



# Pumpkin Long Day Care

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## Newsletter – March 2014

### Centre News

All children have been settling very well in the Jellyfish & Starfish room. We have started our 'Topics' in the Jellyfish room and 'News Time' in the Starfish room.

Children and families have been bringing lots of input from home to share with everyone here, some families have brought a germinated avocado seed and the mangoes to share from their tree, we planted the mango seeds last month and one of them has grown into a small mango tree☺.



### Parents and Families Involvement

One of the summary Comments from Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) is:

*"Our service is acknowledged for building partnerships with families and with the local community".*

We want to thank families and parents that have been working together with us in meeting children' strengths, interests and needs. Educators at Pumpkin acknowledge and recognise that parents and other family members are child's first and most important teachers.

Each child is, first and foremost a member of a family. Parents and other family member are a child's first and most important teachers. When we work with a child we are also working with their family, and often with the wider community, too.

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Parent and other family members can give us their input through:

- Parent input form (available in sign in and out area in the Jellyfish and Starfish room)
- Parent surveys.
- Parent Communication Book.
- News Book (The Starfish room).
- Topics (The Jellyfish room).
- Or just any conversation to share about a child's day or experience.
- Emails: [Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au](mailto:Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au)

Children are interested in everything that happens at home and at the Centre. In the same way, we are interested in anything that your child is experiencing at home and want to be able to support them through difficult times, exciting times or times of uncertainty. Please tell us if there are big, or little, events happening in your family so we can incorporate these into our curriculum appropriately. Themes from these events can last for weeks and are one of the best education resources for your children as they allow a child to transfer knowledge of a situation to a real event or gain knowledge about a real event. This also allows children to see a clear link between home and the centre. Similarly, if your child and family have been going through difficult time at home and feel that centre staff can help in anyway, please feel free to talk to staff or confidentially talk to the Director.

Please tell us what you did on the weekend?

Does your family have any events coming up? (e.g. family member's birthdays, weddings, religious or cultural celebrations, visiting relatives or family friends).

Has your child developed an interest in something lately that you feel could be used in the centre's curriculum? (e.g. animals, a new sport, etc). Please also find attached our first parent survey this year.

Thank you.

Ms. Elly



'Show and Tell' in the Jellyfish room.



'News Time in the Starfish room'



Ethan's mum brought a germinated avocado seed, we planted it in the pot.



Pablo's mum brought us some mangoes from their tree, we planted the seed. It has grown into a small mango tree now 😊

## Upcoming events

**1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>** – Seaweeek – It's about exciting and inspiring all New Zealanders to renew their connections with the sea! Not just for children or those involved with formal education, it's time for all of us to get to know our ocean, its habitats, characteristics and inhabitants better.



**02<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday** – Clean Up Australia Day



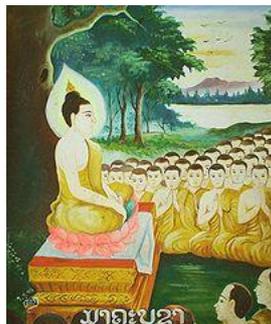
**04<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday** – Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) – Christian Tradition, day before lent begins.

**05<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday** – Ash Wednesday – Christian Tradition, first day of Lent, Lent lasts for 40 days and involves fasting and reflection.

**13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>** – World's Greatest Shave – Every March, thousands of people shave, colour and wax their hair to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation.



**16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday** – Magha Puja Day – Buddhist Tradition, Full Moon Day.



The Starfish children were making something special for their mummies and daddies on Valentine's Day.



The Jellyfish children also made something special for their mummies and daddies.



Picking up the mints to make chicken and salad sandwich.



Picking up the shallots for our cooking experience.

**17<sup>th</sup> – Monday – St Patrick’s Day**, this is an annual observance that is popular in Australia. This event serves as a tribute to Ireland and one of its patron saints, St Patrick.



**17<sup>th</sup> – Monday – Holi** – Hindu Tradition, a festival to commemorate good harvests. People paint each other with bright colours and splash coloured water.

**21<sup>st</sup> – Friday – Harmony Day** – it’s a day where all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. The day is also the United Nation’s International Day for the elimination of Racial Discrimination.



**24<sup>th</sup> – Monday – Grandparents Afternoon Tea** – Bring along your grandparents for tea and cakes (03:15 pm).



**27<sup>th</sup> – Thursday – Maha Shivaratri** – Hindu Tradition, celebrates Lord Shiva’s marriage to Goddess Parvati. The festival is principally celebrated by offerings of Bael (Bilva) leaves to the Lord Shiva, all day fasting and a night-long vigil.



Seesaw... Seesaw....



Making our chicken sandwich in the Jellyfish room.



Making our chicken sandwich in the Starfish room.

## Jellyfish News

Jellyfish children finished last month celebrating the Chinese New Year and making (as well as wearing) crowns after finding out that Alexander was learning about kings and queens at home.

A big welcome to Taseen, Xavier, Valentina, Allen and Eloise this month!

The children planted rosemary, strawberries and parsley in the new garden and have been enjoying looking after it, as well as looking after the new beautiful outdoor plants. Ethan brought in an avocado seed and a germinated avocado seed and we compared them, then planted the germinated seed. We can't wait to see it growing as we water and observe it. Patricia (Pablo's mum) donated mangoes from their tree. The children love exploring them by tasting, feeling and smelling. They also learnt how to grow a mango tree. Later in the month the children got to pick herbs, such as parsley, mint and shallots, from the garden and added them to the cooking experience of making sandwiches. It is so great that after planting and watering the garden, the children are getting to use the herbs for cooking and eating!

The topic of animals continued this month. Ethan saw a freshwater eel at the national park, so we decided to learn more about them. He also brought in his pet mouse, Bip Bip, to spend the day with us, it was great fun watching and feeding it! We also learnt about reptiles after hearing about Ethan's visit to Symbio and after his mum, Alexandra brought in a reptile chart. The children just loved looking at it, naming the ones they recognised and finding out about the ones they didn't recognise.

We learnt about our community when Alexandra brought in a drawing of their building. His neighbours are from many different countries and that was very interesting for the children to learn about. We also learnt about Maori people after Patricia emailed us a family photo of them with a Maori man during a family holiday to New Zealand. After learning about Maori people and watching a video of them performing, we stuck our tongues out, just like Pablo and his family in the photo!

After learning some news about Emmeline (weekend sheet- going to the opera house and attending Mandarin and swimming lessons), we learnt about the opera house, colours in Mandarin and that swimming is a great way to get active (getting active was a topic discussed in our room last month). We also learnt greetings and songs in Mandarin from a CD that Emmeline brought in to share. The topic of being active continued when after receiving an email with a photo of Ethan on a bike, the children showed great interest towards it by starting a conversation about their own



Learning about our community, Ethan's mum brought in a drawing of their building, thank you Alexandra!



Sailosi brushes his teeth after his meal, we celebrate 'Dental Awareness Month' on every month of February.



Ethan brought in his pet mouse, Bip Bip.



Emmeline went to the Opera House and attended Mandarin and swimming lessons on her weekend.

bikes/scooters. They also shared about the colours of their bikes/scooters.

We learnt about diversity this month, when we looked around for similarities and differences amongst ourselves. We learnt a great song called We are all different.

Thank you to all the families who returned the topics 1 and 2 sheets. It was so much fun getting to know our friends individually through the All about me topic and about their families through the My family topic! We are currently on Topic 3, Celebrations, until the 7<sup>th</sup> of March. Please don't forget to hand in your input!

Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday to Candice! Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday to Eloise and Gloria!

Congratulations to Alexander and family on welcoming a baby boy, Leo!

Until next month,  
Jellyfish Educators

## **Starfish News**

The Starfish children started off the month with planting a variety of new plants in our garden with Ms Elly. They have planted strawberries, rosemary, parsley, avocado seeds, and a mango tree. This has been useful in engaging the children in sustainable practices, and emphasising the importance of looking after our environment. This has also led to many new artworks that have been displayed in our classroom. The children have painted their own strawberries, tomatoes, and created their very own gardens on paper.

The children have come into school looking forward to going outside and checking their new plants to see if they have grown big and tall! The children are also always eager to volunteer themselves to water the garden, and take out their fruit scraps for our worm farm. The Starfish children also participated in a 'Cooking Experience' where they made their own sandwiches using the fresh ingredients straight from our garden!

The Starfish children have had a lot of fun presenting their news during news time this month. They have discussed different topics, such as all about me, my family, holidays away, and my favourite book. Every child has expressed themselves nicely, and responded well to questions.

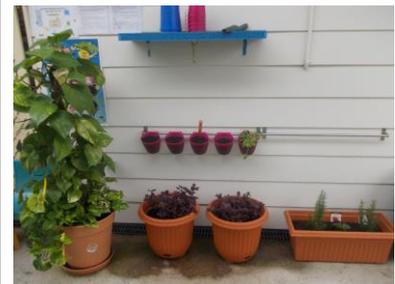
During Letterland this month, the children have been introduced



Picking up the shallots from our garden for our cooking experience.



Planting a variety of new plants together.



Look at our new garden, great job everyone!



Daniel brought in his News book to share with everyone.

to the capital and lower-case letters 'b', and 'c'. In doing so, the children have met new Letterland characters, and participated in a variety of different activities to help further their knowledge of these letters.

The children have enjoyed getting physical this month. They are always excited to play outside, and have participated in movement games during group time. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, the children joined Ms Leanne in circle games. The first game they played involved rolling a dice and then doing the actions that the dice landed on. Some actions included, galloping like a horse, crawling like a tiger, and kangaroo jumps. After every child had their turn, they asked to play another game. Levi Sofyan suggested "doggy doggy where's your bone". These games have been a great way to build the children's confidence and physical motor skills.

After Mia S went to Taronga Zoo with her mummy, daddy and little brother Noah, she brought in pictures of giraffes, komodos, gorillas, and chimpanzees to show all her friends in the Starfish room. After discussing the different zoo animals, the children decided they would like to make butterflies using paint. The children also had fun with their jungle activities during indoor play. They made a dinosaur jungle together.

In celebrating Chinese New Year this month, Ms Elly showed the children the traditional dragon dance on Youtube. The children also watched videos of fireworks from previous Chinese New Years. Ruby and Emily W decided they would like to recreate their own fireworks on paper, and many other Starfish children joined them. They drew their fireworks, and stuck colourful sticks on for a 3D effect.

We have also had a strong focus on diversity this month. Ms Elly has talked about the differences amongst the Starfish children. She called Joshua, Chloe, Sarah and Shawn to the front, and the Starfish children pointed out the differences.

Kailea said: "Chloe has yellow hair, and blue eyes".

Jasmine Girdwood said: "Sarah and Chloe are girls".

Then, Ms Elly explained: "Me and Ms Pimpini come from Indonesia, so our cultural background is Indonesian".

Emily N said: "My mummy, daddy, grandma and grandpa are from Vietnam".

Kailea said: "My mummy is American and my daddy comes from the Phillipines".

Following on from this topic, the Starfish children researched on



Learning letter 'b' with Ms Pimpini.



We learnt together from the internet, how to plant a mango seed.



Learning the letter 'B' with Miss Charlotte.



We used this sink to plant tomato and carrot seeds, what a great idea to recycle.



The Starfish children learnt how we all are different, we have different coloured skin, eyes and hair.

the computer with Ms Elly about how we all have different coloured skin, eyes, and hair. The children suggested drawing pictures of themselves with all their unique details.

Summer D said: "My hair is yellow and my eyes are blue".

Kailea said: "My hair is black and my eyes are dark brown".

The children also learnt a new song called, "The more we get together".

We celebrated Valentines day on the 14<sup>th</sup> by first creating a brainstorm diagram on the whiteboard with Miss Charlotte of all the different things we do to celebrate, and how we show our family and friends we love them. The children then came up with the idea of decorating cards with sparkles and love hearts to give to their loved ones.

Happy birthday to Candice and Bronte, as well!

Until next month,

Miss Charlotte, Ms Elly, Ms Pimpini, Ms Maylene and Ms Leanne.

## **Reminder to Parents:**

### **Signing in and out:**

Please remember to sign your child in and out and when they are away as well (Absences).

### **Labelling Children's Belongings:**

Please remember to label all your child's belongings when they come to centre, we have a lost and found basket in Starfish room. Please check the box if your child lost his or her belonging.

### **Nut Free Centre:**

We would like to remind all parents that we are a nut free centre; we ask that you please refrain from sending nuts of any sorts or products containing nuts with your children to the centre.

Thank you.



Making the cat faces with paper plates.

# Our First Parent Survey in 2014

- Can you describe how welcome you felt as a new family and how you feel now?

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- Can you describe your family and child's transition experiences when you initially began at the centre?

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- Any ideas that you want to add to our curriculum? Any cultural events that you would like us to celebrate her with the children?

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- What type of communication methods do you prefer and which do you believe are the most effective?

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