



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – July 2015

Centre News

We fixed our playground at the Beauchamp Road side, the playground is much more level now and we have 2 new big garden beds. We planted Lavender on one of the garden bed because we love the smell.



We also have a new playground at O'Connell Avenue, with a new floor, climbing equipment and sand pit. The Jellyfish and Sunfish children really enjoyed our new climbing equipment and sand pit.

The Jellyfish and Sunfish also have their own worm farm now in their new playgrounds☺





Parent Reminder

Due to safety reasons, please do not leave any medication, food or dangerous items (e.g: lighter) in your child's bag. Please be aware of what inside your child's bag.

We also can't give un-prescribed medication here, e.g: Panadol, Nurofen, cough syrup. If you need to give your child a prescribed medication, please talk to one of our Educators on arrival and you will need to leave the medication with the Educator, please also sign our medication record.

August Calendar of Events

04/08/15 - Tuesday – National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (NAICD).

04/08/15 - Tuesday – Picnic Day.

07/08/15 - Friday – Jeans for Genes Day.

08/08/15 - Saturday – International Day for World Indigenous People.

15/08/15 – 23/08/15 - National Science Week.

24/08/15 – 30/08/15 - Keep Australia Beautiful Week.

28/08/15 - Friday – Daffodil Day



28/08/15 - Friday – Krishna Janmashtami, Hindu Tradition – celebrates the birth of Krishna.

29/08/15 – Saturday – Raksha Bandhan, Hindu Tradition – celebrates the love between brothers and sisters.

Clownfish News

What a way to start July in the Clownfish room. We began with the 1st of July having a practice fire drill. If you saw the day story you would have known how crazy and fun filled it was. We wanted to say a big welcome to the new Clown Fish children; Bryson and Connor, who have begun during this month in our room.

The children in the Clownfish room have all begun to interact with each other and the educators to a new extent. Thank you to all the families and educators for all the hard work; keep the communication up.

How amazing is our outdoor area now? Pumpkin LDC has excavated the front yard and providing new resources for our Clownfish children. This has been an amazing benefit for the children's development. Most of the children and families have been commenting how they love seeing their child outdoors. Majority of the children have been exploring their learning environment and the daily stories this month has shown a great deal of fun and play. Developing their gross motor abilities we have been catering for each child. From walkers and cruisers to bikes and climbing frames we have begun the outdoor gross motor transformation.

Whiles this is all outside we forgot to mention some of the great things from in the room. We have been extending the older clownfish with some of their language development. They have been exploring the verbal aspects using their word to express themselves. Simple words as hi, bye, more, ta, sleep, yes, no, we are just a few they have also been learning stop and go. These simple

words are used through our daily routine and the children have been encouraged to repeat the words at the appropriate timing. Have you noticed this happening at home?

Looking into our events through July the Clown Fish looked into detail commencing the NAIDOC Week (04.07.15- 10.07.15) celebrations the clownfish looked up different native videos on YouTube including some that show some traditional costumes. Watching the dancers play digeridoos and using tap sticks and boomerangs to make the sounds, Miss Corina bought out some of the boomerangs she had and then we made some music of our own. The children looked at the painting on the boomerangs in detail, some of them touching the dots and running their hands across the colours. We looked at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and explored the colours in both. The Aboriginal one was closely observed as the children noticed the colours in Miss Corina's hair band and her earrings on this day. Red, black and yellow is what we were singing; the colours of the flag. The children were offered the experience to create their own master pieces inspired by these three colours. They had ear buds and the paint using white paper. Singing put a spot over here or a swiggle over there. Some of the clownfish children were able to hold the cotton ear buds and use that to paint; while some were happy to use their hands and finger paint (and then have a little taste while they were there). The art work is still displayed in the room so please make sure you take the time to see these.

Making salad- Thursday 16th July 2015- Let's cook... Today Pumpkin LDC had a cooking experience through the whole centre. We were making chicken salad. Ms Pimpini prepared all the food for us and put it in bowls with tongs on the table. Ms Criselda and Miss Corina took the children to wash their hands and sit around the table. We talked about healthy eating as Ms Pimpini put out all the ingredients on the table. We had two types of lettuce; iceberg and coral lettuce. Some onion and some shredded chicken. We sat at the table, with the bowls in front of us; then we were given tongs and encouraged to pick either salad ingredient from the middle of the table and then put it into their bowl. Mixing it all together the children they were able to eat their chicken salad.

Obon Festival and Eid-UI-Fitr- 17th July 201- The clownfish sat together with the iPad and looked at the Obon Festival of Souls. This is a traditional Buddhist festival they also looked at the festival Eid-UI-Fitr which marks the end of Ramadan. The educators and the children looked up traditional dancing, costumes and different celebrations from around the world.

Tuesday afternoon (21.07.15) during pick up time, the educators had a quick chat with Daisy's mum Kylie and we have learned that they have been to aquarium over the weekend. To extend on

this experience on Wednesday 22.07.15 the Clownfish children looked for a book with pictures of different kinds of fishes as well as creatures that live in the water. It seemed like everybody was interested in fishes so we decided to make an artwork which was a combination of collage using precut out fishes and glue. As a group we covered the paper with glue and stuck the fish on. This was then hung up to dry in the room for all to see their amazing work. On Thursday, July 23, 2015 following from the interest; we looked at the same book again. Then we continued on our combination fish collage. We looked at the colour of the water being blue so we changed the glue colour today and added blue for our water. The children used the blue glue first smearing it across the other fish, then grabbing the precut paper shaped like fish and stuck it on top. We have now begun learning “all the fish are swimming in the water” song and have repeated it most of this week and next week. The fish collage was put back up for display in our room.

Continuing the fish and gluing collage; the Friday children were offered their own collage experience. They were given their own blue paper as their fish tank and the educators encourage them to 2 different types of blue paint glue as the water, they then grabbing a precut coloured fish of their choice and put it on top of the glue as they create their fish tanks these will be in their portfolios. We love hearing about what you do on the weekend and seeing the input sheets send through, thanks to all who make the effort. We can't wait to see where next month takes us...



Jellyfish News

Happy birthday to Ariella, Aiden, George and Peyton! And a big welcome to Annie and Oma!

We started the month by practicing a fire drill. The children learnt what it means, such as that when they hear the whistle it means 'DANGER' and that they are to line up at the door, leave everything behind and slowly walk out with their educators. Some children were confused about the fire drill and some were excited. After further discussing it with the children, they were able to understand. London was asking "Where's the fire"? Miss Maylene explained that we are practicing and that we are pretending just in case the real thing happened. Then, we would know exactly what to do.

One morning, the children came up with the idea of building a snake with the building blocks. Connecting pieces together George, Xavier, London, Sueann and Heloise collaborated to make a long snake. Extending the children's snake interest, they engaged in artwork. Using a variety of materials, they made a snake and called it rainbow.

Koby was very excited when sharing about his time at the Circus, where he saw horses and motorbikes, and ate popcorn. We learnt that going to the Circus is a lot of fun, as we get to see animals performing tricks and clowns being funny! On the same day, Aiden shared about his weekend, "I saw the minion movie". And what a coincidence, Aiden also ate popcorn! Popcorn became a topic of interest. Ariella said she eats popcorn when she goes swimming and Conor said he eats it at home. William, Hart and Sueann said they like popcorn too. Miss Alessandra and the children talked about salty and sweet popcorn. The next day, we found a fun clip of many tigers and lions performing tricks at a circus. The whole room became a circus as the children started pretending to be tigers and lions, "Roarrrr"! Since everyone enjoyed watching it, we watched another one, this time of a clown juggling. Hart was also very excited when talking about her neighbour, Lenny. They watched Bolt one weekend and ate popcorn. Discussing popcorn became a fun topic again!

Hart enjoyed sharing about her first pony ride. She said she was not scared and that Lucy, the pony, was white. As a group, we searched online for pictures of white ponies and compared them to horses, like the ones Koby said he saw at the circus. We could see that ponies are smaller, with shorter legs but with the same faces. Leo was next, sharing about his fun weekend with his cousins. Miss Alessandra pointed out to the children that neighbours are the people who live close to us and that cousins are our uncles and aunties' children.

As we talked about one day's weather and date, Sueann spontaneously said, "Miss Alex, I saw the rainbow". Miss Alessandra then shared about the time she saw a double rainbow, explaining that she saw two rainbows together. As a group, we searched online for pictures of double rainbows. We learnt that rainbows usually appear after the rain and kept an eye outside our room windows for rainbows since it was a wet day. Miss Alessandra encouraged a discussion about rainbow colours and about the children's rainbow experiences. When given the suggestion of painting rainbows with the colours mentioned by them, the children loved the idea and could not wait to get started! Miss Alessandra started by painting a double rainbow and the children made their representations of rainbows.

The children have been demonstrating an interest towards the alphabet, our Letterland program and their names' (as well as their friends') initial letter since February. This month, the ongoing interest was seen again as the children enjoyed sorting through letters and spontaneously starting singing the alphabet song together. Miss Alessandra wrote the children's initial letters on the white board and the children loudly named each letter, as well as which friend's name started with each letter. The children took turns writing their letter next to the one Miss Alessandra wrote. After learning from Aiden's mum (Nancy) that he is now writing his name at home and extending on our letter writing experience, the children were shown what their whole first name looks like on the white board. The children could see that some names started with the same letter but included different letters and were of different lengths, such as Christopher and Conor. The children were encouraged to name all the letters in their names and patiently watched as Miss Alessandra wrote their names, attentively looking. Since the children have mastered recognising their own and their friends' initial letters, we will now focus on learning to recognise their and their friends' names.

Midmonth, we discussed each other's favourite weekend activities, such as going to the zoo, to birthday parties, to the beach and parks.

Last month, the children enjoyed learning to dance to a new song, The Skeleton dance. They liked dancing to it this month too!

The children engaged in a cooking experience of making a chicken salad. First, they collected herbs from our garden in the back playground. Next, ingredients and cooking hygiene was discussed. Apple was added to the salad after being suggested by William. The children learnt that what they collected from the garden is called parsley and were encouraged to smell it, along with onion and notice how strong but different they smell. They were also encouraged to notice how parsley and lettuce are not the same. After thoroughly washing our hands, we made a yummy salad using parsley, lettuce, onion, apples and chicken. The children had the opportunity to taste their salad with their lunch.

Hand Hygiene and Oral Health – We received a special box in the mail and opened it as a group. We found many posters and books in the box. Safirah called out, “Brushing” when seeing a poster of teeth brushing. Recently we learnt about oral health through a Dentist learning story. As we explored the poster, we remembered what we learnt previously. Next, we explored a hand hygiene poster learning when we should wash our hands: before eating/touching food, after going to the toilet, coming in from outside and sneezing/blowing nose. We are familiar with those steps as we do them at Pumpkin, however we also learnt that we should wash our hands at other times outside of Pumpkin, such as after playing with pets. Finally, we learnt that hand washing is an important step in keeping us healthy and discussed five steps for washing. The children followed the steps by rubbing their hands together and pretending to clean in between their fingers, which they did for real when hand washing before lunch a bit later on.



Until next month,
Jellyfish/Sunfish Educators

Lionfish News

We have had a very busy month in the Lionfish room with some of the older children transitioning to the Starfish room and some of the younger children (from the Jellyfish room) moving to our room.

We said goodbye to Jaedyn, Dakota and Logan. We welcomed Xavier, Conor, George and Peyton from the Jellyfish room. We also welcomed our new friends, Hailey, Stacia and Eve.

During July, the children have loved roleplaying and dress-ups. Every day they ask for the dress-ups when we are outside and when we are inside they are always busy cooking in home corner. They love dressing up as Princesses, Wolves, Pigs, Spiderman, Superman and even the Wiggles!.

We also have been enjoying the sunny winter days with the Lionfish Children helping to construct fantastic obstacle courses for them to explore using their physical skills.

We've even got some new climbing equipment which they love!

We also celebrated NAIDOC week and Bastille Day this month. We celebrated and looked at the culture, history and achievement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by participating in Arts and Crafts as well as learning traditional songs. On Bastille Day, we talked about why the French people celebrate their special day and also did some Art & Craft to represent this special day.

We have also been talking about handwashing and general hygiene throughout this month, making sure the children are washing their hands properly and covering their mouth to avoid spreading germs.

Happy Birthday to our friends Jaedyn, Peyton, Conor and George!





Until next month,

Lionfish Educators ☺

Starfish News



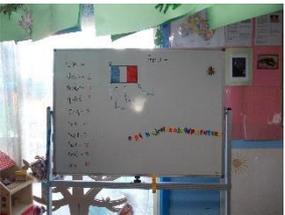
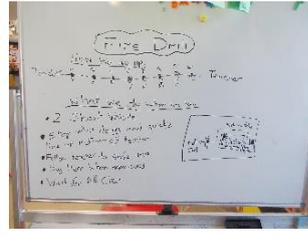
To start off our Month in Starfish, **on the 1st July we held a surprise 'Fire evacuation Drill'** with all of the children attending the service, during their morning tea time. The children were required to participate in moving from one side of the service to the other safely.

Once we began our Emergency Fire Evacuation drill, the children were given a quick head count as they heard the whistle being blown twice. The children were extremely quick at getting into their line and were able to follow instructions given by both Miss Catherine and Miss Rebecca, as they moved efficiently through the service and outside to the side gate where Miss Yuki was waiting for them. We had a couple unsettled and scared children, however after explaining to them that it wasn't real and that they could come back later for their pillow and toys, they were able to calm down. As Starfish moved through their line and out to the front of the service, the children were asked to sit in the area allocated a safe point and were then given a head count and their names were called out. Miss Rebecca spoke to all of the children about other areas for which we could meet, if there were a fire in another area of the service, explaining that this area could be deemed as unsafe. **She explained the importance of listening to the teachers and keeping calm during an emergency.** The children were commended on their efforts during the 'Fire Evacuation Drill', for maintaining safe behaviours and movements during the exercise. Once we finished our drill, the children were able to move back into the service and their classrooms.

The children sat back at their tables and finished eating their morning tea. They were excited after all the commotion and after they finished eating, Starfish were given a visual diagram drawn up in front of them and were involved in a group discussion with Miss Rebecca and Miss Catherine, where they spoke about different forms of emergencies and what to do, in cases where there is one. **Starfish learned of the safe ways to evacuate the service and hypothesised in the group, as they were given various scenarios to consider. Starfish focused on the importance of saving a life and the educators explained to the children 'things' can be replaced, life cannot and how we only try to help save a life, if it is 'SAFE' to do so. Starfish educators also spoke about other Emergency Services such as 'The Police', 'The Ambulance' as well as 'Fire Fighters'.** The children learned that it is only safe to go back in to a building that has had a fire, once the Fire Fighters have said so and we spoke about the dangers about returning into a building that wasn't deemed safe.

Well done Starfish for your efforts in our Fire Evacuation Drill!!!! ☺





On the 14th July Starfish were celebrating 'Bastille Day', the French Revolution. Miss Rebecca opened up the class discussion by speaking to the children in French. She asked the class "Who knows what language I am speaking" and they were unable to tell her. Miss Rebecca began drawing up the numbers 1-10 on the board and the children asked "What are you writing Miss Rebecca"? She asked the children "Can anyone recognise any of what I have written up on the white board"? They were familiar with the numbers in English although were unsure of the French. Miss Rebecca explained to them that they were going to learn their counting in French today and then began counting them aloud. After counting, Miss Rebecca asked the children if they were able to remember the numbers from 1-10 and Fox was able to say **Une, Deux, Trois, Quatre, Cinq and Huite** and was commended on his efforts in repeating what he had just learned. Starfish were also able to count along side Miss Rebecca, as she counted with them to 23. As they were lining up to go outside for their free time, the children were given a number in French and asked to remember their number. Starfish were able to remember their numbers and further their knowledge in a new culture. **Starfish children were given the opportunity to create their own Bastille Day craft and were given red, white and blue paint to create their own French Flag.** The children learned about the flag and were able to repeat the colours in French; Bleu, Blanc and Rouge. They had fun learning a little bit of French and Miss Rebecca has had word from parents informing her that their children are counting at home in French too. Well done Starfish, keep up the great learning!!

Sea Creatures Exploration...

As Cory just came back from her long holiday early this month, she shared story about her holiday in **Komodo island in Indonesia** and said, "One of the most interesting things I saw when I was on my holiday was I got to see komodo dragon. I went to a place called **Komodo Island**. **Komodo dragon is the largest living dragon in the world. Their skin is rough and they have long and sharp claws.**" She showed children lots of photos of the komodo, sea creatures such as **clownfish, starfish, baby shark, sea snake a well as colourful corals.**

The children were very curious about the komodo and asked lots of interesting questions about sea creatures. We found lots of interesting facts about komodo through the Internet. We have learnt that komodo is carnivore, which means they are meat eater. They eat pig, deer and other meat. We looked at more information about komodo dragon and its poisonous saliva. We found out that komodo is the oldest living dragon in the world!

We also looked at some information book on sea creatures and 'Who lives under the sea' as the children raised lots of interesting questions during group discussion. They are very curious to find out the sound of dolphin, seal and whale and what do the sea creatures eat. **We then listened to sound of those sea creatures through searching from Youtube.**

We also read books about different type of whales and dolphins. **The children are very interested with bottlenose dolphin in particular, as their nose look funny and sound very squeaky. The children also learn about unusual sea creatures underneath the ocean, such as sea slug, seaweed, sea cucumber and sea urchin.**



Ocean Diorama!

To further extend children's interest and knowledge in exploring sea creatures topic, Cory introduced **Ocean Diorama**, where they can create their own Ocean scene using **recycle materials such as used catalogues, egg cardboard, and collage paper**. The children shared information about their favourite sea creatures while creating their ocean scene.

Cory also provided free painting experience where the children were given opportunity to create their ideas of an ocean. **Starfish, jellyfish, and octopus were popular as a lot of children decided to paint them as an addition of their ocean painting. They use their creativity skill to project their ideas and knowledge through painting experience.** They also shared stories about their personal experience seeing whales, dolphins when they went to the beach and aquarium.

Planting and watering our garden...

As part of our **sustainability practice learning experience**, we have been discussing how to look after our garden and our environment in general.

The children enjoyed eating ripe tomatoes from our garden lately and we decided to plant more vegetable in our garden. This time **we planted carrot seeds**. We discussed the steps on how to grow a plant from seeds. The children were eager helping educators planting the seed – putting soil and the seeds in the pot and watering the soil.

We also regularly feed our worm farm box with left over fruits from morning and afternoon tea.

The children noticed that there are more worms in the worm farm box!

They also enjoyed helping educators **watering the garden in the morning and show more awareness of the plants and flowers that start to grow...**

It has been a very busy and productive month and the children have shown more confidence and participate actively in each learning experience.

Till next month! Cheers!

Starfish Educators.

