



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – February 2017

Centre News

Dear Parents and Families,

As part of the continuous improvement required by the National Quality Standard, we are:

- looking at our professional interactions with other staff to improve team operations
- creating or improving small spaces where children can feel safe and not be interrupted during play
- learning how to redirect children's inappropriate behaviour – let us know if you'd like examples
- reviewing our 'Education, Curriculum and Learning Policy'. A summary follows:

Education, Curriculum and Learning Policy

Policy explains what educational framework the service is implementing, e.g. EYLF

- each child's learning is based on their interests and knowledge
- educators extend learning through spontaneous experiences and intentional teaching
- educators develop partnerships with families to promote children's learning
- every child is equally valued
- the curriculum is evaluated and reflected upon at least weekly
- Each child receives an individualised portfolio for the year which is added to regularly by educators, families and children and reflected upon by educators to ensure programming remains relevant
- The Educational Leader works with educators to provide curriculum direction and to ensure children achieve the learning outcomes
- Play and specific experiences and activities promote children's social, scientific, mathematical language, creative skills and abilities.

In this Newsletter, we attached a family input form. Please fill in and return to your child's educator or Miss Elly.

Thank you☺

Staff News

- **Miss Alessandra** will be away from Thursday, the 09th of March and she will be back on Monday, the 27th of March 2017.
- **Miss Tracey** will be away from Monday, the 13th of March and she will be back on Tuesday, the 21st of March 2017.

Calendar of Events

25th – 05th - Seaweeek - It's about exciting and inspiring all New Zealanders to renew their connections with the sea! It's a time for all of us to get to know our ocean, its habitats, characteristics and inhabitants better.

01st - Wednesday– Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent 2017.

05th - Sunday – Clean up Australia Day.

11th -12th – Purim, Jewish Holiday.

12th - Sunday - Magha Puja Day – Buddhist tradition – Full Moon Day.

13th - Monday – Holi/Dhulandi – Hindu Tradition.

17th - Friday – St Patrick's Day, come and dress in green.

21st – Tuesday – Harmony Day.



Clownfish News



Welcoming February with the big smile in our face, January has been a very great month for Clownfish children, we would like to extend a warm welcome to also the new families who have joined us, Mason and Joichiro!
We hope that you enjoy your time here.



Early this month, the clownfish children have been enjoying the sunshine and outdoors and involved in meaningful interaction towards each other during water play and gardening. Educators and the children explored different kind of fruits that came fresh from our garden such as lemon and mango, other than that we also had a watermelon pop-stick and infused water for our morning tea, the children were showing enthusiasm towards educator's demonstration while slicing the fruit. The clownfish children seemed enjoy this fruit experience both indoor and outdoor as well as learned that fruit contains lots of vitamins that's good for our health.



In the middle of the month, the clownfish children were showing lots of interest towards animals, started from "duck", "dinosaurs", "baby shark", and "fishes"; as the interest's getting stronger day by day, the children were also learning to spell the animal's name correctly as well as how to make

each of the animal's voice. "quack quack" "roar" for duck and dinosaurs; for fishes and baby shark, the children were able to do a fish dance that firstly demonstrated by Miss Stella. Furthermore, we also did various art and craft activity to extend the interest.

Towards the end of the month, we are still encouraging self help skills with some of the older children by helping educators to pack away the toys once we finished playing while singing "everybody pack away", also the clownfish children have been enjoying group times while listening to stories and songs.



At the end of the month, another new interest is coming up! One of the children started the interest when he asked Miss Stella to read and sing "wheel on the bus" and put much interest towards the spinning wheel, to further extend the children's interest towards toys vehicles, we decided to do a messy art activities using a toy car! So fun! 😊

Parent reminder:

- Please bring in your family photo if you haven't done so to complete our family tree.
- As the children are outside a lot more and participate in lots of watery and messy exploration (at least 2 set), please pack some spare clothes and a range of clothes (jacket or cardigan) for a variety of weather conditions.
- At pumpkin, we keep records of all the family input, observation/learning stories, and pictures of their day. if you wish to view your children's records please speak to Miss Stella or other clownfish educators, we will be happy to show you.

Until next month,

Clownfish educators.

Jellyfish/Sunfish News

A Big Welcome to Rory!

Belated Happy Birthday to Felicity who turned 2 on the 1st of February



March Birthday Celebrant:

Daisy- 6th



What a great month we had. The children were seen exploring with various cultures as we started with our 'All About Me' news topic. As the children came from various cultural backgrounds, we accessed the internet on the 07th



to learn counting in Chinese and Spanish, as well as learn greetings in some languages. The children enjoyed learning with the Wiggles and we had some singing and dancing too.

The children continued their play, exploring various cultures. Everyone was busy in the dress up corner, pretending to be doctors, superheroes, princesses, chef, fairies and lots more. They tried to identify each character that they were portraying.



It's so nice to see the children learning to share and seek the involvement of their peers during their play. On the 8th we're lucky to have a bit of a run and ball play before it started to sprinkle again. The children were so



excited to go out and straight away ran around and organised a ball play. Some of them were seen kicking, throwing and passing the ball to each other. Unfortunately, after few minutes it started to sprinkle.

The fun continued inside with scribbling, playing with cars and trains.

Our garden



On the 09th, Harry and Eduardo were seen observing the strawberry fruits in our garden. We saw two fruits that were starting to grow. Miss Criselda explained to them that we



have to wait for the berries to turn into red colour before we can pick them up to eat. Red means they are already ripe and ready and eat. We then moved to the passion fruit trees and there we lots of fruits coming out but all of



them were still green.



On the 14th, we checked our garden again and we found out that strawberry fruits were gone. They must have fallen off. We just checked the passion fruits and we were surprised to see a lot of fruits hiding beneath the leaves. We found some ripe fruits and we decided to try some. Yummy! The children loved the taste and kept on asking for more. We described the taste as a bit sweet and sour with crunchy seeds.



While playing outside on the 24th, some of the children were heard shouting, “Snail.” They saw one snail slowly crawling down from the plant pot. Caleb commented that the snail



must be hungry. He was seen taking a piece of leaf and offered it to the snail. “Snail is not eating,” one of them was heard saying. ‘Maybe the snail is looking for his family,’ Miss Maylene added. The children looked around and there, inside of the bigger plant box were two more snails. The children shouted in excitement, “Mum and Dad.”

Valentine’s Day



From the 2nd week of February, we started to make a Valentine themed artwork for the children’s family. On the 6th, the children were asked if they wanted to do some



painting and they all answered yes. They quickly helped in packing away the jumbo dominoes and Mr Potato head so they could start painting. They had a choice either to paint with pink or red using a love heart shaped foam. Everyone had fun filling up the whole sheet with heart.



‘All About Me’

Thank you to all parents/families for filling in the form for us.

Our family tree is still waiting for more family photos☺

Until next month,

Jellyfish/Sunfish educators

Lionfish News

The Lionfish have been busy settling in this month. We started off with the news topic "All about me" to introduce ourselves and talk about the things we like, as well as provide some insight into our home life, and our family and friends.

This eventually led on to discussing our cultural backgrounds in our next news topic. Some children brought in special objects, or wore a piece of clothing that related to their background. Other children brought in typed up information, or links to songs to sing. We found out a lot about our Lionfish friends, and they had fun sharing, and finding out more about where they're from.

The Lionfish showed interest in cars and trains this month. Miss Charlotte and Miss Tracey brought outside a big piece of cardboard for them to help paint a road landscape on. After we let it dry, we brought it inside to lay down and the children used their cars and trains on it. We also incorporated some of our recycled pieces to use as tunnels, buildings and bridges, which they love getting creative with!





The Lionfish got involved in a range of art and craft this month. On the 2nd, when we came outside, the children used their creative skills making our paper plate roosters. Miss Tracey carefully traced around Aliyah, Ruby and Elodie's hands then cut them out so they could use them for the comb at the top of the rooster's head. They then stuck a triangle on for the beak and a figure 8 shape for the wattle. We will draw the eyes on when they are dry.



The Lionfish children have also enjoyed participating in a variety of physical activities.

They have enjoyed helping to build challenging obstacle courses to practise their climbing skills on as well as practising their pedalling skills on the bikes, riding them around the playground. They have also enjoyed participating in Munch and Move activities during indoor and outdoor play.



The Lionfish children have also enjoyed role play activities. Whether it be cooking in the home corner, looking after their babies or dressing up and role playing a variety of scenarios. They have also enjoyed pretending to cook a variety of food in the sandpit outside or even make roads using the rakes and spades to level out the sand. They have also enjoyed using their imaginations and creative skills to build and invent using a variety of different blocks. They have made rocket ships that can travel to the moon or houses for their families or even towers that stretch up into the sky! They have even used the blocks to create robot helmets to transform into robots! We have also been talking about our feelings as we work together to make up Room Rules for everyone to follow. We also talked about love and who we love and how we show love, leading up to Valentine's Day.

On the 8th February, the Lionfish children explored their creativity, decorating their own hearts to give to someone they love. Miss Tracey cut some large hearts from pink and purple cardboard and the children were given a choice of what colour they wanted to use. They were provided with glittery stickers and different sparkly collage to decorate their hearts with. We continued talking about 'How we show love' and 'Who we love' at group time, reading a book called 'When I'm feeling loved'.

Until next time,

Lionfish Educators 😊

Starfish News



We finished last month by saying goodbye to our school peers and wishing them good luck in the new stage of their lives! It has been great to see some of those peers coming back to visit in their uniforms and answering our curious questions about what 'big' school is all about!

The ever present interest in nature was seen to be strong once again this month. The children enjoy observing insects outside and have shown a special interest towards 'stink bugs' this month. Ms Rebecca brought in her beetle collection and the children got to explore them closely as they learnt more about them! And after hearing our chicken Nana crowing loudly and repeatedly, we decided to research to find out if Nana has turned out to be a rooster like Lucy did. Comparing chickens to roosters, the children have decided that indeed it is a rooster! Watching (and hearing) Nana crow has been very interesting for the children. They giggled a lot when it happened! Mid-month, after having enjoyed a lot of Nana's crowing, we said goodbye to Nana as we cannot have a noisy rooster at Pumpkin any longer. At the end of the month, the children engaged in gardening maintenance and worm farm rotation.



The interest in dancing carried over to February. The children started telling the educators about their ballet lessons and demonstrating to their peers various moves. The children were seen gracefully swaying like the Lyrebird and jumping like

the Brolga, even mimicking the sounds, after learning about those birds in a dancing story. As the children were watching ballerinas' dancing on the computer on the 3rd, one child mentioned that he liked the boy ballerinas and asked if he could watch them. The children were excited to see men dancing alongside the women and mirrored what they saw with everyone engaging in dancing! Additionally, the children got familiar with a story about a boy ballerina (Herbies Dances) and agreed that anyone can dance – as long as they want to! They have been rehearsing and teaching each other ballet moves, as well as other dance moves such as breakdancing. As



more children continued to bring in their favourite albums/songs, there was a lot of dancing throughout the whole month!



Another dance-related experience the children really enjoyed this month was 'Making a Ballerina Dance'. With whiteboard markers, they drew dancers in bowls and added water. Using their hands to manipulate the bowl, the children watched as the drawings they created began dancing in the water. What a fun way to see our drawings come to life and dance!



The children started showing an interest towards playing games of matching cards (by colours and textures) last month and the interest returned this month. On a rainy day, the interest returned as the children were seen playing



the game again. They further extended their interest in the game by making their own matching



cards game by drawing the same picture on two separate cards. When a child brought in his own memory game, it led us to inviting all to bring in their favourite game! It has been great learning to play a variety of games brought in by the children! Towards the end of the month, we noticed that we were taking on numeracy roles in the as we were using a lot of counting, number recognition, adding up and discussions about

bigger and smaller numbers during our games' playing, and decided to further develop the numeracy learning through other experiences.

Rhyming Words – The children's interest in engaging books from last month has become about rhyming words spotted in those books. The children have been bringing in their favourite rhyming books. As we read each book, we kept an eye (and ear!) out for rhymes and repetitions. The children were encouraged to spot the rhyming words during the stories. It sure is tricky to spot them sometimes but with a little assistance, the children have been finding more and more rhyming words! We have been taking the readings slow, enunciating each words carefully. To make it easier, we will be focusing on rhyming words that end with the same letters for better recognition through repetition. The children have done that by making rhyming cards with rhyming words (words chosen by the children) that end with the same letters. Additionally, when coming across two, three and four letter words, the children have been encouraged to sound them out such as with the small word 'go'. Then moving on to bigger words like jet, wet, get and ending on four letter words such as bike and like. The children are really enjoying interacting during book reading as they spot and name words that start with certain letters, differentiate between upper case and lower case letters, spot letters they recognise, rhymes and their names' initial letters.



Another literacy-related interest this month has been tracing their own and their peers' names and numbers after the children found last year's tracing sheets. They now have their personalised name/numbers writing sheets as requested by them!

The children celebrated Valentine's Day by talking their feelings towards those they love, making craft with a range of media (such as marble and stamp painting) and reading (of course, rhyming) books about love and feelings.



Until next month,
Starfish Educators