



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – April 2016

Centre News

Wow, can you believe it is May already, where has the time gone?

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.

Sometimes the children do not make it to the restroom on time, please send a complete change of clothing inside your child's bag. Write your child's name on these spare clothes, so we can find it quickly when they go missing☺

We are going to have our "Parent-Teacher interview" in the first week of June, the booking sheet will be available by middle of this month. Please book your child in to talk to the teacher at their rooms.

New Fort and Speed Boat

The children were thrilled when they saw there's a big fort in our playground, they all enjoyed climbing the rock as well as going down from the slide. They were playing hide and seek as well under the fort☺



The Clownfish children also enjoyed their new speed boat in their playground, they all sat inside the boat and sang “Row..row...row... your boat..gently down the stream...”☺
We used the binocular to check where the crocodiles were.



“Firemen Visit”

The Firemen and Fire truck came to visit us at Pumpkin, all children were very excited. The children welcomed the Firemen by giving them “High Fives”. One of the Firemen showed the children pictures of good and bad fire. The children actively participated by giving thumbs up and down to the pictures showed by the Fireman. They were also asked what number to call in case of fire or emergency and it was good to know that the children were aware of it. The Fireman also showed us his safety gears or fire suit, he demonstrated how to roll on the ground when there is a fire.





Visiting the Fire Station

The children were very excited about their excursion to the Fire Station. We would like to thank all the parents and family members who came and help out, it was much appreciated. It was great to see that the children followed all the safety rules and had great listening ears!.





May Calender of Events

01st – 07th – International Composting Awareness Week.

01st – Sunday – Orthodox Easter.

02nd - Monday – Orthodox Easter Monday.

02nd - Monday – May Day.

02/05 – 08/05/16 – Children’s Book Week.

04th - Wednesday – Yom Ha Shoah, Jewish Holiday.

05th - Thursday– Ascension Day, Christian tradition.

05th - Thursday– Isra & Miraj, Muslim tradition.

06th - Friday– Mother’s Day afternoon tea at 3.15 pm.

08th - Sunday– Mother’s Day.

12th – Thursday – Yom Ha Atzmaut.

15th – Sunday – Pentecost, Christian tradition.

16th – Monday – Whit Monday, Christian tradition.

22nd – Sunday – Trinity Sunday, Christian tradition.

26th – Thursday – Australia’s Biggest Morning tea.

26th – Thursday – Corpus Christi, Christian Tradition.

26th – Thursday – Lag B’Omer, Jewish tradition.

26th – Thursday – National Sorry Day.



Clownfish News

A big welcome to Lilly who started this month in the Clownfish room at Pumpkin LDC; and her family. She has begun to settle with her educators and fellow peers and is bringing some fun personality to the room. We also need to say a big farewell to Koby who has moved Canberra. Also Miss Corina; who will be on maternity leave from May 4th. She will be having another girl to add to her family; due in June. Miss Stella, Yuki, Pimpini, Rosina and Chun will still be in the room throughout the week and have been assigned different rolls while Miss Corina is absent. We wish her all the best and can't wait to see photos of the baby when she arrives and of course seeing her when they come back for a visit with the new born.



Through the month of April our Clownfish children have been busy preparing their Mother's day presents. They have been working so hard to organize and make them. They will have them ready for the first week of May in preparation for the 8th of May. Make sure your child collects the gifts on their last day that they attend child care, in the first week of May; so they can give it to their mothers on their special day.



This month we have really been creative with our feet and hand paintings. From making dogs, to ducks, to monkeys to the pretty pink flamingos. They have been exploring the texture of the paint using their feet and hands and with some assistance from the educators in making them look like the animals. The children have really taken to the animals through their play. We have looked, listened and explored the sounds of some of the animals and even watched them on the iPad. We will continue this interest through the month of May.



We have also been interested in the naming and tasting of the fruits we eat in the room. Miss Maya gave some children the opportunity to cut a variety of different fruit while they were naming them. The clownfish children then were able to eat them and taste the different flavors. As you can see in the picture Zac loved this activity. Leading up to Anzac day the children were able to make some Anzac



cookies. They helped the educators prepare the ingredients, mixing them together and the educators cooked them for us. Then the Clownfish children could eat them all up. They were so good! The children begun to understand the concept of



washing hands with the cooking a lot more. As we have focused on this concept a lot more this month. The older children been washing their hands with soap and drying it with paper towel which we have been putting in the bin. Hope they have begun doing this at home for you too.



As the clownfish children have begun to get older we have noticed their skills have extended. The children have begun exploring puzzles, musical instruments and even books the last few weeks and their learning has been like sponges; absorbing it all. Looking and listening to everything the educators have to say. Their different milestones have been achieved and they have really loved to excel in the room. With some gone from sitting to crawling, and some from crawling to walking and some now with a larger vocabulary. Copying the words from their educators. Some of the children are even doing name recognition with the other children; calling each other by their names. When the educator asks where is... Followed with a child's name they are able to race around the room and point to the correct person's name.

On the 20th of April we were lucky to see some fire fighters come to the centre. They were here for the older children but Miss Corina thought we can go and observe them too. Harry and Celine



were the most interested in this. They walked their way to the front and sat watching them and listening to what the fire man had to say. We were able to take turns to come watch them change into their fire protection gear and listen to them talk how to minimize hazards.

We have noticed a lot of families haven't been returning the fortnightly input sheet, if you don't receive them please email Miss Elly. We would love to see more families return them; either print and give to the educators or email back to Miss Elly who will give it to the allocated rooms. This input assists us in our program and the educating of your child and their interest on that area.

Until next month,

Clownfish Educators

Jellyfish News

William has moved to Lionfish room early this month.

A big welcome to Seth and Renee☺

Renee turned 2 last 22nd, Belated Happy Birthday to her and thank you for the yummy birthday cake.



We started April by visiting our worm farm. Aliyah volunteered to feed our worms from some of our morning tea left over scraps, taking along with her some of her friends, Mason helping to open the lid so that Aliyah can feed the worms. Ruby and Arya was staying away but still looking with curiosity.

We did some painting and artwork during the month. On the 4th, it was raining hard. We decided to make a rain craft this morning. The children were so excited while doing it, firstly we put a fluffy



cotton to make the cloud, the children tried to touch and feel how fluffy it is by using their hand. After that they started to paint the rain with a blue paint; Isaiah, Selena, Jamal, Mason, and Archer kept saying “its rain... Raining...” while painting it. On the 5th, we

invited the children to do some art work as extension for our news topic, ‘My Mum and Me’ and they were all happy to join in. We cut out some shapes of circles, triangles and rectangles for the



body shapes, using some glue, we glued on two circle next to each other for the face, then two triangle next to each other for the body and lastly the triangles for the legs and arms and there we have ‘my mum



and me!’ for our artwork. On the 8th, Mason noticed the paint brush on the shelf. “Paint,” he said excitedly pointing at it. As it was cloudy and a bit spitting, we just decided to do free painting. While setting up, the

children gathered around the table, patiently waiting. When asked who want to do painting first, Daisy, Elodie, Selena, Mason, Arya and Ben raised their hands and each one looked for chair. Eli, Isaiah, Ruby were also encouraged to do painting after the first batch. Skye soon came in



and asked to do painting as well. Everyone enjoyed the experience and used their words to ask for the colour that they want to use. “I want yellow,” Selena and Daisy requested.

On the 1st, Ms Sabina have spotted a baby butterfly and caught it with her hands. She showed it to the children and when Ms Sabina slowly opened her hands, out came the butterfly, flying away. Ben and Jamal said “wow...”



It was quiet an amazing moment and the children were intrigued with what they saw. When we got inside back to our room for group time, we extended the butterfly curiosity by looking up on the internet. Giving us information, we learnt the butterfly life cycle. Butterflies comes in many different colours and patterns. It starts from a worm then cocoon and then out comes the butterfly, Daisy said “wow...” Ben continued by saying butterfly.



The soccer table and the balance beam were the children’s new interests this month. From children were seen playing almost every day. It was nice having fun playing together, laughter and giggles.



the 12th, the with it to see them with lots of



On the 20th, Firemen came to visit. While discussing about the visit and waiting for the firemen to come, the children tried their fire hat that they made with Ms. Stella. We then prepared for outside play and as soon as we went down, we saw the firetruck coming. The children

ran and stayed behind the gate, excitedly waiting for the firemen to go in. They welcomed the visitors by giving them ‘high fives’.



On the 22nd, we commemorated Anzac Day by making our own poppy flower made from playdough. As we haven’t had play dough for a long time, the children were all excited to sit and eager to start playing with it.



Until next month,
Jellyfish Educators

Lionfish News



The Lionfish have been really interested in dinosaurs this month. When we came upstairs after morning tea on the 4th, Miss Tracey put our dinosaur books on the mat as well as some animal and insect books. The children enjoyed looking through the books looking at the dinosaurs and comparing them to animals that they know. Hart said, "Look that one looks like a

bear!" Leo said, "That one has a long neck like a giraffe!" William found all the big dinosaurs and lined them up side by side on the car mat. He said, "They're all in a line!"

Their interest in insects was continued this month. When we came inside on the 5th, we talked about insects and how they use camouflage to protect themselves from predators. We also learnt that they use camouflage when they are trying to catch something to eat. The children were very interested to learn about insects. We also watched an Educational video about insects and learnt



the differences between insects and spiders. After rest time we made our own insects using pipe cleaners.

On the 11th, we decided to plant all the seeds that the Lionfish children have been collecting in the worm farm after Miss Rebecca had great success with her

avocado seed and rockmelon seeds. The Lionfish children have been finding seeds in the playground, at home and in their fruit at morning and afternoon tea. We have been collecting these to plant and to see what happens, so today we planted them together in the worm farm. The children took it in turns to shake the seeds from the container into the worm farm. Hart said, "Look at all those worms!" We talked about how the worms help us make good soil. Also outside on the 11th, Miss Rebecca assembled some tricycles that Miss Elly bought for the children. The Lionfish and Starfish children sat watching Miss Rebecca as she put the pieces together. William said, "Look the wheels go round and round!" After they had been put together, the children took it in turns to practise their pedalling. We also set up an area where it was flatter because some of them were having difficulty pedalling up the hills. They were great turn takers and sharers as they waited patiently for their turn.





On the 13th, we looked at the benefit of fruit for our Letterland 'F' and how it contains a lot of vitamins and keeps you healthily. The children also learnt names of the various fruits and named their favourites. Hart mention " Strawberries" , Aiden "Strawberries and Blue berries." , Leo "tomatoes and Water melon." , Ethan "strawberries and water melon." Xavi " Apricots", Sue Ann " Bananas and Apples" Stacia " rockmelon." Aayen "Watermelon." Raffi " Apples and Apricots." ,Seraya " Banana and Rockmelon while Sofia commented "Pears and Rockmelon.



On the 14th, we had a discussion about our room rules. The children were prompted about good behaviours both inside and outside, and came up with their own rules themselves. They came up with rules like, "sitting on our bottoms", "listening ears", "put your hand up to talk", and so on. We listed these, and discussed why they are important. Later, we will take photos of each other following these rules to put on our rules list so then we can display it in our room to remind us.



On the 19th, the group explored Anzac Day and it's importance. Hart commented " The man's friends hurt himself." Ethan mention "The man is in uniform "The children enjoyed listening to a book called" Lest we forget." It talks about two types of days one we



want to remember and those we want to forget. Leo commented" the mans a solider. He cares for his friends" when asked what do team do on the field. Ethan commented Look after each other." while looking at some picture the group said " they are sad or unhappy. Which lead into talking about the important of remembering the 25th of April and November the 11th as some will be sad but it must be remembered. The group also looked at the poppy being one of the plant to member the war and they made one in the inside play.

On the 20th, the Lionfish children continued exploring our new cubby house that was just put in the previous week, either climbing up the ladder or rock wall so they could have a turn on the slide. They were great at lining up waiting for their turn! As soon as they had slid down the slide they would run over to the rock wall or the ladder to climb up for another turn!

Also on the 20th, the children enjoyed a visit from the firemen before



their visit to the station next week. The group were asked to tell the fireman if the fire was good or bad by their thumbs up or down. Hart put thumbs down to camp fire with no parents she said "you can burn". Minka put thumbs up for parents helping to cook in the kitchen as a safe fire. When it came time to ask question, Xavi commented "we get down low to get out safe". The group also practiced it.

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators :)

Starfish News

Welcome to Starfish April Newsletter!

We hope all of you have had an enjoyable Easter break and school holidays – for those of you lucky enough to be able to take that time off, and are enjoying our beautiful autumn weather. =)

What a busy month we have had! Time flies when you're having fun!



Colour... colour.. colour everywhere!

To kick off our month, on the 1st April the children were introduced to an experiment based on Primary and Secondary colours as well as Absorption. Using sticks of fresh Celery, the children observed as Miss Rebecca cut the sticks in half, leaving the ends untouched. The children were intrigued by what they say and were able to name the Primary colours Red, Blue and Yellow correctly that were needed and we hypothesised together if the colours would be able to create Secondary colours such as Green, Orange and Purple.

This had the children running back and forth during the week, as they observed the dye slowly reaching the top of the Celery sticks. The colours had successfully reached the top and we were correct in our assumptions that the Secondary colours would be created.



To further their interests in learning about Colours and also experiment more with absorption, Miss Rebecca bought five White Gerbera's on the 11th April, that we could use to soak up the dye. Starfish were able to use the Primary colours to add to the correct coloured vases and were given the choices of making two Secondary colours, for which they picked Purple and also Green. The children were asked "what they thought would happen to the flower" and they were in agreeance

that the stem would take on the dye also that the petals would change from white to the colour in the vase..

The children were also asked how long they thought it would take for the colour to absorb and it varied from five minutes to ten days. It was a wonderful sight to see how quickly they were taking on the colours, as within two hours the Stigma's were the first part of the flowers to take on colour. The children were excited to see this and throughout the day approached Miss Rebecca and Miss Cory to tell them what they were noticing.

Starfish children were extremely careful when observing and handling the vases and flowers and were commended on their pro-social behaviours.



The airplanes go Whoosshhhh....

Earlier this month Miss Cory noticed some of the boys were very interested in creating different type of airplanes and lots of discussion about their experience getting on an airplane. To extend their interests and to further develop their knowledge in airplanes, we read some information books about airplane. Here are few things we have learnt about Airplanes:

- **An airplane has 5 basic parts: body, wings, tail, engines and landing gear!**
- **The Air traffic controllers talk to pilots by radio and tell pilots when it's the right time to take off and land the airplanes. They work from the traffic control tower! Cool!**
- **Sometimes planes can even carry animals as they need to move to another zoo!**
- **The jet engines are located on each wing of an airplane.**

At construction area, the children decided to build a runway for their airplane for take-off and landing. The children explore and exchange ideas and theories using their creativity and imagination throughout the role play. **According to research in make-believe play, imaginary play/role play encourages social development as children simultaneously behaving as themselves and as someone else. This gives them the opportunity to explore the world from different perspectives. =)**

The children also created their own planes using recycle bottles!



A visit from the Firefighters!!! Awesome!

On Wednesday morning, the 20th April, we have special visitors came to Pumpkin – the Firefighters! As we have been exploring letter F for Firefighter Fred this month, Miss Cory organized an incursion and invited the firemen from local fire station. They were excited to see some familiar faces as they have visited us before! The children were also thrilled to see all the cool stuff the firemen brought in such as the oxygen tank, the mask and the fireman jacket!

They got even more excited when the firemen said they can go in the fire engine to have a look! Yay! The children noticed lots of things in there such as the mask, gloves, fireman hat and walkie talkie!

One of the firemen showed children how the Fire-Engine Hose work and explained how they use different nozzle on the hose to put out various type of fires!



Anzac Day!

Starfish children participated in a variety of experiences to remember those who had fallen in WW1 in Gallipoli. Children helped gather long branches of the herb from our garden beds and with Miss Rebecca's help created a big Wreath. Through some research it was noted that Rosemary was found growing in abundance in Gallipoli, along with the Red Poppies that are also symbolic to Anzac Day.

To give the children a sensory experience and to further their newly learned knowledge, we created rosemary scented play dough as well as the black and red play dough! The children learn to create red poppy using red dough and natural materials such as pebbles, sticks and barks. =)



ANZAC Cookies!! Yummsss!

We discovered that Anzac biscuits were traditionally sent to the soldiers and others involved in the War because they didn't spoil or go bad as quickly as other food types. The children were very excited to hear of the days Anzac Biscuit cooking experience and all participated in helping with the recipe, adding and mixing in the ingredients and of course in eating them up. They were delicious!! And we were lucky enough to bag some up for the children to share with their families.

– LEST WE FORGET –



Olivia's mum brought in some thickening agent for Starfish children to use as art and craft and after some discussion, the children decided to create moon and sun to complete our planets display. We used the thickening agent to add to water coloured paints, with the children choosing the amount of thickener for the white, black and grey paints and mixing the powder into the containers with the paintbrushes. Starfish read a book called 'A Look Inside Space', which explained a little bit about the light and dark side of the Moon.

We then continued creating the Sun using orange and yellow crepe paper as well as glitters to make it as shiny as possible! =)

EXCURSION TO MATRAVILLE FIRE STATION!!! Woohoo.....

At the end of this month on Tuesday, 26th April, Miss Cory organized an excursion to the Fire Station, not only for Starfish children, but also Lionfish children joined us this time! How exciting!

The children behaved extraordinarily well, especially when crossing the traffic light in such busy roads!! Very impressive boys and girls!!

When we got to the fire station, the firemen explained that the children will have opportunity to look inside the truck, hose the water, have a look inside their office as well as put the firemen jacket on!" Awesome!!! =)

We also looked at all the cool buttons at the back the fire truck, lots of different equipment on the side of the truck, as well as the very long ladder!



THANK YOU to all parents and families who came and joined us in the excursion! We really appreciate your participation and support! We couldn't have done it without you! We look forward to your participation in our next excursion! =)

Till next month!!! Cheers!!

