



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

7 O'Connell Avenue  
Matraville 2036

Phone: 02 9311 0044 & 9661 9521  
Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au

## Newsletter – July 2014

### Centre News

The weather has certainly cooled down over the past few weeks. Winter is definitely here! Families please remember that if your child is sick, they shouldn't be coming to the centre. This is to ensure that everyone is kept healthy this Winter season.

We made chicken dumplings for our cooking experience this month. Ms Sabina took the children to pick the herbs and vegetable from our garden, we then mixed them with chicken mince. Next we wrapped them with the dumpling skins. The children really enjoyed making and eating them!:)



Thank you to all the parents that have come to our parent-teacher interview, we are striving to work together for the children's education and wellbeing. Please feel free to see the educator of your child's room if you want to discuss more about your child progress from now to the end of this year.

### Staff News

Miss Alessandra will be back from her annual leave on the 04<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

We have Ms Chunli joining us as one of the educators in the Clownfish room.

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Picking the herbs from our garden.



Look at our Greenhouse!.

## July Calender of Events

06– 13/07/14 – NAIDOC Week - Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth

13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday - Asalha Puja Day - Buddhist - Buddha's first sermon.

13<sup>th</sup> - 15/07/14 – Obon - Shinto - Buddhist Tradition. Buddhist visit cemeteries to make offerings to departed family members. Obon celebrates the reunion of family ancestors with the living.

17<sup>th</sup> - Thursday – Cooking Experience - Making chicken salad.



25<sup>th</sup> - Friday – Schools Tree Day.

27<sup>th</sup> - Sunday – Eid-UI-Fitr (Islamic Tradition, this day marks the end of Ramadan. Participants feast and give gifts).

29<sup>th</sup> - 31/07/14 – Eid al Fitr - Islam - The sweet Festival.



Making dumplings in the Jellyfish room.



Playing the ball with Miss Juliet.



Outdoor Play.



Watering our garden.



Outdoor Play.

## **News from Starfish Room**

This month we want to wish a big happy birthday to Raditya (17<sup>th</sup>) and Aleyna (29<sup>th</sup>) who both turned four! We also want to welcome our newest members to the Starfish room, Lagi, Christopher and Caleb.

All things Frozen (the movie) inspired have dominated the room this month. There have been many dramatic play games involving Queen Elsa and Princess Ana, "Let it go" and "Do you want to build a snowman" has been sung numerous times and the Frozen/winter inspired activity ideas keep on growing! To extend on this theme during the month the children have had an opportunity to build their own snowman and make their own snowflakes. From here the children are excited to start exploring winter animals, winter clothes and places where it snows.

Another interest for the children this month has been fairy tales, in particular prince and princess fairy tale stories. This interest has grown from Jasmin bringing in a princess story to share with the class last month. Building on from this interest, the children have engaged in a wide range of fairy tale stories including; "Jack and the Bean Stalk", "Puss in Boots", "Cinderella", "Sleeping Beauty", "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", and "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". Emily W, Kailea, Chloe, Ruby and Olivia enjoyed drawing a picture to represent their own fairy tale. The girls took turns to dictate their story to Ms Juliet, who recorded it for them on the computer. Each of their stories is now on display in the classroom. Next the Starfish children all helped to create a class fairy tale about a princess mermaid and a frog prince. Ms Juliet has recorded the children's story, and the next step is for the children to draw pictures to accompany the story. Keep an eye out for our completed fairy tale displayed in class!



**News time in the Starfish room.**



**'The Wheels on the bus go round and round😊'**



**Reading the Princess' stories with Miss Juliet.**



**Follow me's games with Ms Juliet**

Our garden continues to be an ongoing interest with the children. The Starfish has started to see more of our plants growing and changing, including seeing some new tomatoes growing. The children still enjoy helping the educators to tend to the garden, and everyone is taking turns to water the plants. Shawn has reported seeing some caterpillar eggs in one of the garden beds. Shawn is keeping an eye on the eggs and is ready to tell everybody when they hatch! This month, Ms Elly brought into class, the small Jaime Oliver greenhouse for the children to build and care for. Mia, Kailea, Joshua, Clarice, Sarah, and Jasmine helped Ms Juliet to plant the seeds in the soil and water the garden. The Starfish have been keeping a close eye on the seeds and were thrilled to see the Garden Cress sprout!

This month in Letter Land the children have explored letters J, and K. The two characters for this month were Jumping Jim and Kicking King. While exploring the letter J the children enjoyed practicing their jumping to the 'J' sound, making a jungle for Jim and making jet planes. The most exciting thing for the letter J was getting to taste J foods; jam, jelly and juice. For the letter K the children practiced kicking to the K sound, making kites and drawing kitchens. The children are going leaps and bounds with their letter recognition! Those who are going to school next year are certainly ready to go!

Finishing off this month, the children were offered the opportunity to join in with a cooking experience! The children made chicken dumplings using ingredients found in our very own Pumpkin garden. The children love being given the opportunity to help prepare the food they eat, and they always enjoy seeing what the garden provides.

Please remember families that we always welcome any suggestions for activities or topics to explore. We also encourage all families to keep us updated with what you get



Follow me's games with Ms Juliet



The Starfish children drew their pictures to accompany their fairy tale stories.



Very good drawing everyone!



News time with Miss Juliet.

up to on the weekends, or any special events the family celebrate. Family input forms are available next to the sign in sheets where you can record your latest adventure. It doesn't matter how big or small the event was, we want to hear about it!

A final reminder; news time will stop for the two weeks of the school holidays. Next terms news topics have been emailed to everyone, but hard copies are also available from the Starfish educators. We encourage every child to be involved in our news time as it is a great way to share and celebrate our differences!

Wishing you all the best! Until next month!

The Starfish Educators.

## **News from Lionfish Room**

What a busy month we've had in the Lionfish room!

To start the month our topic was 'Winter' and this started the children talking about what we wear in Winter and the weather. An interest started about rainbows when some of the children said they saw a rainbow after the rain. We made our own rainbows using coloured sand and glue!

Our topic about 'My Sport' led to a discussion about healthy eating and exercise. We painted healthy food and made plates collages of healthy food and sometimes food.

Our News topic about 'When I grow up' started an interest in dancing and music. Some of the children even brought in their favourite CDs to share with their friends.

Throughout the month we have been focussing on the letters G to K in Letterland, we look at the letters and the sounds they make.



*Our Greenhouse.*



*" We have to put them under the sun".*



*Outdoor Play.*



*Indoor Play.*



*Greenhouse in the Lionfish room.*

We have also been practising our name writing skills using stencils. The children can trace their name and practise letter and number writing.

We have also been talking about our Environment! We set up a Greenhouse and the children helped to plant the seeds.

They have been looking after the plants, watering them and watching them grow.

We talked about spiders when Ms Elly found a spider in our garden, and even made our own spiders!

We also looked at dinosaurs when Fox and Fleue told us they'd visited the museum and seen them there!

Happy Birthday to Xavier who celebrated his birthday this month!

Until next month!

Lionfish educators.

## **News from Jellyfish Room**

Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday to Xavier Truskett and Roman! And a big welcome to Heloise, Emilia and Malakai!

As we were learning about each other's favourite clothes, Shahin (Saifan's mum) showed Miss Alessandra Saifan's favourite outfit, his 'Panjabi'. It is his traditional Bangla outfit. We learnt that he wears it for special occasions, such as weddings (Holud), Bengali New Year, and festivals such as Eid and Pohala Boishak. He brought it in for us to see. Wow, we loved it! It is so different and it feels so silky! The children took turns feeling the nice material. It is so much fun to learn about different cultures!

It rained in the first week of June, so we got to use our



**Greenhouse in the Lionfish room.**



**Making the dumplings.**



**Outdoor Play.**



**Traffic jam.**

rain water buckets. It was a lot of fun to recycle the rain water into our gardens and plants. With all the rain we managed to keep active indoors by exercising with Munch n' Move. When the sun finally came out children were all excited to do some outdoor activities.

Also this month we learnt and shared some of our friends favourite food. Paul likes red 'apple' and Ariella likes all kinds of food, but her favourites are broccoli and ice-cream. We discussed healthy eating and said that foods like apples and broccoli are good foods to eat and that they are also good for our teeth. We further discussed the 'sometimes' and 'everyday' food. We categorised the foods by when we should be eating them and when we shouldn't i.e ice cream is only for dessert.

Ethan excitedly showed Miss Alessandra his paper plane and demonstrated how it flies. Some children said 'wow' so we thought we should make our own version of a paper planes for the other kids. We looked it up on internet how to make paper plain it was very easy. The boys tried to follow the instruction 'they were very good!

Audrey brought in a card her sister 'Yezka' made for her because she's been sick. It had a shape on it Audrey said 'it's a heart', Sailosi said 'a star'. He then asked "can we sing twinkle,twinkle? To extend the shape interest we decided to make a big shiny star with lots of glitters.

Mid June we started a new topic 'my colour'. It was very interesting finding out each and every child's favourite colours. Having discovered the colour that they like the best we made our own rainbow painting. The children and I decided that each day we would chose a different colour until we finish all the seven colours of the rainbow. To some children learning about new colours and introducing it to them was fun!

Children got to experience making dumplings. They displayed great enthusiasm by demonstrating their skill in handling the utensil when picking up the ingredients. Later on that day



Sharing our topic with Ms Maylene.



Sharing your topic with Ms Tracey.



Making our rainbow in the Jellyfish room.



"Look at my paper plane".

they got to taste their yummy dumplings!

Thank you to all the families who have been returning the topic sheets! We are currently having a break from the Topics due to the school holidays. The next Topic is My name, starting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. Please do not forget to hand in your input.

Until next month,  
Jellyfish Educators

## **News from Clownfish Room**

With the passing of another month in our Babies Room, our babies and toddlers continue to amaze us with their unstoppable growth and development. We know that your child will grow and learn more in their first 12 months than at any other time in their life. With this in mind, we are continually observing your child in order to build on their interests, abilities, culture and previous learning experiences to extend their thinking, learning and development with ongoing new activities and challenges.

We have warmly welcomed a number of new families visiting the babies' room regularly and spending time with their babies so that their new environment can become one where the babies will feel safe, secure, settled and nurtured. We really appreciate the time you spend orientating your child. This is so important for your child to be happy.

We welcomed Ms Chunli as our new educator in the Clownfish room. She will be with us on Mondays and Tuesdays. Regarding this if you have any questions please feel free to ask the other educators at the Clownfish room.

Throughout the month we will be focusing on some specific self-help skills including feeding themselves and drinking from a cup. Some of the older babies have been insisting on doing some of these things for themselves. These skills also



Music in the Clownfish room.



Reading book together.



Making the caterpillars.

help the babies develop a sense of independence and Self-confidence. We have been very busy utilising our gross motor skills. Most of the babies are becoming very independent crawling, pulling themselves up and even walking. We are starting to play outside this helps to develop their muscle control, balance and co-ordination. They get so excited when we go outside and we always make sure we are being sun safe! Throughout the month the babies will be encouraged to participate in group activities on the mat such as -reading and looking at our animal books and playing with a variety of wooden and plastic building blocks. This skill area enhances the babies' social & emotional development while giving them opportunities to further develop their relationships with carers and their peers.

We are now half way through the year and the weather is so cold and wet, which limits our outdoor play. To meet the needs of children's wellbeing, we incorporate out-door experiences in-doors, i.e soft ball and tunnel; this is also giving children the choice to participate and modifying the environment to meet the interests of children's play. We encourage children to participate in activities such as; making insects like Lady Bugs, and butterflies, painting, drawing, singing and dancing, blowing bubbles and reading stories. With staff sitting at children's level and involving them in an activity, this makes a huge difference to the noise level and calmness of the room. Children become more settled as they are focused on these fun and learning experiences with the educators.

### NOTE

If your child does get sick please remember to keep them at home until they are better. This helps to stop cross contamination and other children getting sick as well as helps your child recover quick.

### REMINDER

Please name all your child's belonging- dummies, comforters, shoes, socks, jumpers, t-shirts, jackets and hats. If you do not name them there is a chance that they will get lost or



More music in the Clownfish room 😊



Mixing the paint together.

*misplaced.*

*We appreciate the families who already gave the family photos, and we looking forward to get more input from the other families, as next month we are concentrating on family tree. Once again thank you to all the families for taking time to read this.*

*Kind Regards Clownfish Educators.*