



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – April 2014

Centre News

Easter is here again, we are going to decorate our rooms and prepare for our Easter celebration.

The children at Pumpkin have been exploring lots of fun topics from family input, the News topic (the Starfish) and Topics (the Jellyfish). These family inputs have been a very good method to link the family to our centre. Connecting families to the program is the most important thing we can do for children as everything parents and families do interest children. These events, no matter how big or small, are the best educational resources families can provide for the centre.

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April Calender of Events

08th – Tuesday – Ram Navami – Hindu tradition, celebrate the birth of Lord Rama. The day involves visiting temples and telling stories.



13th - Sunday – Mahavir Jayanti – Jain, celebrated the birth of Mahavira.

15th – Tuesday – Hanuman Jayanti – Hindu trafiton, this day celebrates Hanuman, who was an embodiment of Lord



Ethan's mum donated a passion fruit plant for our front gate.

Rama. Devotion and selfless work are encouraged.

15th – 22nd – Pesach (Passover) – Jewish tradition, Passover is the most important festival in the Jewish faith, celebrates the deliverance from slavery of the Jewish people in Egypt and the ongoing struggle of all peoples for freedom.

16th – Wednesday – Cooking Experience, making the Jelly.

17th – Thursday – Easter Bonnet Parade and egg hunting.

18th – Good Friday – Centre closed – Christian tradition, this day remembers the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

19th – Easter Saturday

20th – Easter Sunday – Christian tradition, Easter commemorates the resurrection (return to life) of Jesus Christ following his death by crucifixion.

21st – Easter Monday – Centre closed.



25th – Friday – Anzac Day – Centre Closed.



Learning our new Indonesian song with Ms Elly☺



News topic in the Starfish room: 'My Pet' and this is Olivia and Charlotte' pet.



The green caterpillars have been eating our plants, we made the natural solution to get rid of them.



Singing together with Ms Ales.

News from Starfish Room

We started off news time this month with the topic 'My Pet'. The children loved telling their Starfish friends about their pets, or their cousins/grandparents/friends pets. They also discussed their 'Favourite Foods'. This led on to discussing which foods are healthy, and which are 'sometimes' foods. Fruit seemed to be the most popular healthy food. However, the children also discussed dairy foods such as milk, cheese and yoghurt, which are good for our bones because they have calcium. They then read some funny fruit books: "The Sweetest Orange" which is good for colds, "What an Apple" an apple a day keeps the doctor away, and "Let's go Bananas" the best bunch in the yellow suit.

We continued to reinforce this idea of 'healthy' and 'sometimes' foods often. We did so by asking the children what foods were considered 'healthy'. Kailea said: "Vegetables", Jeremy L said: "Egg", Mia S said: "Meat", and Keeley said: "Fruits". The starfish children then discussed how 'healthy' foods give us energy, and 'sometimes' foods can damage our teeth. Jasmine Guard said: "My nanna has to wear the pretend teeth now".

We also had a 'Mystery Item' topic for news week where the children brought in a hidden item with three clues, and their friends had to guess what it was. The last news topic for this month was 'An item starting with the first letter of my name'. The children had fun showing off their items, and how they work. As an extension from this news topic, the children even drew things that began with the first letter of their name.

We have also been focusing a lot on sharing our toys this month. For example, the Starfish children did a fabulous job sharing the bouncing horse during outdoor play. They all took charge, and decided how the order should go. Keeley, Sarah and Hana also worked together during indoor play time, using their turn-taking skills to put together the large dragon puzzle.

During Letterland this month, the children learnt about the letter 'd', and 'e'. The children have been introduced to both capitals and lower cases. We have read about the Letterland characters 'Dippy Duck' and 'Eddy Elephant'. The children practiced sounding out their d's and e's, practiced writing them on the whiteboard and participated in a number of other related activities.

The children have been constantly adding to our garden. This



Learning about healthy eating and sometimes food ☺



Which one is the healthy food Starfish?



Celebrating St. Patrick's day.



Bingo games.

month, Ethan's mum (from the Jellyfish room) donated a passionfruit plant. We planted it next to the gates in the front playground so that it will climb the front fence as it grows. The caterpillars have been eating away at our other plants though, so Ms Elly researched with the children about natural ways to get rid of them. They discovered that if they mixed onion, garlic, chilli powder and detergent, it would protect the garden from unwanted bugs.

We have also been familiarising the children with their shapes, numbers and colours. They are able to identify most of their basic shapes, colours and numbers off our number chart. We have prompted the children to consolidate their knowledge and curiosity by practicing drawing some shapes, and colouring them in.

The Starfish children also learnt a new song this month called "Topi Saya Bundar". They sing it in Indonesian, but they learnt it in English as well: "My hat is always round, round hat is always mine. If it's not a round hat, definitely not mine".

We would like to welcome our newest member to the Starfish room, Kruze! Also, a big happy birthday to Emmeline who turned three on the 5th, Levi S who turned four on the 31st, and to Fox and Fleur who turned three on the 24th ☺

Until next month,

Starfish Educators.

News from Jellyfish Room

Happy 3rd birthday to Taseen, Leo, and Alexander! Happy 2nd birthday to Sailosi! Congratulations to Leo's family for the arrival of his baby brother.

The gardening continued this month, with the children helping Miss Elly to plant a passionfruit tree that was donated by Alexandra (Ethan's mum).

The topic of animals continued even further this month. Ethan came in wearing a crocodile tooth necklace. The children found the tooth fascinating. They got so excited to explore it by feeling its sharpness. Miss Alessandra became the intentional teacher and asked the children to feel their own teeth and compare the sharpness and size to the crocodile's tooth. A photo of Ethan



Painting 'Eddy Elephant', the character from letterland..



Don't forget to water our garden.



Outdoor play.

wearing his necklace was placed on the wall and the children enjoy looking, pointing and talking about the tooth often, either to their educators, parents or peers. Through the topic, My Holidays, we discovered that Valentina, Allen and Paul went to a zoo during their holidays. Once again, the children showed great enthusiasm towards the topic of animals, discussing them and talking about their favourite ones. We received an email about Eloise's time at the aquarium, where she saw a long and black catfish. She shared "I went with mummy and daddy". Everyone loved the photos of the shark, octopus, penguins and fish. As an extension, the educators and the children looked at the life-sized zoo books. We found some of the animals that Eloise saw and discussed what they look like, where they live and what they eat. After learning some news about Ethan going to see a dinosaur exhibition at the museum, we enjoyed a whole day of dinosaur talking, learning and playing!

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday by eating crumpets! And we celebrated St Patrick's Day by making green drawings.

We focused on the book 'Hands are not hitting' to remind the children about being nice towards their peers. For a day, we consciously engaged in lots of activities that require the use of our hands, such as shaking hands with our friends, drawing and singing with lots of gestures (making a spider and a butterfly). At the end, we discussed the many ways we used our hands that did not involve hitting, scratching or pushing.

Thank you to Alexander for bringing in shells to share. We had a great time exploring them by comparing (sizes, shapes and colours), feeling and listening to them!

As we were singing one of our favourite songs, 'The wheels on the bus', Aurelia added a twist to it by asking to sing "The monkey on the bus". It was so much fun that now we always add the new monkey version to it. On another day, as we were singing it again, Alexander thought of two other things that could be on the bus: teddy and cookie. We now have a very creative version of the song!

Thank you to all the families who have been returning the topic sheets! It has been so much fun getting to know more about our friends through the many topics we have discussed so far. We are currently on Topic 5, Friends, until the 4th of April. Please don't forget to hand in your input!

**Until next month,
Jellyfish Educators**



Eloise went to Sydney Aquarium.



Valentina went to the Zoo during her holidays.



Ethan tells about going to Symbio Park.



Learning about 0. different kinds of animals through the puzzles.

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