



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter – April 2017

### Centre News

We are going to have our “Parent-Teacher interview” in the first month of June, the booking sheet will be available by middle of May. The interview will take about 10-15 minutes, “Parent-Teacher interview” is a great way to find out about your child’s progress. This will give you a great opportunity to learn more about your child’s academic, emotional and social development. In the interview, you can also make plans with your child’s educator about how you can both support your child. Please book your child in to talk to his/her educator in the room.

### Winter Time

As winter is approaching fast, please make sure you dress your child in warm clothes and bring a jacket or jumper just in case they need it when they play outside. Please also bring some spare clothes for your child for changing if needed. The outdoors in cold weather is enjoyed most when your child is dressed properly. In winter, the best idea is to stay warm and dry.

### Staff News

Miss Fenny will be on her annual leave from Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of May and she will be back to work on Thursday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2017.

# May Calender of Event

01<sup>st</sup> – 02<sup>nd</sup> – Yom Ha Atzmaut, Jewish Holiday.

07<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> – International Composting Awareness Week.

05<sup>th</sup> - Friday– Isra & Miraj, Muslim tradition.

12<sup>th</sup> - Friday– Mother’s Day afternoon tea at 3.15 pm.

14<sup>th</sup> - Sunday– Mother’s Day.

13<sup>th</sup> – 14/05/17 – Lag B’Omer, Jewish tradition.

23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> – Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Jewish Holiday.

25<sup>th</sup> - Thursday– Ascension Day, Christian tradition.

25<sup>th</sup> – Thursday – Australia’s Biggest Morning tea.

26<sup>th</sup> – Friday – National Sorry Day.

27<sup>th</sup> - Saturday – Ramadan begins, Muslim tradition.



# Clownfish News



Hello from the Clownfish room! Hopefully you have had an enjoyable Easter break and school holidays – for those of you who are lucky enough to be able to take that time off and are enjoying our beautiful Autumn weather. Throughout the month, the children have been enjoying and forming close attachment between each other in Clownfish room. They're confidently calling out each other's name and exchanging knowledge, ideas, and feeling during group experiences. Happy belated 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday to Lilly and Savannah who had the same birthday this month. We also want to give a warm welcome to Xavier! 😊

## Body Parts



Earlier this month the clownfish children were showing a great enthusiasm in identifying and discovering their body parts. It started when some of the children recognized “eyes, mouth, and nose” by pointing at it correctly. We then decided to further extend their interest by include “5 senses” song during our daily group time this month as well as supporting the learning by providing “mr.potato head” resources that requires the children using their cognitive skill to be identify body parts. .

## Role play



There're several role play going on in the clownfish room throughout this month where the children can explore their imagination and creative skill with their peers and educators. Firstly, Picnic role play had become our favorite of the month where the children could pretend to cook food and feed their peers. Secondly, the bus and car role play have been grabbing children's attention during outdoor and indoor experiences too. Followed by an animal and a bear hunt role play which extended from a family input. Role play is essentially learning through play that has a key component of children's learning where they can reflect and develop their knowledge of the world they're live in.

## April Celebration



Easter has become the most await event of this month! On 13<sup>th</sup> of April, the clownfish room held an Easter egg hunt and Easter hat parade. The clownfish children came with variety of Easter hats and some of the parent also came by to visit the parade, this was a great time to catch up with families within the service and celebrate the excitement. After the parade, the children did the egg hunting in the playground and put the chocolate egg that they found in the basket that we made a week before Easter. The week after, we also celebrated Anzac Day where the clownfish room decided to make an Anzac biscuit. We involved the children while pouring the melting chocolate on top of the biscuit. We then continued to make an awareness among the children by showing them some pictures in relation to Anzac Day from the local newspaper.

## Autumn Season



the interest started towards the end of the month, when some of our children spotted Autumn leaves were scattering around on our playground. We then decided to discuss this further in our group time, as In Autumn season those leaves fall down from the tree and turn colours from green to orange/brown/red. Also we had various activities happening such as messy art exploration, counting leaves, touching the leaves texture, and collecting autumn leaves in our playground with basket and mini trucks.

### Parent reminder

- Please send an appropriate change of clothes with your children as the weather is getting cooler. Please make sure these are labelled clearly.
- If you have any concern or question about the children's routine, feel free to have a look through our eat and sleep/nappy chart or ask clownfish educators during drop off/pick up time.
- We're completing our family tree, please bring one in if you haven't done so.



I would like to thank you all for your support throughout the month. We're eager to remind parents that your input to our curriculum is very important. If you would like us to extend on anything with your children, please come have a chat with us.

Until next months,

Clownfish educators

# Jellyfish News

Jellyfish/Sunfish April 2017 Newsletter



## May Birthday Celebrants:

Bryson- 5th

Caleb- 28th

Lilly from the Clownfish room has joined us this month, while Eduardo, Bryson and Rory have moved to the Lionfish Room.

What an exciting month of April.



We started the month talking about children's pets for our news time. The children were excited to show the pictures of their pets to their

peers and shared to the group their favourite activities with their pets and how they look after them.



We got lots of fun and exciting activities for Easter. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, we decided to start making Easter baskets for Easter egg hunt. We started by painting the board that we're going to use for our basket, but before that, we did colour



mixing experiment. Miss Maya put some colours together and the children helped in stirring. The children were amazed how the colours changed to green, orange and brown.



On the 10<sup>th</sup>, we read a book called, 'Easter Bunny Pop-up.' It was about an Easter Bunny who needed help to fix his Easter egg making machine, to have beautiful Easter eggs ready in time for Easter.



On the 11<sup>th</sup>, we decided to make our own Easter eggs. Miss Sabina helped to boil the eggs for us while we play outside. Before lunchtime, the eggs were ready! We



things that we needed, e.g. white vinegar, boiled water and food colouring. The children gathered around the table, waiting curiously and patiently. Miss Criselda explained to them what to do. We added 1 tsp of vinegar to ½ cup of boiled water, then added enough drops of food

colouring to the water. "Wow!" the children exclaimed as they saw the water changing colour. We then asked them to which colour they would like to dip the eggs. We were able to make colourful Easter eggs ready in time for Easter just like the Easter Bunny in the story that we read.

In preparation for our Easter Parade, on the 13<sup>th</sup>, we watched and listened to Easter Parade songs. The children enjoyed the lively music. They stood up and started to dance, some even in pairs.

We also watched 'Funny Rabbits-Easter cartoons' where the Easter Rabbits were all busy making Easter eggs.

### **Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Hunting**



13<sup>th</sup> was the day for the much awaited Easter Parade and Egg Hunting. Everyone was excited to show off their fabulous Easter hats. Miss Sabina made extra hats so everyone could have one.

The children had lots of fun looking for chocolate eggs around. It was so nice to see some children sharing some of their eggs to those who didn't get much.

### **Anzac Day**



To commemorate Anzac Day (25<sup>th</sup> April), we decided to watch a narrated book from the YouTube called Anzac Ted. It is a story about a teddy bear that was battered, torn, missing an eye and an ear from the war era. This book is to introduce the children about Anzac Day and the importance to remember the fallen soldiers during the war.

We also made red poppy from paper. Red poppy is known as a flower of remembrance and often worn to remember those who died in war or who still serve. Along with activities, the children exercised their fine motor skills such as folding and putting the stem through the hole in the middle. Moreover, the children recalled different types of shapes such as square and triangle while they were folding.

## **Toilet Training**

Please let us know if your child has started with toilet training so we could work together.

## **Mother's Day Afternoon tea**

We are going to have Mother's Day afternoon tea on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. Time will be announced soon. All Mums and Grandmas are welcome to come😊

Until next month,

Jellyfish educators

# Lionfish News

During the month of April, the Lionfish children have been talking about 'Their favourite music that they like to listen to and dance to'. The children have been bringing in links to have included : Songs from the Trolls movie, songs from the Frozen movie, Wiggles songs, songs from favourite TV shows and even some songs from different cultures. We have also looked at photos or watched videos of children dancing to their favourite music or songs and had some children share their favourite instruments. We have also continued to enjoy dancing outside to music and also moving our bodies to the 'Munch and Move' songs.



The Lionfish children have also continued to show a great interest in role play this month, confidently expressing their identity through dramatic play. They have used various resources as props to re-enact various scenarios. They have used the dress ups in their play as they pretend to be Princesses, Drs, different family members, ice cream sellers, monsters, robots and a variety of super heroes.



The Lionfish children have also continued to use their imaginations and be very creative with a variety of blocks and building resources . They have made rocket ships to fly to the Moon and Mars , houses , Fire Stations and tall buildings as well. They have also continued constructing with the train tracks, creating tracks and roads to use the trains and cars on .They have added stations, buildings and road signs as well as recycled materials such as cardboard tubes and pieces.



They have also enjoyed the sandpit in the beautiful autumn weather. They have explored the sandpit using different equipment including buckets, spades, rakes, sandpit moulds and trucks. They have made sandcastles, dug for treasure, constructed roads, made cakes and just explored the texture of the sand.



Leading up to Easter, the children participated in a variety of arts'n'crafts activities such as painting Easter Eggs using cotton buds, using collage to decorate Easter eggs, making our own Bunny masks and making chicks using paper plates. We also listened to stories about Easter and why we celebrate and watched some videos on youtube explaining the significance of Easter. We also made Easter Hats and baskets to use in our Easter Hat parade. The children enjoyed parading around the yard showing off their hats that they had made at Kindy or at home. Afterwards they participated in an Easter egg hunt, searching the garden to see what the Easter Bunny had left.



We also talked about Anzac Day in the lead up , listening to stories and making arts'n'crafts using rosemary from our garden. We also used red sand to make our own interpretation of poppies ( a symbol of the day).



This month, we have learnt about the letter 'f' and 'g', listening to Firefighter Fred and Golden Girl's stories, naming things starting with these letters, practicing our sounds and even practicing writing these letters on the whiteboard.

Just a reminder: Could you please not send toys to Kindy with small pieces as they can be a choking hazard to the younger children.

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators ☺

# Starfish News

To extend on last month's **construction interest**, the children engaged with the local community as they walked around the block to explore a couple of construction sites taking place in our community.



They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and came back telling all about the connections they explored between people in the community and were asking to go again! Therefore, we organised and went on a bigger excursion – this time to our community Fire Station (see below)!



The children's **interest in role-playing** started at the end of last month and carried over to April, with the children coming in dressed-up in all different characters and acting them out! We had many movie characters, superheroes, professionals, animals and pirates attend (and act out their roles) Pumpkin this month! After



one child came dressed as a pirate and another brought in a pirate book (on the same day!), we had our own treasure hunt in the sandpit! As the



interest in pirates/treasure maps continued, the children created and aged their own treasure maps!

Celebrating Easter – The children made very colourful eggs



after learning that some European countries use a special dying techniques to decorate Chicken's eggs for Easter. Having the option to create their own individualised eggs, the children were taken out to search in our garden beds to

choose their own plants/leaves/flowers/seeds. As a group, they chose red as the base colour and the children did a wonderful job in designing their eggs! Additionally, they made baskets and decorations for the room. But



the most fun of all was our Easter hunt and Easter Bonnet Parade!





Fire station excursion - After all the waiting and safety talks, we were off! The children made two lines and held hands all the way to the fire station and back. They also were very good at responding to the roll calls! On the way there and back, the children spotted things around our community, such as a garbage trucks, different houses, house numbers and decorations, spider webs and flowers. Ms Rebecca pointed out a sign that said High Voltage, Keep Out and reminded the children about our recent construction learning. The children did a great job at following road safety rules. They looked both ways to check for vehicles before crossing roads and waited patiently for the green man when crossing at the lights!



At the fire station, we met four firefighters and they engaged the children in many interesting and important conversations. First, they demonstrated how to get down low and crawl during a fire. Next, they showed pictures of different fires and asked the children to identify them as bad or good fires, such



as matches and candles. Firefighter Jeremy dressed in his fire rescue uniform and the children's questions were answered when the firefighters explained why they wear tough boots and helmets. They even demonstrated how their oxygen tank works and how their belt beeps (so that a lost firefighter in a fire can be found). The group agreed that Jeremy didn't look scary and that they would let him help them in an emergency. The group learned that it is important for them to not hide when there is a fire. During questions time, the children, educators and parents had questions! The children got to turn the hose on and off, got a to see a ladder



as the firefighters demonstrated how they make a small ladder taller and got to explore the fire engine! Before leaving, the children got to see Firefighter Carly going down the pole and got to see the office where print outs of emergency addresses come through. We even got an example of a print out and will be keeping it at Pumpkin! The group also got to hear the alarm



going off for real as we were leaving the station! How exciting for the children to see in real life everything they had just been telling us. They got to see the firefighters quickly getting dressed and got to wave at the truck going past. What a great time!



**Anzac Day** – Ms Catherine lent us a book she brought in, in relation to the upcoming Anzac Day. The children learned that ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Corps. The book explained that the ANZAC name is now a symbol of bravery and mateship. We finished the group by inviting a peer to show us the haka. He had been showing it to Ms Alessandra lately and as we were just talking about soldiers from New Zealand, he was invited to show his peers what he knows. The group laughed with excitement and wanted to join in the fun. They especially like poking their tongues out! The group was shown a video online of children doing the haka and enjoyed mirroring their moves. It was explained that the haka is a traditional war cry, dance, or challenge from the Māori people of New Zealand. And that indeed, it is a dance performed by a group, with vigorous movements and stamping of the feet with rhythmically shouted accompaniment, just like our peer showed us!

Following from the being introduced to the haka, we finished the month by learning more about each other's cultures.

Until next month,

Starfish Educators ☺