



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – July 2017

Parents Reminder

The health and safety of all children is a major concern for us. Parents and families are asked to please keep sick children home until they are well. This is particularly important if your child has had a fever, infectious disease, diarrhoea, or been vomiting within the past 24 hours. If your child is unwell while at day care, we will ask you to collect them. If your child has been sick with an infectious disease, you will be required to provide a medical certificate (clearance letter) confirming that your child is well enough to attend childcare.

Many illnesses, while not fitting exclusion criteria, can transmit disease to other children in care. Please refer to our 'Infectious Diseases Policy' (we also attached this policy in this Newsletter). Please advise Pumpkin educators on arrival verbally or in writing of any symptoms requiring administration of medication to their child in the past **48 hours** and the cause of the symptoms if known. This advice must be provided the first time the child attends after the medication has been administered.

Thank you.

Pumpkin Educators

August Calendar of Events

02nd – Monday – New South Wales Bank Holiday.

04th – Friday – National Aboriginal and Islander Children’s Day (NAICD).

07th - Monday- **Raksha Bandhan** – Hindu tradition, celebrates the love between brothers and sisters. Sisters will tie a rakhi thread on their brother’s wrist as a form of protection against evil spirits.

09th – Wednesday - International Day for World Indigenous People.

12th – 20/08/17 – National Science Week, Theme: Future Earth.

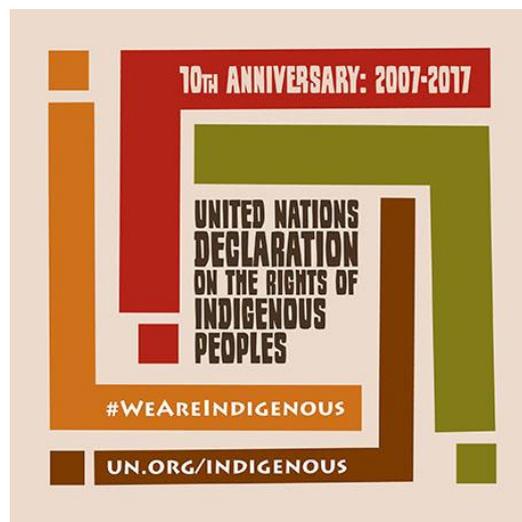
15th – Tuesday – **Krishna Janmashtami** – Hindu Tradition, celebrates the birth of Krishna. This is a two day festival. On the first day, participants fast. This is broken at midnight by eating sweet dairy products.

18th - 25/08/17 – Children’s Book Week.

21st – 27/08/16 – Keep Australia Beautiful Week.

26th – Friday – Daffodil Day.

31st - 01/09/17 – Eid Al Adha – Islamic tradition.



Clownfish News



Welcome freezing July! We would like to welcome baby Zayne to Clownfish room! Over the month of June and July the Clownfish children have been gaining confidence, we are now seeing some interesting and funny personalities during their social interaction in the group. Furthermore, some of the babies in the room are now starting to walk and they are keen to explore some of

the new experience in outdoor/indoor play area. We also had several projects that caught the children's attention over couple of weeks such as transportation, colours & numbers recognition, and an ongoing interest of sounds, rhymes, and stories.

Highlight of the month

We have added discussions and activities extension of various type of transport in the group time as children continue to show signs of wanting to explore more about cars, trains, boats, fire engines, rockets,

submarine, and many more! It is lovely to witness all of them develop their imagination, creativity, and knowledge throughout the experience. This interest led us into some interesting science experiment and art & craft activities. We have also observed the ongoing interest in counting and recognizing colours during the language and literacy experiences.

Additionally, the children have also showed their impressive skill in singing and memorizing the lyrics of nursery rhymes, our follow up for this experience was to continue and extend the group with different styles of sounds and music as well as introducing the children to different styles of music and how they create sounds and noises.

On 28th July, the children spotted a fallen passion fruit from the tree and had a chance to smell and taste it freshly!

Until next month,

Clownfish educators 😊



Jellyfish News



August Birthday Celebrants:

Phoebe- 1st Gino- 4th Connor- 26th Christian- 18th

Belated happy birthday to Novo, Celine, Frankie, Jaziah, Noah and Lana.

Welcome back to Muntasir who joined us again after few weeks of absence, and also to Jamie who just came back from long holiday.

Another month has ended, and it's been a very good one as we had lots of sun and fun outdoor activities.

NAIDOC Week Celebration

We started the month celebrating NAIDOC Week. 'It's a week when Australia celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's cultures and communities and recognises the valuable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to our country. Amnesty activists across the country get out into communities during NAIDOC week to support community events, celebrate culture and build valuable relationships.'

To get the children's awareness towards NAIDOC Week, we started by reading an aboriginal



storybook called 'Echidna and The Shade Tree' and talking about the Clownfish and Jellyfish children's culture as we all have different nationalities and background. We learnt some simple languages such as, "Bonjour!", "Kamusta!", "Zao an" and "Selamat pagi."



We also watched 'Tiddalick' (Story of the Dreamtime), followed by singing and dancing with Aunty Wendy's Mob, called Red, Black and Yellow. We then did a free painting using the Aboriginal flag colours, red, black and yellow. The children were able to make an amazing painting with just the three colours, and really had fun.



Lastly, we made our own boomerang by cutting a piece of board and had them painted



with children's chosen colours. We waited for the paint to dry up and we accessed the internet to watch some instructions on how to play with them and some information about boomerang. We brought the boomerangs outside, and the children were so excited to try them.

Group Play



This month, we tried to encourage group play and interactions by limiting the amount of play resources available each day. This gave way for the children to seek the involvement of their peers and through this,



more friendships were developed. The children were able to come up with play ideas without needing for much equipment. They played ring a ring o rosie, chasing games and hide and seek. Some of them were also seen using dried leaves for their cooking play.

It's Counting Time!



The children showed great interest in counting this month. On the 13th, the children practiced counting while playing with balls. They were heard counting from 1-10 before rolling the ball to the other side. Everyone was cooperative, counting together and waiting patiently for the counting to finish.

On the 14th, we decided to set up a simple counting activity during outdoor play, where the children could build their understanding of identifying numbers which was represented using pompoms. At first, Miss Stella read the order of the number in the paper plate (1 to 5) together with the children and showed them how to count and put pompoms on each paper plate based on the number written. This activity also let the children



practiced their fine motor skill as they use wooden pegs and scoops to pick the pompoms.



Outside on the 17th, the children had fun watching and counting the aeroplanes passing by, as well as the birds. According to one of them, there were 4 aeroplanes and 5 birds.





The children's interest in counting was still evident in the morning of the 18th. While lining up for outdoor play, the children were heard counting from 1-12. To continue on the children's interest, we played hide and seek.



Miss Maya was the first one to count while the children were looking for a good place to hide. Some went under the cubby house, while some behind the plants. The children then had their turn to count. They were counting 1-10 then would look around for their peers. It was really fun.

To our valued Parents and Families:

- Thank you for your continued support in our fortnightly news topics.
- Have you sent in your family photos? We still have enough space to accommodate all family photos, so please, send one now if you haven't sent one yet.
- One more month of winter remaining. Please ensure that you pack a thicker blanket for sleep/rest time, as well as spare jumper/jacket and clothes for your child.

Until next month,

Jellyfish Educators

Lionfish News

During the month of July, the Lionfish children have enjoyed exploring various languages. Our news topic was 'Language' so we have been looking at the local dialect of the Aboriginal people (Eora) as well as looking at and learning about the different numbers and colours in Spanish, French, Japanese and Italian and other home languages of the Lionfish children . We have used our various learning of words to extend the children's interest in their name writing and letters during this time.



The Lionfish children have also extended their knowledge on the local area and the Aboriginal Culture. The children also explored the importance of language and the various ways that we can learn it. The children expanded on the importance that the Aboriginal people place on language and listened to Advance Australia Fair in the Dharawal language and the acknowledgement of country.



We have also continued to enjoy lots of physical activities, especially during outdoor play. We have been practising our ball skills : throwing, catching, bouncing and kicking and also using our imaginations to invent ball games to play. We have also continued to enjoy working together with our friends and Educators to make challenging and elaborate obstacles courses for everyone to use to practise our balancing, jumping and coordination skills and exploring the fort and slide with our friends.



This month, during our Letterland groups, we have learnt about the letter 'l' and 'm', listening to Lucy Lamplight and Munching Mike's stories, naming things starting with these letters, practising our sounds and even practising writing these letters on the whiteboard. We have also practised

our names by joining the dots, after the Educators wrote the children's names in this format. We have continued using name stencils using white board markers to practise our christian and surnames and have continued using our name tags at meal times.



As well as practising their letter writing and name writing skills using a variety of media, the children have really enjoyed using their imagination and creativity and drawing. They have drawn members of their family, monsters, spiders and a variety of other things. They have used chalkboards, individual paper and large shared paper to express their ideas and make meaning of them.



We have also continued our interests in using our imaginations to explore the animals through role-play and to explore the sandpit using a variety of resources and equipment. The children have extended their ideas of construction and cooking while in the sandpit. It has been a great pleasure to see the group's creativity.



Just a quick reminder : Could you please make sure all your child's belongings are clearly labelled so they don't go missing. Also if your child brings any toys for news to the centre they need to be labelled and be safe for all ages and left in their bags until news time. We are trying to teach the children responsibility and to take care of their belongings.

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators ☺

Starfish News



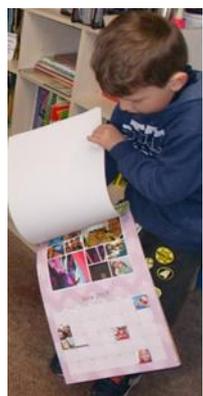
At the start of the month, the children engaged in a **NAIDOC Week** learning experience. As NAIDOC week this year focuses on language, the children watched a video of children singing the Australian National Anthem. They listened closely to see if they could hear something different about the song and they did, “It’s in another language”, they spotted! The group discovered the importance of language to the

Aboriginal people and the different dialects spoken by the Aboriginal communities. To extend on the children’s learnings about NAIDOC and combining their interest in marble painting, we facilitated a marble painting experience of making clocks (parent input) using colours from the Aboriginal flag (explored in May during Reconciliation week).



Dancing – Different languages came up again when the children started showing an interest toward the song Despacito. For a week, they requested the song frequently and enjoyed both the English and Spanish versions! This has led us to discussing different languages and learning key words from each other’s home languages!

Time/Clock learning – The interest in clocks/time was present throughout the month. They started bringing in their watches, time-related books and opened various conversations about time with educators and peers. We explored different types of watches and have been practising how to read the time. The children found it interesting that time never stops!



Calendar learning - The children started showing an interest towards their birthday months, which led to days of the week and months learning experiences. We got to explore our friends’ calendars and weekly schedules and



to make our own calendars! Combining the children’s enjoyment for reading and the days of the week conversations, we read ‘The very hungry caterpillar’ (much to the group’s enthusiasm!) and spotted the days of the week mentioned in the story. Story time was so fun, they requested the book Pig the Fibber next. The Pig the Pug series has been requested very frequently



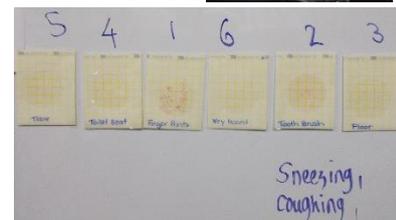
throughout the month as the children continue to actively share their enjoyment for texts, reading and literacy!

Henna – The children were introduced to Henna by a peer who had it on her hand one day this month and enjoyed making their own henna through art and craft.

Animals Interest - When a child brought in photos of her time at the zoo, the animals learning experiences (from the animals' interest last month) started up again! She answered a peer's question about her favourite animal being the elephant. We decided to further explore elephants. When learning that they are the largest land animals on Earth, we spoke about our planet. The group also differentiated between water, land and air animals. Looking closely at an elephant's picture, we noticed its wrinkled, grey skin and the group shouted out the name for elephants' long noses: "Trunk". A child went further and explained that their two long and curved teeth are called "tusks". Another child shared about his experience camel riding and the group was then keen to find out more about camels and were amazed at the facts discovered!



GERMS! - Hygiene is an important part of keeping our bodies healthy. We regularly discuss the reasons as to why we need to wash our hands after mealtimes, play and also after toileting. The children know about germs but had never been able to see them up close. To help the



children understand more about the invisible bacteria, viruses and fungi, a parent made a contribution to the learning by bringing in some special samples of germs that had purposely been grown in a laboratory. The children got to compare the germs on different surfaces and the also different amounts on



each surface. For the next weeks, the children engaged in craft-related art and craft experiences, researched different types of germs found in the air, soil and water, took a closer look at good and bad germs that were collected by Miss Catherine from a local pond and explored microbes and bacteria from our worm farm with Miss Rebecca's microscope. The children also combined germs with many other activities as they spontaneously made germ drawings, created playdough germs and brought in books about germs!



Eyesight screening – Before the vision screener came in to test the children's eyes, Ms Alessandra started a conversation



about it so they would know what to expect. We talked about the reasons for having their vision tested such as that some will be starting 'big' school soon, that they may not realise they can't see well and the only way to check if they have a vision problem is by testing one eye at a time. We found a photo of a pre-schooler having his eyes checked and some children shared experiences of having their eyes tested, a great way to reassure their friends about the experience! Interesting eye-related things we discovered include the fact that the children's eyes will continue to develop until they are about 8 years old and that an eye doctor is called an ophthalmologist. The children really enjoyed having their vision tested when the day came this month!

Until next month,

Starfish educators