his dinner. Ms Alessandra combined this learning to our previous Feelings learning, reading out loud that Muhid’s parents feel happy when he engages in good behaviours and that Muhid feels angry when his parents make a mess.



On the 18th, we had a perfect example in our room of a ‘not good’ behaviour. One child bit another over a toy. Ms Alessandra explained that she feels sad when children bite and read out a book called ‘Teeth are not for biting’. As she read the book, she spoke about what the children can do when they feel

cranky and upset and may feel like biting. They were asked to use their words, come for a hug, have a drink and a rest but to never bite as biting hurts and makes everyone feel sad.

Next, we talked about Archer's behaviours. As a group, we spotted similarities between Archer's, Elodie's and Muhid's good behaviours: packing up toys, eating dinner and sharing. And we also discovered different house rules, such as no climbing on the table and playing nicely with his dog. And like at Pumpkin, biting and hitting are not allowed at Archer's house, trying new foods and using his words are encouraged.



On the 19th, William proudly showed pictures of his behaviours to his peers. Ms Alessandra explained that William is holding his sticker chart in the photo. About his chart, the children learned that when he does something good he gets a sticker. The children were asked to name some behaviours they thought would get William a sticker:

Ariella: "Eat his dinner"

Sueann: "No snatching"; "Sit table (for eating)"

Aiden: "Sharing"

That's right and good remembering from our recent discussions! And about behaviours that do not get William a sticker, we discussed saying "no" angrily to mummy and daddy and throwing food on the floor as not good behaviours.

Christmas is coming! – And so is our end-of-year concert! **Please dress your child in green and/or red for the concert that will be held on Friday, the 11th of December at 3:30pm. Due to the large amount of families coming to the concert, we recommend that you walk to Pumpkin if you live close by to avoid missing out on parking spots.** On the 20th, we searched online as a group for Christmas



artwork ideas. Ms Alessandra told the children about Rudolph, the red nosed reindeer and invited the children to sing along with her. Next, the children chose a reindeer artwork made out of handprints and off we went to make them! And we did not forget to add a nose, as the children picked what colour they wanted their reindeer to have.

When arriving on the 23rd, William proudly approached the educators and peers to show a piece of paper he brought with him: "A butterfly". Upon

hearing about a butterfly, Ariella joined in by saying “I saw a butterfly. The butterfly tried to go on my finger. It was white, not pink. It was white all day long”. Aiden also had a butterfly related story: “I saw a caterpillar on the balcony. It was a different colour (to the green one from ‘The very hungry caterpillar’ book), it was tiny”. Later on, to extend the conversations about butterflies between the children and educators, Ms Alessandra read the book ‘The very hungry caterpillar’, discussing the life cycle of a butterfly, talking about the days of the week and food that are treats and food for meal times, and encouraging counting.



A new game – Ms Stella introduced the children to a fun game on the 23rd. She explained the game to them, saying they would play by aiming and throwing a ping pong ball into the holes of the board. Everyone was really excited and could not wait to get started. The children were reminded of one important rule during the game: turn-taking so that everyone could join in and have fun too. And indeed it was a fun time for everyone! The children enjoyed saying “I did it”, as they threw balls towards the holes.

After all our butterfly discussions on the 23rd, Minka arrived dressed as one on the 24th. What a coincidence! Since the children are showing an interest towards butterflies, Ms Alessandra suggested we make our own butterflies today. The children were very excited about the idea and enjoyed engaging in butterfly artwork. Ms Alessandra traced the children’s hands in a butterfly shape and the children decorated the butterflies as they wished. Skye and Ethan were so excited about the artwork and could not wait for their turns, as they kept saying “My turn, my turn”. Safirah proudly showed her finished butterfly, explaining that she added hearts to it. The butterflies look great! We read another butterfly book today, called ‘The butteRfly’, this time discussing the butterflies shrugging their skin off once they get too big for it.



On the 25th, Aiden showed a book to his peers. He said the book is about “camouflage for the animals to hide”. Ms Alessandra explained that some animals are green to match leaves on



the trees, making it hard to see them and keeping them safe. The children also learned that some animals look like tree trunks and others have patterns that look like leaves so they can also camouflage. In Aiden's book, we could see a green bird, a gecko and a snake camouflaging. The children liked looking for the hiding animals! Other animals from the book that were also discussed due to the children asking or pointing to them were: green frogs eating insects, tigers with their long, sharp teeth, a flying lizard's tricks, a matamata turtle, a flower mantis, chameleons and their long tongues, a stick insect and a red frog.

Christmas Cards – The children are aware that Christmas time is coming as we often talk about the month of December coming up next, when talking about through our date chart. On the 25th, the children started working on Christmas cards for their parents. Making the cards was a lot of fun, especially as it involved hand painting, which the children love doing!

William's mum, Kate, told Ms Alessandra on the 26th that William is interested in learning about money at the moment. So later on, the children were encouraged to share their knowledge about money. Ms Sabina shared her coins so that the children could take a look at all the different Australian coins. The children were encouraged to note the different shapes, sizes, colours, numbers and weight of the coins. They each had a turn holding a 5 cent piece on one hand and a 2 dollar piece on another, comparing the weight, then passed the coins along so their peers could also have a turn. Searching online, we found pictures of Australian dollar notes and talked about them. Ms Alessandra talked about money coming from their parents due to them working and encouraged them to talk about what they think money is used for and how much things might cost.



Christmas Wreaths – Ariella recently brought up wreaths when we were discussing Christmas decoration ideas to add to our room. And since the children have been enjoying talking about Christmas and engaging in Christmas artwork, we decide to make our own wreaths on the 26th.



Ariella's Behaviour – Extending on our behaviour discussions on the 26th, we extended the input received about Ariella's behaviours. She talked about what she knows are her good behaviours "No hitting my brother and doing a

wee in the toilet”, and about her not so good behaviours “Not going to the toilet and (wanting) ice-cream for dinner”. Ms Alessandra read out that Ariella is not allowed to play with her food and drink at home, something the children can relate to at Pumpkin.

On the 26th, Steven’s mum (Eleni) spoke to Ms Maylene about his name day celebration. Eleni explained that it was Steven’s name day and that he was named after St Stephen. So we decided to learn more about Steven’s name day. We searched online and discovered that in another country called Greece, your name day is a special day, just like a birthday. And that Steven and his family celebrate their name days as they are Greek. Looking through the list of names, we found out that our friend Chris also has a name day, on the 9th of May. We hope Steven had a nice name day!

My behaviour – Mason and Ethan shared about their behaviours on the 27th as we further extended on our behaviour learning. Ethan said about his good behaviour: “I help mummy push the trolley”. About his not good behaviours, we discussed what we can do instead to make them good behaviours, such as using our words instead of shouting and crying. We also talked about why some behaviours are not good, such as that jumping on the bed can result in breaking the bed and getting hurt. Ms Alessandra pointed out that Mason also engages in the good behaviour of helping his parents. Why we should help with some chores was also discussed, such as putting the rubbish in the bin and placing dirty clothes in the laundry basket, chores that Mason does.

Lionfish November Newsletter



We have been getting excited for Christmas this month. The Lionfish have been practicing their Christmas concert songs almost every day. They have enjoyed listening to other Christmas music too while they play, and they are of course always eager to get up and have a dance together! Other than that, we've been engaging in a lot of Christmas craft, such as, bells, wreaths, Christmas tree decorating, ornament decorating, and stockings.



The children have really gotten into practicing their drawing skills this month. During morning indoor play on the 2nd, Xavier, London and Hart sat together at the group drawing activity. London said to Miss Tracey, "I'm going to draw a letter L!" Xavier said, "I'll draw an L for you...I've drawn an X!" He leant across the table to draw an L on the paper in front of London. Hart said, "I can draw an H!" She demonstrated on the paper in front of her. London drew an L on the paper next to the one Xavier had drawn.



They have also shown great interest in building. On most days they will ask for building blocks to come down to play with, or our new magnetic squares. One morning, Olivia, Abigail, Xavier, Kayla and Conor sat at the table building with the flexo construction. Olivia joined her pieces in a line, saying, "I'm building a bridge!" She demonstrated by bending her construction. Xavier joined his pieces in a row too, he lay his construction

on the table and rolled his cars along it. Conor joined his together in a row, then joined the end. He placed it on top of his head. He said, "Look it's a crown!" Kayla also made a crown with her construction pieces. She said, "I'm a Princess!"

For Letterland this month, we have been exploring the letters U, V, W and X. Now that we are coming to the end of the Letterland program, we have been spending a week on each letter, reading the stories, practicing our writing, making sounds, and creating new brainstorms. The children have also engaged in a lot of arts and crafts for their letterland, including umbrellas, vans, wombats, and x-rays.



We celebrated a few special occasions this month including, the Melbourne Cup, Diwali Day, Remembrance Day, and National Recycling week. For Melbourne Cup, the children have enjoyed

various activities such as making their own horse, and colouring in hats and cups. The children especially enjoyed cutting the manes in order to increase their cutting skills. Olivia said "I cut a small bit.". Hart said "I like this is fun." A big happy birthday to Siena, William, Olivia, Lysia, Hart and Kayla for this month too!

The children have really enjoyed playing in the sandpit this month. During outdoor play on the 9th, London played in the sandpit. "I'm making a cake for Hart", she said. "Its going to have strawberries,



chocolate and milk in it". Vibha and Barbara joined in a little bit later. "I'm making a sand castle", said Barbara. "I'm making a Peppa Pig cake for Olivia", Vibha said. Abigail and Kayla worked together, using their hands to put the sand in a pile. As they added sand, they patted it down. Abigail said, "Look, we've made the biggest mountain ever!" Siena and Olivia used their hands to dig in the sand, as well as making handprints. They moved their fingers through the sand, using them like a rake.



Miss Rebecca set up some chairs so the children game of musical chairs. They danced around to the ipad. When the music stopped, they had to sit down. If they missed out on a chair they Rebecca play the music. They had great fun!



could play a the music from find a chair and helped Miss When the ipad



didn't work, Miss Tracey remembered that we had a karaoke machine upstairs that we could use. We set it up and the Lionfish and Starfish children had a great time singing along to Christmas carols. The children who weren't singing were in the audience and encouraged the others, who were singing. London said, "You did a great job Conor!" Kayla and Hart also had a turn singing with the microphones which they really enjoyed.

The Lionfish got into the doctors kit again. "Miss Charlotte's sick, we have to fix her", said London. "Can i check your eyes and ears?" asked Marco. "Let me check in your mouth", said Robert. "Let me check your tummy and give you medicine", Lionfish made Miss Charlotte all better again! .



said Hart. The They have also even treat Marco said, "I have wrapped it up into a said, "my baby is

been treating dolls, babies and each other. They themselves sometimes! a sore arm, ouch!" and sling for his arm. London



sick, help her Hart”, and Hart checked the baby out and gave it a needle to make it better. Even Chayce carried his baby over to Marco to ask Marco to help him. Then London started to pretend she was feeling unwell and layed down. Samantha and Hart made her a little bed, “she cant go outside, she has to rest”, said Samantha. They comforted her by patting her and checking her with the doctors utensils.

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators :)

Starfish November Newsletter

Ola! Welcome to Starfish November Newsletter! =)

Wow! Can you believe it is almost that time of the year again? The FESTIVE season is here! YAY! There's only few weeks left of the year... What an amazing and incredible year it has been... Not only have the children grown and developed so much, but we feel that we, as Educators, have as well!

We will all be sad when the year ends, =(but we can't wait to see what the future brings to all of our children! ^.^

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Unbelievably, Christmas is only three weeks away. As you might already aware, our **Christmas concert will be held on Friday, 11th December at 3 pm.**

After discussion with the children, we have decided to have **RED** and/or **WHITE** as the dress code for our Christmas concert. We would like to encourage all Starfish families to dress your child in **Red** and/or **White** attire on Friday, 11th December.

The children have been actively involved in decorating our room as well as participating in lots of Christmas art and craft experience.

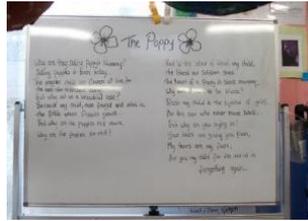
If you celebrate something different, or have any traditions you would like to us to observe, please let us know as we would love to incorporate them in our learning program.



When asked what Christmas decoration the children like to make, Christmas Tree was the most popular choice! The children were shown how to create their mini Christmas trees, as they painted one side of the cardstock, the children were encouraged to use the butterfly transfer method, to fold and gently press down on the paper. Once they opened up their print, they were really happy to see that the paint had transferred to the other side, leaving a very symmetrical Christmas tree. The children were excited to begin decorating and were able to use various materials to add to their craft.

Starfish also helped Rebecca draw up a large cardboard 3D Christmas tree, for which they took turns painting green. The children were thrilled to see two cardboard trees they painted were put

together by Rebecca. They commented, "It looks like real tree now! We can put stars, bells, socks on our Christmas tree!"



Remembrance Day

On the 11th November marked a very significant date in Australia's history, 'Remembrance Day' and the Starfish children participated in celebrating this very important day.

They researched 'Remembrance Day' on the computer and watched a movie called 'The Poppy Story'. Starfish then had a lengthy discussion regarding how the second battle fought within Flanders Fields in 1915, shaped the way that our country is today and inadvertently affected all those who reside in Australia to this day. That because of these selfless soldiers, we have the freedom to speak without persecution, to go to school, to work and raise a family in this free country. Starfish children were then read a poem called 'The Poppy', written from the perspective of a young child's mind. 'The poppy' tastefully discussed why the Poppy flower symbolises 'Remembrance Day', what the colours Red and Black signify and why we need to be silent for a minute out of respect for those who fell.

Miss Rebecca had provided a craft activity for the children to partake in, where they would need to use their fine motor skills and scissors to cut out 1x 'Stigma' and 4x 'petals', paint the petals red using the red paint and brushes and then create a Poppy flower by gluing the pieces down, complete with the black stigma in the middle.

Once their 'Remembrance Day' Poppies were dry, the poem that the children had read was added to complete the craft. They looked really good and Miss Rebecca was very impressed by their efforts in their cutting abilities and their interests in the activity.

Starfish children then paid their respects by participating in 'One Minute Silence' at 11am, they were able to maintain respectful behaviours and understood that this time was meant for reflection and remembering those who fought and died in the field of the Red Poppies.



Diwali Celebration – Festival of Lights!

Starfish also participated in the 'Diwali' celebrations from the 11th -16th of November, an Ancient Hindu festival, which spiritually signifies 'Victory of Light over Darkness', 'Knowledge over Ignorance' 'Good over Evil' and 'Hope and Despair'.

This festival spans over the autumn and spring seasons and is known as one of the largest and brightest festivals in India. Starfish children researched 'Diwali' on our computer and watched a short movie explaining the importance of the festival to the Indian culture.

Starfish children were given the opportunity to choose their crafts throughout the week, including; 'Henna Hand tattoo crafts', 'Elephant Painting'- using Hindu patterns, 'Pulled String Art' and 'Rangoli'.



The children began their Henna hand tattoos, using the tips of the paintbrushes and brown paint resembling and replacing that of Henna dye to create their own Henna tattoo patterns and designs. Miss Cory provided the children with some visual aid on the i-pads and Miss Rebecca drew up some hand silhouettes. Starfish Educators were really impressed by what the children had come up with, the children were able to re-create traditional Hindu patterns and appropriate their own using their own knowledge of the craft.



Traditional Pulled String painting...

On the 13th November, they participated in a 'Traditional Pulled String' craft and used the technique of manipulating string from left to right, that had been dipped into brightly coloured paints and placed between two pieces of paper and using pressure from their hands to press down as they pulled the string out. The patterns that the children were creating were very organic in design and this technique has been used in traditional paintings throughout India and other countries.

Miss Rebecca addressed the children in the group and said “you can choose as many colours as you like and you can also make new colours by crossing the strings over each-other, make sure you move the string back and forth before pulling it out”. They enjoyed the experience and were able to follow the instructions of the ‘Traditional Pulled String’ craft.

To tie off the children’s celebrations of ‘Diwali’, the children were able to have a go at creating their very own ‘Rangoli’ design/ Mandalas Sand Art, using the coloured sand that Miss Rebecca had created on the 11th.

Miss Rebecca also drew up some traditional Diwali symbols and patterns for the children, to add coloured sand to finish them off. Some of the children created rainbows, towers, flowers, zig-zags, circles within circles, various shapes and coloured dots. Starfish children did a great job in creating their first ‘Rangoli’ designs and even created some new colours as they observed the coloured sand mixing and merging with the glue.



On the 12th November, it felt like Christmas had come early in the Starfish room as box after box arrived. The children have been exploring the new resources, furthering their creativity and imaginations. The children were introduced to the ‘Geo-Board’, where they were required to stretch the rubber bands over the blunt plastic spikes on the board to create basic shapes and pictures. The Geo-Board is also a handy tool in teaching the children about maths, symmetry, geometric concepts or to solve mathematical puzzles. Starfish children used their fine motor abilities and their imaginations to create various shapes, patterns and pictures ranging from the Sun, a flower, boats and even a detailed picture of a house.

The children were given the chance to play with the new ‘Magnetic Shapes’, enabling them more freedom with smaller magnets to create some really intricate shapes and formations. They also pieced together the new ‘Sustainability’ Puzzles and were able to name the Sustainable Practices imagery, this aids in their awareness and knowledge in minimising wastage and the importance of recycling.



Science Investigation – Float or Sink?

As the weather warming up this month, we have been providing water play in the playground. Educators have heard children discussing about things that sink and float while role play the sea creatures. To extend children's interest in learning more about floating and sinking, we watched a video about why an object sinks or floats. We have learnt some new vocabularies such as **buoyancy and density**.

The children were observed hypothesising and expressing their knowledge and ideas when asked to explain whether the object floats or sinks.

Starfish have also enjoyed the opportunity of playing with the new clear Water Table, complete with pipes and tubing. They have hypothesised with Miss Cory as to what will happen if the water is poured into the pipe and funnel and have experimented with ways of adding and transferring the water from one side of the water table to the other side. Starfish children have been fascinated with 'water flow' and have discussed measurement during their water play experiences.



Excursion to Powerhouse Museum!

The highlight for this month would be the Excursion to **Powerhouse Museum!!!!**

We are very fortunate to have an opportunity to go to another excursion.

What an extraordinary day for Starfish children on Thursday, 26th Nov!!!

The children were super excited and thrilled when we got to Powerhouse Museum.

We started off with the 'Transport' section and looked at the steam train. The children got in the train and repeated the sound "Choo choo.... Chugga chugga...."

We also looked at different type of trains in the miniature model and the diorama train which was built in 1954!

Next we moved to "Mars Lab" section where there is a very cool Rover operated by computer!

We looked at what planet Mars look like as well as learned about different types of rocks that can be found on Mars!

The bubbly surface rock caught the children's attention and the man explained that kind of rock can be seen on Planet Mars! Interesting!

The Dancing Robot was one of the children's favourite as it makes funny and cool dancing movement!

After Dancing Robot, we went to Space section. The Zero Gravity lab was incredible!!! We all screamed when the light was off and started to slowly spin. We felt like astronauts going to the moon! Yayy!

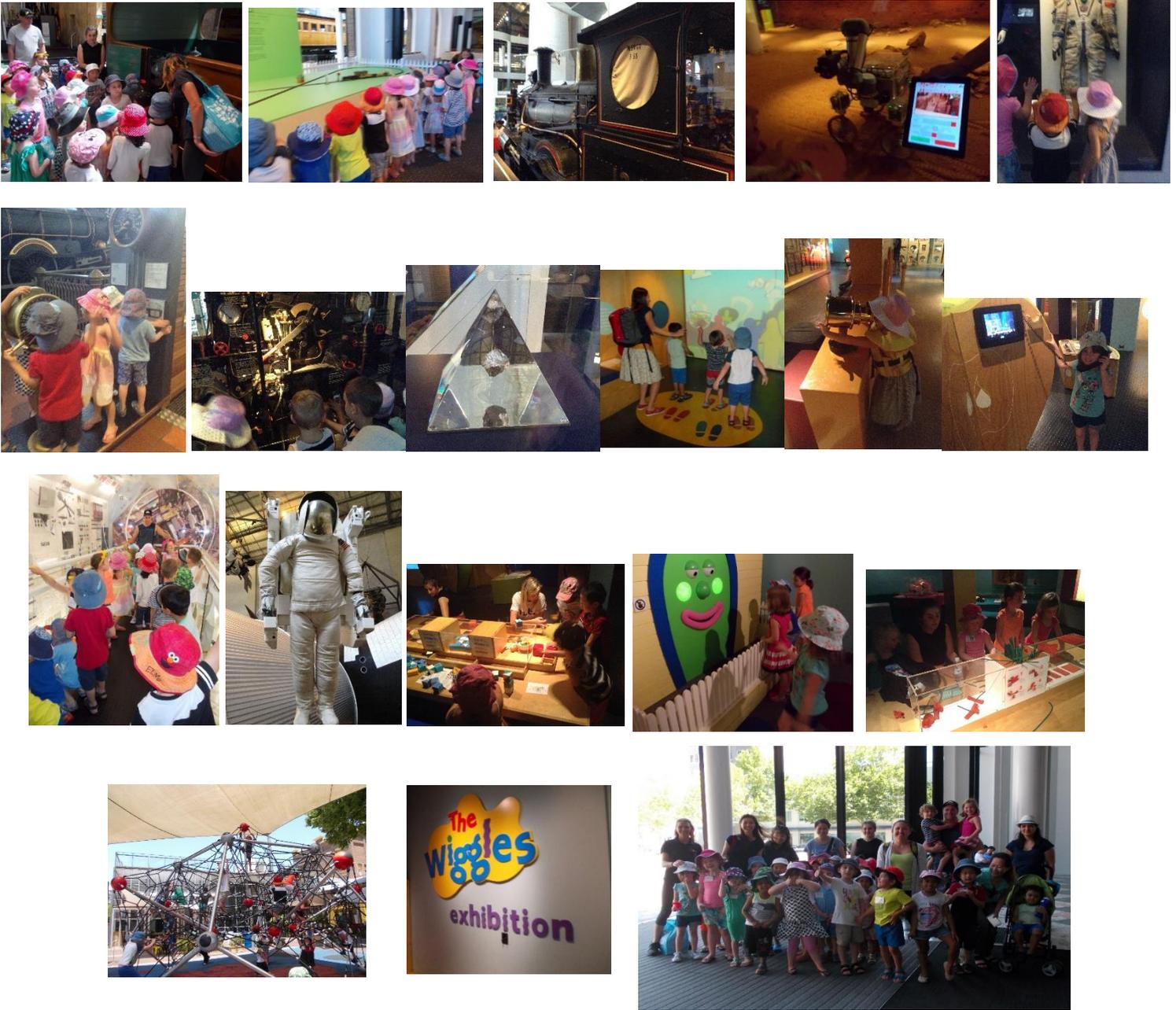
We were in awe when we saw a tiny piece of moon at the Space section. That's awesome!!

We moved on to looking at different costumes that astronauts wear in the space!

After lunch, we head to The Wiggles Exhibition. The children were fascinated to see each character of The Wiggles!

We had a super fun time exploring different sections at The Wiggles – Dorothy's house, Henry the Octopus, interactive games and colouring, the pirates and the Big Red Car!

Once again, we would like to thank all the parents for your cooperation in this excursion. Also, we would like to express our gratitude to the parents who came to the Museum and joined in the excursion. Your participation and help is highly appreciated.



Until next month,

Starfish Educators.