



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter – May 2017

### Dentist's Visit

After all our learning experiences about dental care and expectations about the dentist's visit, the day finally arrived! The Sydney Dental Clinic brought dental team to our school! They are a team of government-funded qualified dental professionals with a vision to treat and educate school children about the importance of oral health. All children were very brave, they lied down on the dental chair and let the Dentist checked and cleaned their teeth, when they finished they all get special stickers from the Dentist 😊



# Parent Reminder

The weather is getting colder now, but please do not bring your child in his or her beanie only as it does not provide enough sun protection.

Educators and children at Pumpkin are required to wear sun safe hats that protect their face, neck and ears. A sun safe hat is:

- legionnaire hat
- bucket hat with a deep crown and brim size of at least 5cm (adults 6cm)
- broad- brimmed hat with a brim size of at least 6cm (adults 7.5cm).

***Please note: Baseball caps or visors are not sun safe because they do not provide enough sun protection.***

Many illnesses, while not fitting exclusion criteria, can transmit disease to other children in care, and can make a child too ill to participate in normal activities. All children who are unwell should not attend the Service and educators will ask parents of children who are unwell to collect the child from the centre. Please refer to our 'Infectious Diseases Policy' (we also attached this policy in this Newsletter).

## June's Calendar of Events

**30<sup>th</sup> – 01/06/17 – Shavuot, Jewish Holiday.**

**04<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – Pentecost, Christian tradition.**

**05<sup>th</sup> – Monday – Whit Monday, Christian tradition.**

**11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – Trinity Sunday, Christian tradition.**

**29/05/17 – 09/06/17 – Parent-Teacher interview to see how your child has been progressed.**

**12<sup>th</sup> - Monday – Queen's Birthday, Centre closed.**

**15<sup>th</sup> – Thursday – Corpus Christi, Christian Tradition.**

**19<sup>th</sup> – 25/06/17 – Refugee Week.**

**21<sup>st</sup> - Tuesday – Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Destiny), Muslim tradition**

**26<sup>th</sup> – Monday – Eid Al Fitr.**

**30<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Red Nose Day.**

# Clownfish News



We would like to welcome Muntasir and Amelia to the Clownfish room; it's fantastic to see they settled in the routines and transition within the room. In the month of May, We have been focusing on children being independent by teaching them self-help skills, for example holding a spoon while eating instead of using their hands, washing their hands before eating, drying their hands with paper towel, putting rubbish in the bin, packing toys away, putting their hats in their locker, and also being responsible for their own learning environment. We have about two projects that have been running in the room that came out from the children's interest and ideas.



The Clownfish children started off the month with Mother's day art and craft that required the children to practice their fine motor skill. On this special event, we would love to show our appreciation to every single mum that has become our great role model inside out. We love you.



The role-play project has carried over to the end of May where the Clownfish children have been using their imagination and creative skill to pretend, to explore, and to seek new discoveries that increasingly support their social skill.

Cooking project had become the first project that was extended from the children's interest towards kitchen role-play. We explored various cooking preparation and activities such as making a rainbow toast, rice sensory play, mashing a potato, and slicing fruits that were chosen by the children themselves. We also had a small apple tree decoration in the room painted by the children.



The second project that kept the group busy this month is learning about different means of transportation and things that have wheels. The children have shown an increasing capacity to understand and share each other's feeling during the transport experience. We have tried to extend this interest as much as we can, started from showing the children a story and a song about cars, planes, trains, assisting them to connect the train and car tracks and many more.



Towards the end of the month, the little ones have started to walk and showed their small steps in front of educators. They have been showing their effort and excitement in practicing their walking through walker, mower, baby pram, and many more pull push toys. Looking forward to their development!



We hope this month has brought you and your children more joy and excitement!

If you have any feedback or ideas in regards of children's interest, feel free to let us know! 😊

#### Parent Reminder

- Ensure the children are dressed appropriately as we enter winter.
- Parent teacher interview will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June to the 9<sup>th</sup> of June.

Until next month,

Clownfish educators

# Jellyfish News



**June Birthday Celebrant:**

Harry- 26th

A warm welcome to our new children and families who joined us this month. Savannah and Jamie have moved from the Clownfish room, while Yvelle (Elle) has just started at Pumpkin.

## Mother's Day Celebration



We started the month preparing for Mother's Day surprise. We helped the children in making a paper flower for their Mums. The children chose the colours of the paper that they wanted to make into flowers, as well as the ribbons. They curiously watched as Miss Maya rolled the papers into flowers, while Miss Criselda tied the cards and ribbons on them.

We celebrated the special day with a Mother's Day afternoon tea on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Shapes and Colours



The children showed great interest in shapes and colours this month.

To extend on these interest, we read a book, 'Learn your Shapes.' It was a story about a bee who loves to play with shapes, but all his shape toys were broken. So he went for a walk in the park instead, and found out that he could find lots of shapes in there.



The children enjoyed spotting various shapes

from each page.



At the playground, we tried to look for shapes as well. There in the cubby house, we saw a circle window, oval shapes in the railing, as well as squares and rectangles. They also found circle stools and tyres, as well as triangle and square blocks. The children were so busy looking around for more shapes. Then Miss Criselda decided to change the play from

spotting shapes to spotting colours. The children had lots of fun.



Continuing on the children's interest in shapes and colours, on the 18th, we read another book about shapes called, 'Learn about Shapes.' After reading, the children were asked for their favourite shapes. Top three



favourites were square, triangle and circle. Miss Criselda made a connect-the-dot shapes for the children, with three of their favourites: square, triangle and circle.

The children also enjoyed solving colourful shape puzzles and learning interesting facts about rainbow.

### **A Visit from Dental Team**

A dental team visited our centre on the 25<sup>th</sup> to conduct a dental check -up and simple dental procedures to the children.

The dental team came around 9:30 in the morning, and started the set-up in the Starfish room. They brought in a portable dental chair, dental stools, scaler and some hand instruments.



The dentist did a talk on dental hygiene and how



to keep our teeth strong and healthy before the dental check.

Jellyfish children waited patiently for their turn to sit on the dental chair.

Some of the children were very brave to sit on the chair and allowed the dentist to check their teeth and do some dental procedure without any fear at all.



### **Winter Season**

End of May marks the end of autumn season, and we're now moving to winter months. Please ensure that you pack a thicker blanket for sleep/rest time, as well as jumper/jacket, and spare clothes for your child.

Until next month,

Jellyfish educators

# Lionfish News

During the month of May, the Lionfish children have shown a great interest in animals. Our news topic was 'My favourite animal' so the children have been bringing in photos and drawings and talking about their favourite animals. They have also been exploring our plastic zoo animals, learning their names, categorising them and also role-playing with them. We have also added our zoo to extend this interest as well as a variety of animal books for the children to explore and learn from. They also participated in a printing activity using animal stamps and ink.



The Lionfish children have also continued to use their imaginations and be very creative with a variety of blocks and building resources, as well as making their own obstacle courses. They have made dinosaurs, birthday cakes, a variety of animals and buildings. They have also continued constructing with the train tracks, creating tracks and roads to use the trains and cars on.



They have also continued to enjoy 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 continued to use the trucks to construct roads and dig holes. We added Road signs which the children have used in their play and also recycled plumbing pipes that Archer's dad kindly brought in. They have also role-played making cakes and a variety of foods and beverages.



Leading up to Mother's Day, the children participated in a variety of arts'n'crafts activities such as making Mother's Day cards using handprints and collage. We also did a cooking experience, making heart shape shortbread cookies which we had great fun making! Some Mothers and Grandmothers also joined us for a special morning tea.



This month, we have learnt about the letter 'h' and 'i', listening to Harry Hatman and Impy Ink's stories, naming things starting with these letters, practicing our sounds and even practising writing these letters on the whiteboard. We have also started using name stencils using white board markers to practice our Christian and surnames.

We have also been talking and learning about Dental Health this month, with a special visit from the dentist. We have been learning about how to look after our teeth by brushing twice a day and getting an adult to help us floss and clean our tongues. We have also been doing art'n'craft related to Dental health, making our own toothbrushes, teeth and tongues using a variety of techniques.



During the last week of May, we talked about National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week. We looked at different aspects of Aboriginal Culture including art, dwellings, foods and Dreamtime Stories. The Lionfish children especially enjoyed creating their own interpretations of the Rainbow Serpent after listening to the story.



Until next month,

Lionfish Educators ☺

# Starfish News

**My Culture** - The interest in culture learning got strong this month! The children shared about their cultures, heritages and traditions in many ways. All that sharing led us to learning about country flags, country symbols, traditional clothing and food, traditional celebrations,

words and sentences in different languages, how to count in different languages, to dancing traditional dances, to researching about pandas, to painting cherry blossoms, to making Greek leave crowns...It has been so interesting and so much fun!

**Mother's Day** - Exploring the month of May in our room calendar on the 4th, the topic of Mother's day was brought up and the children could see that it was coming in only 10 days! The children talked about ideas of how to celebrate it and what gifts to make and listened to a lovely story called Dear

mum, I love you! Over the next few days, the children brought in pictures of the mothers and shared about their special relationships. The children also chose to make cards and to bake something special for mum. So they got busy creating their cards and baking shortbread

cookies! After the big day, the children brought in photos and shared their experiences of the day.

**A visit from the dentist!** - Prior to the visit, the children started counting down from our calendar to the exciting day! They especially liked learning about their primary teeth falling out. One day, we explored a book called First time at the dentist, to find out what to expect on the big day. From mid-month onwards, they also engaged in discussions about dental hygiene,



about what happens at a dentist's office, babies and teeth, primary teeth and why we need healthy teeth. Throughout the learning, the children learned great tips for brushing their teeth such as making sure to brush their teeth for 2

minutes twice a day, eat lots of fruit and vegetables, drink lots of water, change their toothbrush regularly, visit the dentist every 6 months, put a pea-sized blob of fluoride toothpaste onto their toothbrush and to clean each tooth gently with circular motions right up

to the gum line. As the children danced to Munch and Move songs this month, they identified lyrics about healthy eating and drinking, just like we had been discussing about healthy teeth! We even received visits from a friend from last year who is now at school and has lost some teeth – what a coincidence!

The children were involved in meaningful interactions with peers and educators, as they confidently shared information from home related to dental knowledge and experiences. They also created dirty and clean teeth in a fun creative experience! After all our learning experiences about dental care and expectations about the dentist's visit, the day finally arrived on the 25th! The children were lucky enough to see the equipment being set up in our room. The dentist brought a sink and many tools, just like we had been learning about. Our room became a dentist's office! Before having their check-ups, the children got to meet Pearl, a big tooth, and watched a demonstration of how each tooth should get cleaned. The dentist spoke about how to keep teeth clean and healthy such as by brushing 2 times a day and eating healthy foods whenever possible. The children were very excited and interacted with the dentist. Some children were a little anxious about the visit and it was great to see their friends assuring them that they didn't need to get upset. The bravest ones went first and the others watched, to see that they and nothing to worry about.

**Literacy** – When listening to stories, the children have been noticing unfamiliar words and showing interest in learning about their meaning. Therefore, this month we have explored many new words together. For example, they discovered the word fluoride during the dental learning experiences. Additionally, due to a parent's request, the children have been encouraged to start (sounding out) and writing their surnames. So now, as well as having a writing sheet of their first names available, they



have also a first and last name writing sheet available. The children sure have been enjoying tracing their first and last names together on their new writing sheets!

**National Sorry Day, Reconciliation week discussions and Craft** – At the end of the month, the children participated in a short discussion about National Sorry Day (26th of May) as well as Reconciliation week. It was explained that this day gives people the chance to come together. The children also learned that Reconciliation week is a time to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and their close connections to their land. Ms Catherine read out the ‘Acknowledgement of the Land’ to the children to give them a better understanding of Australia’s first people. We read some information from ‘Kakadu National Park’ based on the ‘Dreamtime’ and looked into the symbols commonly used in their art and story-telling. Starfish then participated in creating their own hand-print silouettes and painting maple leaves using the traditional colours red, yellow, black and white as well as techniques commonly seen in cave paintings and Aboriginal art. They also enjoyed making their own representations of the rainbow snake.



Until next month, Starfish Educators 😊