



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter - November 2016

Centre News

Our centre will be closed for one week, we will be closed from Monday, the 26th of December 2016 and reopen on Tuesday, the 03rd of January 2017.

Please remember our Christmas concert on Friday, the 16th of December 2016 at 3.30 pm.

Dress code:

- The **Clownfish** children, please dress your child in white and **red** or white and **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** (You can bring a Santa's hat as well if you want☺).
- The **Starfish** children, all children are invited to wear something **green**.

As you can see we have a big Christmas tree set up in the Starfish room, parents and families are welcome to donate or bring something to put under our tree. We are going to give some lovely presents to the sick children at the Sydney Children's Hospital.

This year we only accept new or unused donations, giving a Christmas gift to a child or family helps them to make their day special, especially if they have to stay in the hospital during this festive season.

As this will be our last Newsletter this year, Pumpkin Educators wish all our children, parents and families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday. We look forward to seeing you all back in 2017!



Dec 2016 and Jan 2017 Calendar of Events

03rd of Dec 2016- Saturday – International Day of People with Disabilities.

08th of Dec 2016 - Thursday – Immaculate Conception – Catholic Tradition, feast day in honour of Mary, mother of Jesus was preserved from original sin.

16th of Dec 2016 – Friday – Centre Christmas Party at 3.30 pm.

26/12/16 – 30/12/16 - Centre Closed for one week.

25th of Dec 2016 – Christmas Day

26th of Dec 2016– Boxing Day

01st of Jan 2017– New Year's Day

02nd of Jan 2017 - Monday - New Year's Day Holiday - Centre Closed

5th of Jan 2017- Thursday – National Bird Day

6th of Jan 2017 - Friday – Epiphany – Christian Tradition, this day commemorates the manifestation of Jesus Christ.

7th of Jan 2017- Saturday – Orthodox Christmas - Eastern Orthodox religions mark their dates by Julian calendar as opposed to the Gregorian calendar.

14th of Jan 2017 – Saturday – Orthodox New Year.

26th of Jan 2017 – Thursday - Australia Day – centre closed.

28th – Saturday – Chinese New Year, Year of a Rooster.

Staff's Holiday

- **Miss Elly** will be away from the 19th of December 2016 and she will be back on Monday, the 16th of January 2017. If you need anything, please contact me through my email, Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au.
- **Miss Pimpini** will be away from the 24th of November 2016 and she will be back on Wednesday, the 04th of January 2017.
- **Miss Criselda** will be away from the 02nd of January 2017 and she will be back on Monday, the 06th of February 2017.
- **Miss Yuki** will be away from the 02nd of January 2017 and she will be back on Tuesday, the 10th of January 2017.
- **Miss Stella** will be away from the 19th of December 2016 and she will be back on Tuesday, the 10th of January 2017.
- **Miss Chunli (the Clownfish room)** will come back from her long holiday on Friday, the 20th of January 2017.
- **Mr Sim** will be away from the 23rd of January 2017 and he will be back on week of 20/02/2017.

Clownfish News

Welcome November! We can see that we are reaching end of the year. The sun is finally starting to shine, time for us to get ready for summer! Yayy! ☺

Towards end of this month we celebrated Blair 1st birthday at Clownfish room. Happy birthday Blair! Thank you for having us in your happy day. Also glad to hear good news from some parents that their children are finally starting to walk! We will definitely support their development further here. ☺



Cultural diversity

Earlier this month, we spotted lots of group play experiences happening among the clownfish children, we realized we came from various cultural background, such as Australian, Chinese, French, Canadian, Lebanese, Korean, Spain, Indian, New Zealand, Scottish, Irish, and many more! Then Miss Stella decided to include a multicultural greeting during morning group time “selamat pagi” (good morning in Indonesia); “Bonjour” (good morning in French); “Ni Hao” (how are you in Chinese); “ola” (hello in Spanish). Continuing this discussion, Clownfish families were sharing some of their cultural background day to day through the family input. Thank you for sharing ☺ then we extend the input into some exciting experiences such as making an Ethiopian meal, traditional dress up, flag painting, and more cultural experiences.



We found a Snail!

On 4th of November, Miss Fenny and Penelope.S spotted a snail hanging around the playground gate, we then decided to have a closer look of it by asking Miss Pimpini to catch and put it into the small transparent container (we didn't forget to put some small holes in the container to give some air). To extend the children's interest Miss Stella decided to see more information regarding snail, as its Miss Stella's first time too spotting a snail!! Miss Stella showed the children that snail got a very slimy, sticky and soft body texture that protected by the hard shell, afterwards we also put some leaves inside the container to keep it moist, on 5th of November we decided to be released the snail from the container freely into the garden! That's the end of our snail exploration! 😊



Christmas's is coming soon...

Couple of weeks away to our annual Christmas concert on 16th of December, you may dress the children with a white red or white green outfit (for the girl, you can put on their tutu skirt to complete their Christmas costume) we have been practicing the song and the dance every single day, during the practice the children have been paying attention and listening to Miss Stella's instruction really well. Christmas season has been keeping the children busy with the art and craft activities, exploring Christmas song, and helping educators decorate the room. 😊



Physical activities

Throughout this month, the clownfish children have been showing their impressive gross motor skill (climbing, walking, running, and more gross motor movement) confidently, at Pumpkin we have been implementing MUNCH&MOVE program and resources into our daily routine started from healthy eating to fundamental physical skills to support children's overall goal which is achieving healthy lifestyle. Regular physical activity is one of the greatest way to support children's learning in a fun and interactive way for them to enjoy. We have provided them more physical activity resources, such as climbing frame, hopping mat, balancing beam, hula hoop, bikes, and more physical activities for the children to enjoy.



Parent reminder

For all of those new families, as well as those who have been with us for a while, we would like to remind everyone about some essential items that your child needs to bring with them:

- Spare clothes as we might have a water play during the day (as the weather is getting warm, dress them in appropriate summer clothing)
- A very thin cardigan/jacket (in case of the unpredictable weather)
- Bucket Hat (not cap)
- Sunscreen (if they have a sensitive skin, just let us know)
- Appropriate shoes
- Drink bottle
- 4 to 5 nappies a day and nappy cream
- Bed sheet and thin blanket

Until next month,
Clownfish educators.

Jellyfish News

A Big Welcome to Nabila, Ella T. and James from the Clownfish room.

Belated Happy Birthday to Muhid and Mason☺



December 2016 and January 2017 Birthday Celebrants:

Arabella- 10th of December Aliyah N. - 10th of January

Time really flies. Soon we're going to say good bye to 2016, it seems like it just started.



We're done decorating our room with recycled Christmas ornaments from last year, as well as recycled resources



like toilet rolls, boxes and boards which the children have painted early in November. This is to promote recycling awareness to preserve our environment.



This month we tried to incorporate activities from 'Munch & Move' Fundamental Movement Skills in Action. We had lots of physical activities involving balls. We did stationary dribbling, kicking, throwing and pass the ball.



During outdoor play one morning, some of the children were seen crawling under the cubby house.



We decided to make crawling more fun. We asked the children to line up with their legs apart. Each one had a turn to crawl under and would go back at the back of the line. After everyone had a turn and whilst everyone was still lining up, we decided to have another game, rolling the ball



under. It was a fun activity as everyone learnt how to follow instructions, wait for their turn and play cooperatively.

We also practiced hopping, galloping, moving our body from side to side and much more.





The children showed great interest in playing with ball on the 23rd of November. Some of them were seen trying to strike the ball with the paddle and some of them enjoyed throwing, kicking, bouncing and passing ball to each other.



To extend the children's interest in ball, we decided to play bowling. We set up the pins and we demonstrated how to do it. The children patiently watched as we set them up and the fun begun. Each one had a go and they shouted for joy if they happened to hit the pins with the ball. They helped in setting up the pins each time for the next player and they were

also good helpers in retrieving the balls back.

Toilet Training

We got some Jellyfish children who started toilet training few weeks ago and most of them are doing very well, except for those who still need more pushing and encouragement.

Christmas Concert

The children are practicing hard for the Christmas concert which will be held on the 16th of December at 3:30pm. Please dress up your child in Christmas colours like red or green if possible.

We wish all Families a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2017!

Until next year,
Jellyfish/Sunfish Educators

Lionfish Newsletter



The Lionfish have enjoyed their outdoor play in the sandpit this month. Whether they work with a friend, or even by themselves, they are always thinking of new ways to get creative! On the 2nd November, Edelyn played in the sandpit. “I’m making a



chocolate cake”, she said. Miss Charlotte and Edelyn talked about the ingredients she needed to put in it.. We listed milk, flour, sugar... And Edelyn said, “and sprinkles!” Xavi also played in the sandpit. “I’m making a track for my monster truck transformer”, he said. He made it really hilly so that his truck could drive up and down on the sand.

On the 8th, Sofia, Aaysha and Edelyn practised their cooking skills in the sand pit. Sofia made banana cookies, Edelyn milk and Aaysha coffee. Minka also joined them and made cakes. Jose and Felipe explored the sand, comparing the wet sand with the dry sand as they made sand moulds.



The children continued to show interest in the chickens as well this month. On the 2nd of November, Jamal went to have a look at the chickens, “they’re so big now.. They’re eating all their food and they’re having a drink of water.. That’s really important”, he said. “I think they want to come out to fly.. They’re flapping their wings”, he observed. Jose and Felipe also watched the chickens. When the educators explained it was their new house, they repeated “house”, and they looked at the chickens colours saying “yellow” and “black”.

On the 17th, Hart was playing in the sandpit and said, “I want to go look at the chickens”, and she ran over to the chicken house. “They’re resting together.. They love each other”, she said. “Oh they’re awake now”, she said when the chickens got up. They started to flap and peck at their feathers, and Hart copied them, “I’m a chicken Miss Charlotte, see”, “He’s trying to get his feathers off”.



The Lionfish's imaginative play continued this month as the children continue to explore their environment, and make real-life connections in their play. On the 2nd, during morning outdoor



play, the Lionfish children continued their interest in pretend play. Jamal used his interest in trains, pretending to be a train driver whilst sitting on the climbing frame. Aaysha, Sofia and Evie (Jellyfish) joined in pretending to be passengers on the train trip.

On the 3rd November, when we came outside, Elodie and Sofia played at the changing table with the babies. “Shhh they’re asleep” said Sofia, “they’re very tired”, added Elodie. Some of the Lionfish boys joined in like William and Koby and the Lionfish pretended to go on holiday together with their babies.

“We’re going in holiday on a big plane”, said William, “we’re going to Woolongong”, said Sofia. “Let’s go now”, said Elodie and they all ran off under the cubby house, “this is where our holiday is”, said Sofia.



On the 11th, Sofia, Ruby, Edelyn and Elodie all helped each other get dressed in the dress ups. Edelyn and Ruby ran off to play in the cubby house. Sofia said to Elodie, “Ok mummy’s going to work in the car now”, and



Elodie said, “Ok I’m going to work over here”, said Elodie and she walked over to the wall and pretended to type and write at a desk.



The children have enjoyed playing around with some mapping skills. When we came inside for group, Miss Tracey showed the children the World Map that Miss Catherine bought for us to use. We looked at the stickers and talked about



the different countries in the world. Miss Tracey let each child find the country where their child belonged by referencing the letters at **the** top of the map and the numbers down the side.

The children were interested in played with the babies a lot this month.

On the 7th, Sofia and Aaysha got their babies ready to go on a shopping trip, wrapping them up in blankets and putting them into the trolleys before heading off to do some shopping. They even had a picnic



under the fort during their shopping trip. Elina and Edelyn also used the trolley with their baby inside to go on a shopping adventure. Edelyn said, “We’re buying lego!” as she helped Elina fill the trolley with blocks. Jamal also decided to do some shopping, pushing the trolley around the yard, collecting blocks on the way.

On the 14th, Jamal and William explored the Xylophones from the musical instrument box that was on the mat. They banged the notes, using the wooden or metal sticks. This interest continued when we came outside after morning tea. Ariella explored the triangle, saying, "I like this one the best!" Elina explored the tambourine, Eli explored the drum and Edelyn explored the triangle too. After a little while, Ariella suggested, "Let's make a band!" Jamal and Hart joined in, choosing different instruments to use. William, Minka and Sofia joined in, banging and shaking their instruments, even practising our songs for the Christmas Concert! The children are getting very excited for Santa's visit!

The children are getting more and more excited as we prepare for Christmas. We've started practicing outside with the other groups for our Christmas concert.. The Lionfish are particularly excited for their families to come and watch them. We've even started our Christmas arts 'n' crafts to decorate our room, and have even put up our tree!

A big happy birthday to Hart on the 28th!

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators :)

Starfish Newsletter



Our Resident Chickens - At the end of last month, the children built a coup with Mr Sim for our resident chicks. The chicks are now living in there! This month, we have been observing how much the chickens are growing and changing. It's



lovely to have them outdoors with us! On the 16th, the children named the chickens Nana and Lucy!



Our Community - The children continued sharing about places they attend in the community this month. We discussed local beaches, parks, churches, leisure centres and schools. They have



also been sharing experiences of spotting their peers and educators in the community throughout the month such as at the park, shops, at swimming lessons and at school orientations. On the 2nd, some children



spontaneously started making representations of their communities through drawings in big groups. They drew houses, shops, buildings, cars, roads, their families, Ms Alessandra and their peers. That led us to creating our very own miniature community based on the children's representation of their neighbourhoods! Creating our community with recycled material was a great week to celebrate **Recycle week** this month! The children also celebrated the special week by continuing to create their concert props. Additionally, they used the cardboard pieces left over from the props to create their own play props such as the Harbour Bridge.



Sea shells from local beaches – Some children started bringing in shells from the local beaches to share with peers and to add to play. On the 7th,



they combined shells with water play by making a 'community' beach in the water table – they used blue food colouring and sand from the sandpit to create their beach. The next day, the children explored a variety of shells from Ms Rebecca's shell collection from the local Maroubra beach and once again added them to water play.

Big school - Since some children have started attending school orientations and have been talking about it, the children have been invited to start bringing in lunchboxes as a way to prepare for 'big school'. On the 14th, they were introduced to a book called The magic lunchbox – a NSW Health initiative. The book led to a discussion about good lunchbox foods and 'sometimes' foods, and gave us lots of good ideas of what to pack in the boxes! The children have also been enjoying listening and dancing to the **Munch and Move** song 'My lunchbox'. We finished the month learning more about big schools as the children started bringing in their school uniforms, shoes, hats, library bags and backpacks!

After our '**Places I travelled to**' learning (from last month) when we learnt about Mexico, it was great for the children to get to eat Mexican food as part of our lunch menu on the 3rd! They had guacamole – a traditional dish we had recently learnt about. How delicious!

My family - The children have been bringing in photos and drawings of their extended families this month which has led to many discussions about family members, how they are related to the children and finding out if they live in our community or not. The children have spotted many similarities and differences between their families and have learnt that not all families are the same and that is ok. On the 9th, the children got to meet a peer's cousin in real life! Additionally, it has been great to learn words for family members in the children's home languages!



Ms Alessandra noticed that a peer from the Lionfish room was wearing a Poppy flower on her t-shirt on the 11th. Therefore, she decided to introduce the Starfish children to **Remembrance Day**. To understand why our peer was wearing the poppy, the children listened attentively to a video called The Poppy story. The children also had the opportunity to engage in Remembrance Day art and craft.



Our concert! – The countdown to our concert has started! The children have started rehearsing outside and are looking (and sounding!) super ready for the big day. It is great to hear so many children and family members sharing their



excitement about the upcoming concert with the educators! **Please note that our concert will take place on Friday, the 16th of December at 3:30pm. The children are invited to wear green due to our Garden-themed performance.**

Creepy-crawlies – The children have been engaging in safety discussions with the educators now that the weather is getting warmer and bugs/insects are likely to come out from their hiding places. On the 17th, they explored a newspaper article about different Australian spiders and how to recognise them.

Until next month,
Starfish educators