



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – April 2015

Centre News

As winter is approaching fast, please make sure you dress your child in warm clothes and bring a jacket or jumper just in case they need it when they play outside.

Please also bring some spare clothes for your child for changing if needed.

We are going to have our "Parent-Teacher interview" in the first month of June, the booking sheet will be available by middle of this month. Please book your child in to talk to the teacher at their room.

The Starfish room will have their Parent-Teacher interview on the second week of July because Miss Cory will away on her annual leave in the beginning of June.

Sustainable Practice

It has been raining a lot lately, our garden is looking very good now. Miss Elly germinated some avocado seeds in our worm box. Now we just have to wait until the roots come out from the seeds and we can plant them in the soil. The Lionfish and Starfish room have been planting special seeds for Mother's Day ☺

Look at our grape fruit tree, we can't wait for the fruits to be ready....yummm.....



Staff News

Miss Cory will be on her annual leave from 22th of May and she will be back to work on 06th of July 2015.

Clownfish News

Another month has ended and we can already feel the weather starting to get cold. During this month, the weather has started to be very unpredictable with lots of rain and storms but we still managed to do lots of activities, both indoor and outdoor.

We had two additions in our room during this month, Malakai and Harry, but we had to say goodbye to Noah and Annabelle who both moved to the Jellyfish Room.

The children were all getting very active and creative in their play and most of them are starting to learn how to share. Some of them, especially the new comers, were also showing signs of trust and confidence as they are now starting to explore around and join in different group activities.



We have been receiving lots of parent input and we try to include them in our daily activities to extend the children's interests. We have introduced lots of fun activities to the children such as sensory play using play dough. They were all curious about it and enjoyed exploring it by squeezing the dough. They also learnt about letters and numbers and we had lots of singing and dancing as well as everybody's favourites, book reading and painting.

On the 2nd April 2015, we had an Easter Bonnet Parade and an Easter egg hunt. All the children participated in the parade and hunt in the playground. During the parade, they proudly showed off their creative Easter hats, but not all of them were happy to wear them 😊



On the 16th April 2015, we had a cooking experience. The children helped to make mashed potato. Ms. Pimpini showed the children the cooked potato in a bag and they helped mash the potato by

squeezing the bag until all the potatoes were evenly mashed. The children ate mashed potato at lunchtime together with that day's lunch, which were burgers.... Yumm...yummm!



We also celebrated Anzac Day during this month by making Anzac biscuits. The children were all excited to help mix the ingredients together and after forming the biscuit, they were placed in the oven by the educators.



As it is starting to get cold, we would like to remind families to dress their children up accordingly and to add some extra warm clothes to their bags.

Until Next Month,
Clownfish Educators

Jellyfish News

Happy birthday to Minka, Dru and Koby! And a big welcome to Noah, Clarence and Annabelle!

One day this month, Sueann and London opened a conversation with Miss Alessandra about seeing sea animals. That encouraged us to have a day of learning about animals that live under the sea. We played a game called 'Who am I' as we read the book 'Under the sea'. As we looked at hidden photos of sea animals, Alessandra read out facts about them and the children were encouraged to guess which sea animal it was. It was fun learning facts about crabs, lionfish, stingrays and dugongs. Drawing our favourite sea animal was our next activity. The topic of animals continued to be an interest, so Miss Sabina and the children searched online for videos of animals. After watching some interesting videos, they enjoyed playing with little animals and wooden blocks, combining them to create a farm. The animal interest extended to learning about pets towards the end of the month.



As we welcomed the new month, Sueann and Conor started noticing that their hats kept blowing away during outside time. The weather cooled down, with a lot of windy and rainy days. During our weather discussions, we talked about the weather changing and noticed each other's warm clothes. As we learnt about the new season, we talked about autumn leaves, learning about how they change in autumn, changing colour and falling off trees.



After finding out about Emilia's meeting with a fireman, the children learnt that firefighters, put out flames whenever there are fires. They were encouraged to notice their uniform that keeps them safe from flames, and the fire engine with its hoses and ladder that help to put out fires. The children were very curious about firefighters and listened attentively. They learnt that the number 000 can be called whenever need is helped from firefighters and that matches and candles are not toys and should not be touched. We ended our learning time by making the f sound for firefighter Fred (from our Letterland learning) and Francisca, 'ffff'.

Outdoor activities were extra fun and creative this month. Miss Yuki and children played musical instruments. As Yuki and Alessandra sang, the children played their chosen instruments to Jingle bells (remembering last year's Christmas concert) and 'The wheels on the bus' (requested by Sueann, London and Aiden). Another fun outdoor activity was using pasta to make accessories. The children chose what colour string they wanted and how many pieces of pasta they wanted to use. They made necklaces, bracelets and belts.

We celebrated Easter by having an Easter egg hunt and an Easter bonnet parade. The children loved decorating their baskets for the hunt. We also enjoyed discussing our friends' attendance at the Easter show.



The children engaged in a cooking experience of making chicken, cheese and salad sandwiches. The children used parsley and shallots from our garden for the salad, yummy! We also enjoyed an indoor picnic this month, after finding out that Aiden had a picnic.

The children honoured Anzac Day by creating their own versions of red poppies. And learnt more about it by watching a video that explained how a boy's grandad went to war a long time ago and how they remember it every year by parading on the big Anzac day march, where everyone cheers the soldiers.

Until next month,
Jellyfish/Sunfish Educators

Lionfish News

We had a nice start to April with all the children getting excited about Easter! On Thursday the 2nd, Miss Tracy and Miss Rebecca got the Lionfish group to put on their bunny ears /hats and pick up their baskets and get ready for the Easter parade/hunt outside. Our group joined up with the Starfish children and lined up outside. As the children were lining up, Miss Rebecca began singing 'Little Peter rabbit' and encouraged the children to join in the movements as they parade their Easter craft creations. Once the song was finished, Miss Rebecca began to sing the 'Chicken dance' and they had some fun pretending to be chickens.



As the children finished their parade they were instructed on how to behave during our Easter egg hunt and that we are to share and help our friends find their chocolate eggs. Gloria had a lot of fun looking in our gardens whilst pretending to be the Easter Bunny, Chase and Robert were seen egg hunting together and sharing their spoils with one another and Abigale and Xavier teamed up on their search for the chocolate eggs left behind by the Easter Bunny. Dakota was seen mimicking the Easter Bunny and his movements during our hunt. When we had finished our hunt, the children were able to pick one chocolate to eat and to keep the rest for home.



The children got very creative with their outdoor games! On the 7th, Olivia made up her own game outside. "Look what I made", she said. "It's a volcano, and there lava inside... You have to step inside the hoops, and bounce the ball in them!" The she showed us how she does it. She took her time, and was very careful not to fall outside of the hoops.



Also during outdoor play, Olivia and Abigail played a Crocodile game that they had made up. They sat on the stepping stones together, then one of them would pretend to be a swimming in the water, trying to escape from the other one, who was a crocodile. They took it in turns to play the different roles. They had so much fun together!

On the 10th, Marco and Jaedyn played together with the Starfish children for a little bit. Marco said, "look over there, I can see the bad guys!" Jaedyn told Miss Charlotte, "we're the good guys". Then they ran away to escape from the Starfish coming after them. They climbed under the cubby house and hid.

We introduced our new character, Firefighter Fred and read his story this month. Afterwards we looked at the picture to see what we could find starting with 'Ff'. The children did a great job finding 'Ff' words! Abigail- farmhouse, Vibha-flowers, Dakota-Firefighter, Sally-Fire engine, Siena-fire, Olivia-frogs and Lysia-fox. We continued to learn how the letter 'Ff' for 2 weeks before transitioning onto 'Gg'.



On the 9th, the teachers organised a craft activity for the children to participate in, as an extension on their interest in animals after some of them have been to the Easter Show. The children were able to choose which animals they wanted to use, as well as given eyes and grass to add to their pictures. Afterwards Miss Rebecca read her "Old McDonald had a Farm" book and we sang the song together.

We continued making our poppies on the 21st to celebrate Anzac Day. Using recycled egg cartons, red paint and black crepe paper the children painted and stuck parts together to make their own flower. We also watched an explanation about Anzac Day for children on Youtube, and listened to a story called 'Anzac Ted' which the children really enjoyed!



The children have been preparing for Mother's day, and exploring their 'gardening' news topic in the last few weeks of April. They have been working on creating a class garden artwork, by painting and making flowers/butterflies to stick on. They have also started planting their seeds for their Mother's day plants. The children decorated their on pots, and, with the teacher's help, have been planting their seeds and watering them.



We have also welcomed our new friends from the Jellyfish room this month, Stella and Vibha! We welcomed some other new friends too, such as Tia and Tyler! And a big happy birthday to Vibha who celebrated turning 3 on the 28th!

Until next month,

The Lionfish Educators ☺

Starfish News

Welcome to April Newsletter!

We started off this month with **Easter celebration** at the centre. On Thursday, 2nd April, we had **Easter Bonnet Parade** and **Easter egg hunt**. We walked and danced around the playground showing each other our very special hats.



After the parade, we continued our Easter celebration with Easter egg hunt. The children walked to every corner and hidden places around the playground to find the chocolate eggs. They were very excited every time they found an egg and said, "Look! I found one right here in the corner." We then finished off with sitting in a big circle and counting the eggs on each basket.



More on insects and spiders...

As a continuation of children's interest in exploring insects and spiders from last month, the educators in Starfish decided to provide play dough experience with spiders and insects. The children enjoyed making imprints of spider, dragonfly, grasshopper, bee, scorpion and ant. Some of them came up with an idea to make antennae for ants using wooden sticks, some children roll small dough in to balls and said, "We are making eggs for our ants!"

Throughout this experience, the children are learning to make connections between experiences, concepts and processes. They are also developing their mathematical knowledge to daily activities through counting the insect's body parts.



The children show more awareness in their surroundings as they discover more insects and bugs in our garden lately. Besides ants, bees and spiders, we found centipede, snail and slug in our garden. They were thrilled every time they found a new insect and have a long discussion on what they think the insect is doing.....

Some children also notice the growing vegetables we plant in our garden. They found the green tomatoes popping out and the leaves are growing so tall. They also enjoyed smelling the herbs such as rosemary, mint and basil.

Throughout this daily observation on what's happening surround us, the children show increasing understanding of people, animals, plants and land.



It's tea party time!!!

Throughout this month, the home corner has turned into tea room where they role play tea party. The children enjoyed gathering around the table pretending to pour and drink tea and eat cakes.

Their friendships has also blossomed as they involved in various conversations around the theme.

The children are developing their negotiation skill as they sharing tasks and roles amongst themselves.

The educators decided to extend children's growing interest in tea party role play through making cupcakes with the children.

We learn some new terms such as, 'recipe' 'whisk', '2 tablespoon'. The children took turn whisking and helped scooping the ingredients in to the cupcake tray.

We then brought the trays to the big kitchen and put them in the oven.

In the afternoon, we had our little tea party under the tree while chatting about our experience going to a party...



The children show increasing knowledge in following and extending their own interests with enthusiasm, curiosity and concentration. Let's see where the children's interest in tea party will take us to.....

Till next month!

Cheers!

Starfish Educators.