



Pumpkin Long Day Care Centre

7 O'Connell Avenue
Matraville NSW 2036

Phone: 02 9311 044 Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au

Newsletter – November & December 2014

Centre News

To all Pumpkin Families,

Another month has passed and we are already in the month of November! It's almost Christmas, and the children have been practicing hard for their End of Year concert.

We welcome all families and children to join our Christmas party which will be held on Friday, 19th December at 3.30 pm.

Our Halloween party was a great success! The children really enjoyed their special treats on the day. Thank you to the parents for dressing the children up.



The centre will be closed one week from Monday, 22nd December and we will reopen on Monday, 29th December 2014.

We want to thank all the parents for all their support and feedback of our service. It has been the most joyful time for us in caring and educating all the children here. We'll see you all at our Christmas party (put the date in your diary or phone so you won't miss it!).

The police came to visit us; she talked about how to keep everyone safe from strangers. She said if some stranger offered you chocolate or lollies, you should not go with them because they are strangers. But there are good strangers, for example: the police, the doctor, the nurse, they all are good strangers in their uniforms☺

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Police Visit.



Police Visit.

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Staff Update

- Ms Cheryl will be away from 07th Nov, and will be back on 17th Nov 2014.
- Miss Catherine will be away from 12th Nov, and will be back on 26th Nov 2014.
- Ms Rozina will be away from 30th Nov and will be back on 06th Feb 2015.
- Ms Chunli will be away from 14th Dec, and will be back on 16th Jan 2015.
- Sadly, Miss Juliet is going to leave us from January 2015. She is going to pursue her career as a teacher in the UK. We wish her all the best!

Sustainable Practice

The Starfish and Lionfish children have created their own gardens inside their rooms.

We talked about what we have to have in the garden, and how we are going to decorate our garden.

The Starfish children drew their flowers, trees and butterflies to decorate their garden. They made their butterflies, trees and flowers from toilet roll papers.

The educators remind the children to water their plants in their indoor garden every day.



Lionfish's indoor garden



Feeding the worms.



Watering our garden.



Planting the herbs in the Jellyfish garden.



Planting the herbs for the Starfish garden.

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Starfish's indoor garden



Manicure with Ms Juliet.

Upcoming events November

01st – Saturday – Samhain – Festival marking the end of the Harvest Season.

01st – Saturday – Litha – Marks the ancient middle of Summer, astronomical beginning of Summer, and the nativity of St. John Baptist..

04th – Tuesday – Melbourne Cup Day



08th – Saturday – World Walk to Work Day.

10th - 16th – National Recycling Week.

11th - Tuesday - Remembrance Day remember to buy a poppy and wear it to childcare, we will also be making our own poppy's.



15th - Saturday – Steve Irwin Day

19th – Wednesday – Parents Meeting at 6.00 pm.



Making the dumplings in the Jellyfish room.



Bubbles!!!



Making our Halloween decorations in the Jellyfish room.

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30th - Sunday – Asalha Puja (Dhamma) Day – Buddhist tradition, celebrated Buddha's first sermon after his Enlightenment.

Upcoming events December

03rd - Wednesday – International Day of People with Disabilities.

08th - Monday – Immaculate Conception – Catholic Tradition, feast day in honour of Mary, mother of Jesus was preserved from original sin.

19th – Friday – Proposed Centre Christmas Party

22/12/14 – 26/12/14 - Centre Closed for one week.

25th – Christmas Day

26th – Boxing Day

29th - Monday – CENTRE REOPENED



Clownfish News

A big welcome to Steven and Rohin in the Clownfish room!

The Clownfish children enjoyed a variety of activities, and explored their interest in things through indoor and outdoor play. The children loved exploring their identity by playing hide and seek. They also enjoyed the reading time, and music is still their most favourite activity.

The Clownfish children learned their shapes though some shapes collages they made. On 'World Food Day', the children helped Ms Pimpini and Ms Criselda to wrap chicken dumplings. Ms Pimpini said: "This is one of the foods from China. I grew up in Indonesia, we love to make this food as well".



Making the dumplings in the Clownfish room.



Planting the seeds with Ms Pimpini.



Collage with Ms Criselda.



Outdoor play.

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The Clownfish educators also talked to children about our sustainable practice. Together we read a book called 'Save Energy', and extended this interest by showing the children how we re-planted our basil and carrots into our 'Greenhouse'. The Lionfish children were helping the Clownfish children to do this.

Until next time! The Clownfish Educators.

Jellyfish News

A big welcome to Conor, Alaray, Christopher, Samantha, Isabella, Ethan C & Ethan S!

The jellyfish children started showing a strong interest towards vehicles right at the end of last month and continued to be interested in them this month. They enjoyed painting with vehicle shaped sponges, as well as making and decorating a train carriage each, that later became a long train! Daily, most of the children have been choosing to engage in train track play for quite a while, truck play outdoors and small vehicle play also. To extend the children's interest in vehicles, we got to know two new books, one about a digger working on a building site, the other one about a tractor hard at work. Sure enough, later on that day, the children chose vehicle play for themselves.

The children have been rehearsing hard for the Christmas concert. They are very excited to perform in front of their families at the end of the year!

During the few rainy days we had this month, the children got very excited to say it was raining as we discussed our weather/date chart. Rain was a topic of interest for the children back in August. They also enjoy watching it through the window in our room.

To celebrate World food day (16th), we engaged in a cooking experience. We made chicken dumplings, yummy! Two of the ingredients (shallots and parsley) came from our gardens. The children took them out of the garden themselves! But the most exciting part was getting to eat the dumplings they had prepared.

We found out that Ariella enjoys picking flowers in spring time and that she also attends Bowral's Tulip festival every



We love our train tracks.



Flowers collage.



We look after our garden.



Planting the seeds together.

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spring. After discussing Ariella's spring activities, we decided to make spring collages. We used beautiful pictures of flowers (including tulips) and butterflies for our collages. They look beautiful! On another day, we received an email about Peyton's spring time activities. One of the things she likes doing is gardening. After hearing all about Peyton's time gardening, as well as looking at her photos hard at work at her garden, we decided to engage in some gardening here. We planted coriander and sage seeds. Just like Peyton, we patted the soil down firmly and watered the seeds. We look forward to seeing our herbs growing and even using them for our cooking experiences (like last Thursday, the 16th).

For Halloween, we talked about words related to it (e.g., trick or treat), engaged in making spooky pumpkins artwork and made spider handprints. On the 31st, we had a great Halloween party where the children dressed up in scary costumes!

The children worked on their best smiles for our three photo days this month. We look forward to seeing the photos!

We now officially have a second toddler room, it is called Sunfish and it is just above our room.

It was a lot of fun learning about our friends' feelings through our My Feelings topic!

Thank you to all the families for contributing with our topics of learning, and for all the input you share with us! We are on topic 18, My Sport, until the 14th of November. Please don't forget to check your email for the current topic, and add your input!

Until next month,
Jellyfish Educators.



News time with Ms Cheryl.



Music time.



Let's read the book together.



Watering the garden.



Ring a ring a rosie... a pocket full of rosie....

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Lionfish News

Our news topics for this month have been: my friend, my music/instrument, my behaviour, and my weekend. The children loved talking about all their friends and how/what they play with their friends. Marco talked about his friend Leo and how they had known each other even before coming to Pumpkin. Fox talked about his best friend Fleur (his twins sister☺), who he loves racing around the scooter park with. Ali is one of our most musical Lionfish! He brought in his ukulele to show, and talked about some of the music he likes listening and dancing to at home. Laura brought in her tambourine, maraca, and trumpet. She showed us how to play them.

For 'My Behaviour', the children talked about some of the rules they have at home and at school. Jayden told us that when he is good at home, he gets two Anzac biscuits with sprinkles! Jasmine told us that if she is naughty at home, sometimes she'll have to go to her room. Every Lionfish knows that when they are naughty at school, they have to sit in the blue chair, or thinking chair, for a little time-out. Following on from this, we had a police officer come in to talk with the children on Friday the 31st.

The children also talked about their weekend during news. Jayden told us about how on the weekend he rode a pony around Centennial Park. Then, on Sunday, he went to see the Maroubra fun run, and then spent the afternoon at



nanny's and poppy's where he jumped on a jumping castle! Jayden told us his favourite part was the ice cream with sprinkles that he got.



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On the 16th, we celebrated World Food Day. We researched together and found out that World Food Day is a day devoted to making people more aware about those who don't have food to eat every day. We learnt about the different ways to help. Then, with help from the teachers, the children made their own dumplings. First, we picked parsley and spring onions from our garden to mix in with the chicken mince. Then, the children were showed how to get a small amount of mince, paint the outside of the dumpling skin with water, and fold it all together to close it. The children all had their own turn at this.

Afterwards, Ms Pimpini steamed them for us, and the children had a taste. Marco said, "it's slippery", and Leo said, "it's yummy".



The children are always watering the plants in our room with their left-over water from meal times. This has made our plants grow a lot, and the children are always checking on their progress. This month, we moved our plants into bigger pots on the 22nd, so that we could keep watering them and they would grow more. The children have also been mindful of our environment by recycling things in our classroom. For example, we have been using the egg cartons for arts and crafts, and we always re-use leftover



cardboard of paper as scrap paper when we do drawings and colour in.

The children have been playing nicely together outside this month.

They have been practicing their turn-

taking skills with games like passing the ball in a circle, and playing pretend families/teachers and students. The children are very imaginative. On the 14th, Pablo and Jasmine played 'Pirates'. Jasmine said, "We are looking for treasure".

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The children are also always eager to have a look at our fish. Olivia would say, "look Miss Charlotte, it's a BIG fish", Jayden said, "There's four stripy ones!" When we went outside later on in the week, Leo, Marco and Sebastian raced over to fish tank yelling "look, look there's a new yellow fish!"



The children play nicely together indoors as well. During indoor play on the 24th, Cassie and Sebastian played together with the colourful connectors. Sebastian said, "I made a spider!" Cassie said, "I made a spider too, Miss Charlotte!" Xavier and Roman had fun together with all the kitchen utensils in the Starfish room on the 15th. They pretended to cook different things and then set it out on the mat. Xavier said, "we're having a picnic!"

We celebrated Halloween this month by making spiders out of egg cartons we had recycled. The children painted their single egg carton black, and then let them dry. The teachers then made holes in the sides for the pipe cleaner legs to come out of. We hung these in our classroom along with our other Halloween decorations.

A big happy 4th birthday to Jasmine Girdwood on the 28th! The children enjoyed listening to her news about her birthday party and all her birthday presents, including her much loved new Elsa dress from Frozen.

Until next month,

Pimpini, Tracey and Charlotte

Starfish News

Hello families! Who can believe there are only 2 months until the end of the year! I can't believe how quickly this year has gone, and how mature our little Starfish are getting. We would like to welcome our newest member Koray to the Starfish room! We hope you enjoy your time here with us.



Learning to write our alphabet.



Nail polished with Miss Juliet.

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We would also like to welcome back Christopher. It's great to have you with us once again. We said a sad farewell to Shihab in the middle of this month. Good luck with your baby sister! We would also like to welcome Shihab and Mack's little sisters to the world! A big happy birthday to Sarah, Emily W and Emily N who all turned 5 this month!

The Starfish were very interested in music this month, stemming from our news topic "my music". Some children chose to bring in an instrument they can play, while others chose to sing snippets of their favourite song. Unsurprisingly "Let it Go" was a massive hit across most of the class. The children were introduced to some songs that were relatively new to them such as "Never gonna give you up" and "Stop right now". After each news session, Miss Juliet would play the favourite songs of the children so they could have a sing and a dance. Extending on this interest, Miss Juliet started a conversation about music, and how it can affect our emotions. To illustrate the point, Miss Juliet asked the children to listen to "Spring (Four Seasons)" by Vivaldi, and Beethoven's 5th Symphony. The children were then invited to describe how the music made them feel or what they imagine while listening to the music. The children were then invited to paint how they felt, while listening to Beethoven's 5th. The children gave some interesting responses. The artwork is currently on display, on the wall next to the kitchen.

On October 16th the Starfish celebrated National Food Day. This day celebrates food from different cultures and reminds us that not all of us are lucky enough to have food. To begin, Miss Juliet asked the children to name their favourite food, and where in the world it comes from. In the afternoon, the children were invited to make mini burritos for afternoon tea. The children finished off the day with an afternoon tea picnic filled with a variety of different foods. The children sampled their burritos, Pani Puri (an Indian street food), Lamingtons, and Vegemite sandwiches. The children loved their international picnic.

Throughout the month the children have loved listening to the story "The book with no pictures", and have requested it over and over. This is a new book that has absolutely no pictures in it. The children first thought it would be boring, but the funny wording soon won them over. I would encourage all families to take a look at this book; it is



Letterland.



"We are one".



Chu...chu....train.....



My music.

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extremely funny and a great conversation starter.

Towards the end of this month the children decided they would like to create their very own indoor garden. To begin, the children helped to plant chive seeds into little pots. Next the children made flowers and butterflies to decorate the garden until our real plants can grow. The children have also drawn pictures to decorate the garden space. We will also be decorating the garden with flowers and indoor ferns. The children are so excited for their garden to grow, and love helping to water and pot the plants. Keep an eye out for our garden, currently next to the home corner.

We ended the month with a bang this October! Not only did we have our annual Halloween party, we also had a visit from a police officer from the Botany Bay station. Constable Rebecca visited us in the morning to speak to the children. She was able to show them her police belt and a police car. After the visit, the children were invited to ask questions and have a look at the car close up. The police visit will kick off our new class interest, Workers in the Community. We currently have some parent volunteers lined up to come and discuss their job with us. If any other families are available to come chat with the children, please let the Starfish Educators or Ms Elly know.

The Halloween party was a blast, and a wonderful way to end the month. All of the children were encouraged to dress up and show us how scary they can be! During the day the children enjoyed face painting and Halloween themed games. In the afternoon, the children participated in a Halloween themed picnic, complete with scary food and more games.

On a final note; families, please remember to send a water bottle with your child every day they attend. The weather is definitely warming up, and we want to keep everyone cool and hydrated. Please dress your child for the weather, and consider changing their spare clothes in their bag to suit the season. Please remember that singlets shouldn't be worn to Pumpkin, as they do not provide much sun cover. We recommend loose shirts to keep cool, and protect from the sun.

Until next month everyone!

Starfish Educators.



"How many seeds do we need Starfish?"



"Look at my guitar".



"Trick or treat".

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Reminders to Parents

Please ensure that your child is wearing suitable clothing.

Children should be wearing clothes that cover their shoulders, so no singlet tops, or dress's with thin straps.

This will enable us to ensure that your child is comfortable and safe from the sun throughout the day. Please make sure to bring appropriate bed sheets for your child as well, as the weather is getting warmer now, you child will not need the thick blanket.

Thank you.