



Pumpkin Long Day Care

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Newsletter – June 2014

Centre News

Our new extension is opened now, we have a new preschool room (Lionfish) and a new nursery room (Clownfish) at Beauchamp Road now.

Before 8.15 am and after 5 pm, if you arrive from Beauchamp Road, please come in from the orange gate (on your left) to O'Connell Site. Sorry for the inconvenience, this is due to the safety of the children and educators at Pumpkin.

The sign in and out for Clownfish and Lionfish will be in the Starfish room until we bring the children back to their room at Beauchamp Road. The Clownfish (nursery) will go back to their room at 8.00 am and the Lionfish will go back to their room at 9.00 am. Parents and families can put their children's bags in the Starfish room or they can go and drop their child's bag in the Lionfish and Clownfish rooms. Our new phone number at Beauchamp road is 02 9661 9521.

Thank you to all the mums that have come and joined us for Mother's Day afternoon tea.



Parent reminder

Please remember to bring a hat for your child, please bring a bucket or legionnaire hat, not a cap or beanie. Please book your child in for our "Parent-Teacher Meeting" if you have not done it.

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Staff News

Miss Alessandra will be leaving for her annual leave from 10th June, and she will be back to work on 04th August 2014.

Staff Update:

- Miss Juliet Boling, she finished her Bachelor of Education back in 2012, she is the room leader for the Starfish room.
- Miss Charlotte Bolliger is currently studying her Bachelor of Education, she is doing her work placement now, she will be back in the term 3. Miss Charlotte will be the room leader in the Lionfish room.
- Ms Sri Lakshmi Oruganti, she is the room leader in the Clownfish room (nursery), she finished her Diploma in Children's Services and she has been working in the nursery room before she joined Pumpkin.
- Miss Catherine Bell, currently she is finishing her Diploma in Children's Services, she will be working in the Clownfish room (nursery), she has been working in the nursery room before she joined Pumpkin.
- Ms Pimpini, Ms Tracey and Ms Leanne will be working in the Lionfish room as well for a few days a week.
- Ms Criselda Burgos, she is starting to work with Pumpkin casually now, she has finished her Cert III in Children's Services.

Upcoming events

02nd – 06/06/14 – Parent-Teacher interview to see how your child has been progressing.



04th – 05/06/14 – Shavuot -Jewish Tradition. Celebrates Moses' descent from Mount Sinai and the reading of the 10 Commandments.

08th – Sunday - Pentecost – All Christians.

15th – 21/06/14 – Refugee Week

26th - Thursday - Cooking Experience – Making Dumplings.

27th – Friday – Red Nose Day.



Adding more worms in our worm farm.



Making something special for our mums for Mother's Day with Miss Juliet.



Watering our garden together.



Making salad together with Miss Juliet.

Clownfish May News

The Clownfish room welcome to all our new children and families into our room. We hope you are settling into your new environment and are bonding with all the children and educators in the room. Our main priority at this stage is to get to know you and your child, nurture and comfort them and make this transition as smooth as possible. We aim to provide young children with safe, secure environment so they can actively explore and enjoy all aspects the room has to offer.

Over the next few weeks you may also notice changes within the room. Few of our older children are moving up to the Jelly Fish Room to begin their next journey. We orientate the children from the Clownfish room to the Toddlers Room when they turn twenty three months. During this a staff member will take children to the Toddlers Room for a little play, this way the children will be familiar with the room, staff and children by the time they move up there. Your child will only move up to the Toddlers Room if they are twenty-four months and have gone through the orientation process. If you have any questions about orientation, please see Ms Elly.

Parents are asked to supply the Clownfish room with a hat for their child to wear whilst outdoors. If your child does not have a hat, educators will place their sun smart hat on until you provide one. Parents are also asked to bring in a winter jacket for their child to wear whilst playing outdoors.

Activity

This month we will focus on the sense of touch. The children will play with sand, rocks, sea life and many more.

Group times

We have been doing lots of different group experiences in the Clownfish room. Group time is essential for learning, especially at such a young age. Group activities allow children to learn from one another, and to learn skills such as taking turns, sharing, teamwork and listening. We do many different group times in the Clownfish room that promote children's development.

Each activity, whether planned or spontaneous, is set out to help children develop in certain areas and to extend on the children's interests.

Some of the group time activities we do in the Clown Fish room include reading stories, singing songs, spontaneous art experiences and snack times.

If possible; could you send in a photo of your baby with



The Clownfish goes natural with their art and craft.



Outdoor play.



Meal times.



Sensory touch with natural resources.

his/her family eg Parents, Siblings, and Grandparents. We would like to make up a book to show the babies at group time.

Suggestions and inputs from the parents are always welcomed and appreciated. Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Please speak to staff if you have any concerns or ideas as we are always looking at ways of improving our service and daily practice.

Clownfish Educators.

Jellyfish May News

Happy birthday to Raphael, Ariane, Matthew, Sebastian, Pablo and Aurelia! And a big welcome to Roman, Stella, Raphael, Jaedyn, Saifan, Sebastian and Ariella!

The topic of animals kept going as our Pets topic turned into learning about vets and because Leo shared photos of the time when he minded two ducks. Later in the month, Ethan returned from Tasmania and shared a photo album about his time there. The children loved the photos of the animals the most, of course. They have been showing an interest towards animals all year! It was fun learning about all the animals Ethan saw through his explanations.

The interest in music was still strong this month. The children requested their favourite songs often. One day, Eloise spontaneously started singing 'Twinkle twinkle' happily and Sailosi followed her. Since it is one of the children's favourite songs, we decided to make star collages. On another day, Alexander and Aurelia held hands with Aleyna (a friend from the Starfish room) and sang 'Here we go round the mulberry bush'. It led us to make a big circle by holding hands with all our Jellyfish friends. On the same day, Audrey started singing 'Mary had a little lamb'. Later on, we all sang 'Mary had a little lamb' together and after 'the wheels on the bus', as suggested by Abigail. On separate days, there was a lot of spontaneous dancing in our room by Paul, Eloise, Abigail and Xavier Potter. Sailosi spontaneously sang our multicultural good morning song during his play.

The weather changed and started to get cold this month. Pablo still wanted to wear shorts, as opposed to pants, even in the cold. So his dad, Pierre, requested that we discuss winter appropriate clothes. We had a day of learning about winter and what we should wear to keep warm. The next



Happy Birthday!!!



Making star collages.



Group time with Miss Ales.

day, we were all very happy to see Pablo wearing pants!
We celebrated Mother's day by making special flowers for the special women in our lives and by having a Mother's day afternoon tea.

Midmonth we said goodbye to our toilet trained, 3 year old friends who have moved to the new, 3-4 year olds Lionfish room. But we still get to see and play with them!

Through our My favourite toy topic, we learnt that Eloise loves having tea parties with her toys at home. So we had our own tea party here!

Miss Elly gave us a big bucket, which we are now using as a rainwater bucket for our outdoor play area. We are now waiting for the rain to come so we can watch our bucket get full of water and use the water to water our plants and gardens!

After learning that Ethan enjoyed watching the moon at night, we learnt more about the moon. On another day, we painted our own versions of the moon in the different moon shapes we learnt about.

Thank you to all the families who have been returning the topic sheets! We are currently on Topic 9, My Food, until the 13th of June. Please do not forget to hand in your input.

Until next month,
Jellyfish Educators

Lionfish May News

A big welcome to all the children who have moved into the new Lionfish room and all their families. We also have some new friends in the Lionfish room, we welcome Caitlyn, Anabia and Fadi. The children have been very excited to move to their new room, exploring their new environment and getting to know their new friends.

We have continued the children's News time in the Lionfish room. Our first topic 'Feelings' showed the Lionfish children talking about their different feeling and expressing them through talking about them, drawing them and reading about them.

We hope all the families continue to participate with the News books as it is great for the children's confidence and learning!

We have also had many parents providing family input on our 'Family Input Sheets'. Pablo talked about his new bed to all his friends. Fox and Fleur shared about their Nana and



Making flowers for our mums.



Rain water bucket.



News time with Ms Tracey.



The Lionfish drew about their feelings.

Pop and their trip to the Aquarium.

Our other News topic 'My Favourite Animal' was very popular with the children. Some of them brought in books with their favourite animals in them. Others, such as Ali and Pablo brought in drawings in their News books of their favourite animals. This interest led to a painting activity where the children had to paint their favourite animals and also many animal books such as 'Animal Alphabet' where the children were able to practice their letter recognition as well as look at all their favourite animals.

The Lionfish children have been watching our rainwater buckets that we set up in the outdoor play area before we came to our new room. We are waiting for the rain to come so we can recycle the water in our garden.

We have been continuing our letter learning activities, books, puzzles and flash cards. We have also been continuing with learning our shapes and colours using the internet and a painting activity.

The Lionfish children are particularly enjoying their 'Munch and Move' exercises. They are becoming very confident as they exercise and move their bodies to the music to keep themselves healthy.

Our next News topic is 'Winter', we hope everyone will bring in their News books. Thank you to all the families who have already been bringing in their books.

Until next month.

Lionfish Educators.

Starfish May News

A big happy birthday to Aurelia this month! Aurelia was kind enough to bring in some yummy cakes to share with the Starfish children, to help celebrate her birthday! Also a big Starfish welcome to our newest member Aidan! We are thrilled to have a new friend in our room.

This month the topic of animals was very popular with the Starfish, particularly when we did our News of the Week topic, Animals. The children all had a great time discussing their favourite animals, and discovering that quite a few of our friends like the same animals! Shawn continued to show his interest in all things creepy crawly, and was on the constant hunt for bugs out in our garden. When Shaw found



Drawing the sea animals.



My Lego Project.



Learning our numbers with Miss Juliet.

one, he was quick to share his discovery with his friends. Ruby shared her love of elephants this month and brought in a stuffed elephant, as well as the book "There's a hippopotamus sitting on my rook eating cake". This year's Simultaneous Story Time event book also tied in well to the children's interest in animals. This year's story was "There's too many elephants in this house". The children enjoyed listening to this story on Youtube.

The children have continued to demonstrate their interest in dressing up, and all things prince and princess based. Over the month the children have built many block and sand castles for their princes and princesses. Emily W brought in a book called "Princesses" to share with the class, which helped to extend on this interest. After reading the book "Princesses" Ms Juliet asked the children what they thought would happen next. There were some very interesting responses including the prince saving the princess from the evil witch, to the evil witch melting after having water thrown on her.

The garden is still a big interest with the children. Ms Elly gave the Starfish a big bucket to collect rainwater in. when we have our next big downpour (which will most likely be soon with the weather changing!), we will use the water we collected to water our garden.

To celebrate Mother's Day this year, the Starfish busily created a beautiful bunch of paper flowers to give to the special woman in their life. The children enjoyed decorating the flowers and the vase, it was great to see how excited they were to give their gifts! We also celebrated here at Pumpkin with a special Mother's Day afternoon tea.

Mid this month our new Pumpkin extension opened up! This meant that we had to say good-bye to some of our friends so they could move to the new Lionfish room. Luckily we still get to see our friends when we go outdoors in the morning and afternoon.

The Starfish children have continued to practice their alphabet and numbers. The Starfish have just started capital letter J this month in Letterland! The Starfish have also been practising counting forwards and backwards from 1 to 20. We are all getting ready for Big School next year! Many of our friends have started to go and visit their Big Schools for next year. Later in the year we will start to discuss what to expect at Big School next year.



Outdoor play.



Making our rain water bucket.



Learning letter 'I' with Ms Sabina.



Another beautiful day for outdoor play.

Thank you to all of the families for your continued support this month, especially with news and bringing in things of interest from home. Please don't hesitate to let us know if you would like us to add anything to our program.

Starfish Educators.



Learning letter 'J' with Ms Leanne.