



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – October 2015

Centre News

We have sent out the 2016 Reenrolment form, please return the form or email it to

Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au for your child's 2016 enrolment.

Our centre will be closed from Monday, the 21st of December to 25th of December and we will reopen on Monday, the 28th of December 2015.

Some reminders for the parents and families:

- Please take your child's water bottle home every day to be washed and refilled for their next day of attendance.
- Pumpkin's operating hours are from 7:30am to 6:30pm. The educators come in a few minutes early to set up for the day. Please do not come in to the centre before 7:30 am and please do not leave your child at the centre before 7:30 am as the children are not supervised before that time.
- The photos have arrived from the photo company! Please ask the educators to show you your child's photos.
- Please remember to bring your child's sheets/pillows/blankets, as our policy requires children to rest for 15minutes on a bed and we don't have enough sheets to supply for all children attending.

Halloween at Pumpkin

How awesome were the Halloween costumes from the Clownfish children. The families have amazing imaginations and to see what they came up with is awesome! Savannah, Isaiah, Daisy, Celine, Nadal and Penelope all came dressed up and had the paparazzi chased them around for some photos.



The Jellyfish and Sunfish children further extended on their Halloween learning (that started last Friday) by getting dressed up to celebrate it! We had all kinds of characters in the toddler rooms today!



Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert this year will be held on Friday, the 11th of December 2015 at 3.00 pm. The Educators and children have been practicing very hard for the concert. Please come and join us on the day!:)



November Calendar of Events

31 – 01/11/15 – 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.

03th – Tuesday – Melbourne Cup Day



06th – Friday – World Walk to Work Day.

09th – 15th - National Recycling Week.

11th – 15/11/15 – Diwali - Hindu Tradition, Festival of Lights, this festival celebrates knowledge over ignorance. The festival is very colourful, with fireworks and sweets involved and is a great favourite of children.

11th - Wednesday - 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

18th – Wednesday – Parents Meeting at 6.00 pm.

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

Clownfish News

The professional photos are in please make sure you see your children educators in the room they can share information about how to receive and order the photos. In November we have a couple of dates to save, from Melbourne cup day the 3rd November, National recycling weeks 9th-15th and we also have our Parent meetings from 6pm Wednesday November 2015.

Acting like monkeys again this month; the Clownfish children have really extended their climbing on the frames and jumping on the beams. Some of the children have the ability to follow the directions to the song and repeat the actions. We have really taken an interest into this song, from taking it outside we also brought it indoors. Having the beam inside and offering the children to jump on the beam has really developed their interests. The Clownfish have also been really interested in bubbles again this month. We have experimented and made our own mix with Miss Corina and use that to fill out bubble wands. The children have now got their own bubble wands that can use as the educators blow their bubbles. Some of the children have developed the concept to make the bubbles following simples step and repeating the action. They were encouraged to blow from the wand; return it to the mixture then take it out and blow again. The educators have been hearing a lot of “bubbles” from the children.



Last month the Clownfish children used our new chalk board. This month we have added a roll of paper onto the board and continued the chalk drawing. The Clownfish children are able to draw on it; either inside or outside learning space. We have offered it at different times of the day. The older children seemed to prefer to just draw on the surfaces outside alongside one another. Repeating this a few times gave the children the opportunity to know how the chalk works. I think maybe we need another board so two children can do it at the same time; that might engage them for a longer period.



Our Clownfish family has adapted yet again. We want to welcome our new friends and their family to the Clownfish room at Pumpkin LDC. Koby, Zachary, Suzanna, Rory, Caleb and Luca have all joined to our room; sadly we have lost a few that turned two over the last few weeks but luckily there just on the other side of the child care. The children and their families have really begun to settle in.

We have a designated family tree area with Clownfish family photos stuck onto it; a reminder to new families to please send us a family photo of your or print one yourselves and hand it to one of the educators so we can add them to our tree. Thank you to all the other children who have their photos on display.



Leading to the end of the month and having Halloween approach; the Clownfish children and educators have begun dress ups through the month of October. Our Halloween party was Friday the 30th October 2015 (the day before the calendar event). Miss Corina bought in some dress ups that the children were able to wear. Using the self-help skills on putting them on and off the children have really liked having these extra cloths as part of their play. Continuing the Halloween theme this month we did a bit of craft to help celebrate this crazy, fun and adventurous celebration. Check out the Ghost foot prints and their pumpkins on display in the room. When we take them down they will be filled into their portfolios.

Halloween finally arrived and our children came dressed in the cutest costumes from cats, decorative Halloween themed items, to the sweetest fruits in my world- strawberries. How sweet did they all look? And how awesome were the families for assisting them with the costume choices. We had a great time dressing up and being imaginative that we will keep the dress up clothes again next month.



Jellyfish News



A big welcome to Steven this month! Happy birthday to Sienna, Steven and Ethan! And congratulations to Xavi and family for welcoming baby Adriana!



Max really enjoyed last month's visits from the firemen and policeman and he especially liked getting involved during the visits – he got handcuffed for fun and confidently interacted with the men! On the 6th, he brought stickers related to the visits. He proudly showed it to his peers and



Ms Sabina encouraged the children to notice all the different stickers. As a group, they found stickers of many emergency vehicles, of fire and smoke and of uniformed emergency workers. Max was a great sharer as he shared the



stickers with everyone so that we could make a big collage related to the visits. The children chose their favourite stickers, stuck them on the collage and made drawings related to what was discussed earlier. Later on, we read a great book called 'Fire engine is flashing' and talked through all that happens when there is a fire. We also had a close look at the fire engine in the book, discussing it.



Butterfly painting – The children also engaged in painting on the 6th. Still celebrating not only the start of spring, but also the fact that we can now feel the weather change, they created butterfly paintings. The



choice to create butterflies also related Annie's top. She is wearing a top with butterfly wings on the back.



On the 9th, after going through our calendar, Ms Alessandra initiated a discussion about feelings by sharing that she was feeling excited because it was Friday. The children were then invited to share how they were feeling that day by pointing to a feeling on our 'How do you feel today?' chart. We then read a great book called 'When I am feeling happy' and talked about how good it feels to be happy but that it is ok to feel sad sometimes, too. We agreed that it is nice to try and cheer up friends who feel sad. Finally, Ms Sabina and the children acted out feelings by singing and dancing to 'If you are happy and you know it'.

We had a lot of fun on our photo days, when we smiled for the cameras individually, as well as in a group for our room photo. We cannot wait to see the result!



Continuing on with our feelings learning on the 13th, the children were asked to identify feelings on our Feelings chart. They identified happy, sad and angry. They were a little confused about the scared



feeling. Ms Alessandra then explained that everyone feels scared sometimes and read the book 'When I am feeling scared'. After learning more about feeling scared, a discussion was encouraged when Ms Alessandra shared what she is scared about. The children learnt that it is okay to feel scared as it can help us get away from danger and make us ask for help, and that talking to their parents or teachers can help them understand that the thing that makes them



scared isn't so scary after all. The children were enjoying the group time and interacting during it, that we decided to keep going. As Ms Alessandra pointed to feelings on the chart, she asked the children to put their hands up to say how they were feeling that day. Luckily, the majority was feeling happy! The children were reminded of how four of their friends were feeling sad the day before as we heard them cry very loud! Just then we had a perfect example of someone feeling sad as Jamal arrived and felt sad about saying good to his great-grandmother. Max was another example we talked about as he was feeling a little grumpy that morning after saying goodbye to mum and dad. Later on, we sang and danced to feelings such as scared, happy, sleepy and angry. Jamal, Kingston, Xavi, Amelia, William and Leo engaged in a puzzle game of emotions, extending on our earlier learning about feelings.



Extending on our feelings learning, on the 14th, we focused on the opposite of feeling happy, feeling sad sometimes. Ariella remembered yesterday's discussion of sad when she said "Jamal was sad". Ms Alessandra read out the book 'When Marshal Mouse is sad'. Through the story, we discussed feeling sad. The children learnt that when feeling sad, they might feel like crying, want to get a hug, go to their favourite place or do their favourite things to feel better, and to have a rest. The children were reminded of how Annie was feeling sad on

Monday and had a rest, waking up happy afterwards! Importantly, the children learnt that when feeling sad, they will soon feel better. When talking Sueann's weekend (according to the parent input we received by email), we found out why she said yesterday that she is "scared of the big water" during our discussion about feeling scared. She went to the beach but did not want to sit too close to the water, preferring to play in the sand instead. Sueann said "I went to the blue beach". Ms Alessandra explained that she went to Maroubra beach, the beach in our community. As a group, we agreed that it is okay to play in the sand and to not go in the ocean if we do not feel like it.

Still extending on our feelings learning on the 15th, we learnt about another feeling, feeling lonely.

We read the book, we feel lonely and everyone feels aware that their friends,



book 'When I am feeling lonely'. Through discussed that lots of things can make us that it's not a nice feeling but that that way sometimes. The children are now when feeling lonely, they should look for their

teachers and parents. Since the children enjoy dancing and we are learning about feelings, later on that day we moved to the song 'If you are happy and you know it'. We made gestures that relate to our feelings. We smiled and clapped for feeling happy,

pretended to take a nap for sleepy, stomped and crossed our arms for angry and said "oh, no" for feeling scared. Look at the children's expressions in the photos! Later on, as we



were reading one of our favourite books, 'Where is the green sheep', we could relate to learning about feeling scared (on the 13th) when we saw the scared sheep. The children learnt that feeling brave is the opposite of feeling scared, as they spotted the brave sheep next to the scared one. Further extending on our feelings learning on the 16th, we talked about Mason's feelings according to the input received from his parents. We discovered that he feels hot when the sun is shining and feels cold when it is windy. The children could relate that! We had not discussed feeling the weather yet, so thanks for the input, Mason! Next, we discussed Mason feeling happy, angry and sad, feelings we have been discussing this week. He feels happy when seeing mum, dad and friends. Yes, the children agreed that they feel happy when mummy and daddy arrive to pick them up! And he feels sad when his favourite show ends or when dad goes away to work. Mason feels angry when it's bedtime and he likes having a full tummy! **If you are happy and you know it** – Since the children had been enjoying dancing to the feelings (If you are happy and you know it) song that week, we finished the group by dancing to it once again. However, this time we only danced to the best feeling, feeling happy! We clapped, turned around (they are turning around in the photo on the right) and shouted 'We are!' It was a really fun time!



Worm farms – The children like looking after our worm farm by feeding the worms with the leftovers from our meals and they also like looking at it when outside. So Ms Stella decided to provide them with a worm farm



activity. Using leaves from our playground, spaghetti, sand and soil, the children created their own worm farms. The children spent all outside time exploring their 'worms', filling buckets with them, touching, smelling and enjoying the activity. Mason filled his bucket with the worms, put them back in the farm and



started again! Dru repeated after Ms Stella, “worm”. Sienna counted each worm as she collected them for her bucket, “one, two, three, four, five, six”. Ruby told Rounin, “mine”, when he attempted to take her bucket. Nadia, Leo and Amelia talked amongst themselves about the worms and fed the real worms! Nadia also wanted to feed the spaghetti worms and Leo liked the activity so much that he wanted to take the worms home to show mum, he said “I don’t have a worm farm at home”. Muhid opened a conversation about the worms by showing one to Ms Alessandra. Kingson, Skye and Eli listened attentively to Ms Stella’s instructions and had fun filling their buckets with worms. Ethan and Sueann joined in later, as they were busy playing in the sandpit. Christopher and Elodie preferred to play in the sandpit instead of engaging in the worm farm.



Further extending on our feelings learning, on the 19th, we talked about Ariella’s feelings according to the input received from her parents. She shared “I am happy because I play with Joshua”. Yes, we



agreed that playing with our siblings and/or friends usually makes us happy! We discovered that chocolate, ice-cream, going to the park and finding something of her favourite colour (pink), also makes her happy! Next, we discussed feeling shy and scared, Ariella’s least favourite feelings. She gets scared of the dark and shy when around new people. Indeed, she told us last week that she does not like the dark.



Elodie’s feelings about Pumpkin – Since the children have been enjoying learning about feelings, we decided to extend the topic to learning about our feelings at Pumpkin. On the 19th, we learnt about how Elodie feels about coming to Pumpkin. She feels happy, curious, comfortable and relaxed. That’s great! It was great to discuss curious, comfortable and relaxed, feelings we had not yet discussed. Leo and Aiden said they also feel happy when coming to Pumpkin. William said he feels “sad” but did not explain further. Perhaps he

feels sad to say goodbye in the mornings. It sure does not look like he feels sad in the mornings as he always arrives excited. Ms Alessandra said that to him and he smiled! We talked about Elodie’s favourite things at Pumpkin: seeing friends, eating yummy food, playing with the toys/equipment and of course, the sandpit! Her friends could certainly relate to liking those things! Finally, we discussed Elodie’s morning routines to get ready to come to Pumpkin. She wake mummy up, gets dressed, eats breakfast with her sister, brushes her hair and teeth and hugs everyone goodbye. Once again, the children said they also do some of those things.



On the 20th, we talked about Aiden’s feelings according to the input received from his parents. He shared “I am happy at Pumpkin. I like the trains”. Ms Alessandra pointed out that he is happy at Pumpkin, like Elodie (as discussed the day before). She also read out from



the email received that Aiden likes receiving stamps at Pumpkin. Yes, his peers agreed that getting the stamps at the end of the day is a fun thing! Aiden also talked about his morning routine before coming to Pumpkin, “I’m sleeping, then I wake up. I watch power rangers. They get the enemy.” The children were reminded of Elodie’s morning routine and asked about their own. After Pumpkin routines discussion was also encouraged. They agreed that they have a bath and eat dinner before going to bed again and that usually they come back to Pumpkin the next morning, except on Saturdays and Sundays.

Drawing our feelings – Since the children have been enjoying learning about feelings, we decided to extend the learning to expressing our feelings on paper. Ms Alessandra started by drawing four feelings on the board. She drew excited, happy, sad and angry, and asked the children to identify them. The children then started their drawings using Ms Alessandra’s drawings and the feelings chart as a guide, as well as being encouraged to use shapes they are familiar with, such as oval and circle. They were also encouraged to talk about what they were drawing.



Good work, everyone! On the 21st, we read a book called 'The things I love about school', finding similarities between Pumpkin and the school in the story. We found similarities such as friends, teacher, artwork, books, pencils, computer, active play, sharing, mealtimes, playgrounds, home time in the afternoon and gardening. Eli, Amelia, Mason, Max, Xavi, Ariella, Sueann and Ethan liked interacting during the reading. Xavi named the teacher in the story Ms Alex. And Ms Alessandra pointed out that he was engaged in active ball play earlier, just like in the picture. In relation to gardening at school, she also showed the children strawberries picked from our garden during the group. Next, the children were encouraged to talk about what they like to do at Pumpkin and then make a painting of it.



On the 22nd, we read a book called 'Tip the mouse doesn't want to go to kindergarten'. The story is about Tip having a tantrum and not wanting to attend school, something some of the children can relate to at times. However, as his mum encouraged him to go, the children could see that Tip had a wonderful time at school! Ms Alessandra pointed out fun things Tip found at school and that we can find at Pumpkin, too, such as greeting his friends, spending time with them, engaging with equipment different from the ones he had at home, playing outside, having a nice rest after a busy morning and finally, telling his parents all about his day when they arrive to collect him in the afternoon.



Max's Animal
on the 22nd, Max showed Ms some cards he "from the shop", he Alessandra him to show them



Cards – Also proudly Alessandra brought in, said. Ms encouraged to his friends.

He showed the monkey card first, "It's a monkey". He also spontaneously linked the monkey to our current feelings learning by saying "angry!" Indeed, he does look angry! Ms Alessandra pointed out its funny looking nose, explaining that only the boys have that nose in that type of monkey. Next, he showed a bird card, "Green bird". The children were encouraged to notice that that type of bird has a very long tail. Max also showed a card of an American beaver. The children also learned a fact about it, that it makes its home in the water with stones and tree branches. After Max described the



monkey as angry, the children were encouraged to share how they thought the bird and beaver were feeling. Amelia said the beaver is sad but Max didn't agree, "No, happy."

We are going on an animal hunt – Also on the 22nd, Xavi, Nadia and Leo engaged in some great imagination play. Soon Amelia, William, Max and Jayden joined in. They pretended to be going on a bear hunt, then a lion, then a tiger hunt. We often read the books 'We are going on a bear/lion hunt' and they acted the story out. Max came up with the tiger idea. They shouted "Look, it's a bear". Nadia then said, "Help!" and they all tiptoed and hid by kneeling down behind the sandpit.

On the 23rd, Ms Alessandra asked Mason to show his peers what he had on his t-shirt today. Eli and Ariella quickly spoke up, saying

"ghost". Mason pointed to the ghost on his top and said something that sounded like "boo" and he repeated after Ms Alessandra, "ghost". Since Halloween was coming up and Mason had a picture of a ghost on this top, Ms Alessandra spoke about Halloween with the children. Sueann looked a bit worried



about the spooky talk, so Ms Alessandra reassured her and the other children that spooky things for Halloween are just pretend and for fun. To make her point, she researched online pictures of fun halloween costumes ideas, such as pumpkin, spiderman and fairy. The children sure got excited about the costumes! They were also encouraged to notice that the ghost on Mason's top is not scary, but rather friendly! After all our feelings learning, the children could see that the ghost is a happy one since he is smiling! The children then made their own happy and friendly ghosts. In the Jellyfish room, they made ghosts by having Ms Alessandra trace their feet and by decorating them with cotton balls and eyes. In the Sunfish room, they made ghosts with paper plate and tissue paper and they also made a spiderweb with Ms Stella! Another way the children could relate Halloween to a fun time, as opposed to a scary time, was to dance to a fun Halloween song. Ariella, Muhid and Sueann made funny faces as they dance and sang to the song.



Continuing on with our Halloween learning on the 26th, Ms Alessandra asked the children what they would like to dress up as that week:

Ariella: "I don't like spooky (costumes). I want to be a fairy"

Koby: "I bought (a costume) from the shop"

Aiden: "I want to be Spiderman"

Kingston proudly showed the Spiderman on his t-shirt

Eli: "I have Thomas (on his t-shirt)"

Mason pointed to his t-shirt excitedly, using sounds to describe



the pictures on it. Next, we read a book called 'Room on the broom', about a nice witch who is a good friend to animals. The children could see once again that Halloween doesn't have to be scary. Finally, they then



engaged in Halloween artwork by making spiders. This time,

they made spiders with handprints and not with their feet (as we did with the ghosts on the Friday).

Skye remembered when we made handprints of crabs, as she pointed to her spider and said "crab". Aiden helped Ms Stella to make a spider web as decoration for our room.

Koby's Time at Pumpkin – Also on the 26th, as we extending on our 'Feelings at Pumpkin' learning, we talked about how Koby feels here according to the input received from his parents. Ms Alessandra pointed to the feelings drawing on the white board and asked him how he feels at school. He answered "happy" because of his "friends". That's very nice! His peers agreed that seeing friends at school is very fun.

Extending our Halloween learning on the 27th, Ms Alessandra

asked the children to find who was dressed up for Halloween. Eli quickly spotted Aiden, saying "Spiderman". Yes, we had a Spiderman amongst us! Aiden also had a Halloween basket with him. Sueann identified it as a "pumpkin". Ms Alessandra explained to the children that pumpkins are the symbol of Halloween and asked the children what they thought the pumpkin on Aiden's basket was feeling by its look. They answered "happy" because it is smiling! When asked why he wanted to be



Spiderman for Halloween, Aiden showed what Spiderman does with his hand. Ms Alessandra added that Spiderman also



helps people and that is a good reason to dress up like him! The children then engaged in Halloween themed painting. Using the happy pumpkin on Aiden's basket, as well as a pumpkin painting done by Ms Alessandra, as a guide, the children made their representation of a pumpkin. They were encouraged to paint using shapes they are familiar with, such as circle and triangle. They were also encouraged to add two eyes, one mouth and one nose to their pumpkins.

On the 28th, we discussed Ariella's feelings at Pumpkin. She said she is "happy" because "I like to play with my friends". Ms Alessandra reminded the children that Aiden, Koby and Elodie also enjoy coming to Pumpkin to see their friends (as previously discussed). Ariella showed a drawing of herself smiling, saying "It's me, happy". Ms Alessandra read out from the input received that Ariella also likes group time and playing

outside with her good friend, Sueann. Yes, group time and outside time are so fun! Ariella's morning routine was also discussed. We found out that she usually goes to her ama's (grandma) house in the morning and has breakfast there before coming to Pumpkin. When ama is away, she comes to Pumpkin first thing in the morning after having her milk because her mum needs to catch the bus to work. Ms Alessandra explained to the children that Ariella calls her grandma ama because her home language is Indonesian and ama means grandma in Indonesian.

More on Halloween – Continuing on with our Halloween learning, Ms Alessandra asked the children to identify what Amelia was dressed up as on the 28th. Ariella said "Leopard". Indeed, she looks like a leopard as she is wearing little round ears with spots. Searching online, we found pictures of leopards and could see some similarities between a leopard and Amelia, like the spots, the ears and the even the eye colour! When asked what she was dressed up as, she said "miaow".

Potty time – As we talked through our date chart on the 28th, Ms Alessandra pointed out that we are nearing the end of the year. And as the end of year approaches, we are preparing the older children to

transition to the Lionfish room (3-4 year olds), so we discussed toilet training as a group through the book 'Potty time'. The children enjoyed the story, interacting during it.

On the 29th, the children further extended on our Halloween learning



by getting dressed up to celebrate it! We had all kinds of characters in the toddler rooms today! Ms Alessandra asked the children why they were dressed up and Francisca knew it, she answered "Halloween". Alessandra also invited the children to describe their costume.

Leo: "I'm Spiderman"

Xavi: "I'm the fireman"

Ethan blew his police whistle to show that he was a policeman.

Nadia: "I'm a pumpkin"

Archer pointed to his t-shirt and said "pumpkin".

Ariella: "I'm a princess. I like my dress-up". She then helped Dru by answering for him, "He is a skeleton" and guessed

Amelia's teddy bear".

Ariella also helped Eli to name his character, "It's a turtle".

William: "Star wars"

Mason pointed to his t-shirt excitedly.

Sueann: "Red witch". Ms Alessandra helped Jamal and Elodie to name their characters. He was also a policeman like Ethan and she was a witch, like Francisca. It was great to see the children being so enthusiastic about their costumes. They had a lot of fun using their imaginations and acting out their characters for the day!

Dru and Mason are happy at Pumpkin! – Also on the 29th, Dru shared about his time at Pumpkin with his peers and educators. Ms Alessandra read out sentences written by his parents and Dru completed them such as: My name is "Dru"

I feel "happy" coming to Pumpkin

My favourite activity is playing outside with "balls, sand"

I love reading "books" at Pumpkin

I love the food they serve to me at Pumpkin, such as "muffins, bread, fruit". Fantastic talking, Dru!





Next, it was Mason's turn. As always, he enjoyed having his news read out and pointed to the sheet Ms Alessandra was reading from. We found out that Mason loves coming to Pumpkin but feels sad that his parents have to work and cannot stay with him. It was discussed that most parents need to go to work to be able to buy important things, such as food. Max added "Yeah. Mummy buys me yoghurt". Yes, that is a great example! About Mason's morning routine, we learned that he watches Bananas in pyjamas while his

parents get ready for work. William and Ariella said they also watch the show!

Also, it is great to see the children expressing their feelings. In the afternoon of the 28th, Sueann told her friends "I'm angry" when she did not like how they were playing.

Until next month,

Jellyfish educators

Lionfish October Newsletter

There has been a lot going on this month in Lionfish! We started practice on our Christmas song this month which they have been doing most days. The Lionfish educators are really happy with the group as they have showed great listening and coordination skills while following the actions to the songs and learning the words to Taba Naba, and Go Santa Go. The Lionfish are getting more and more excited for their Christmas concert at the end of the year.

The children have followed on with Letterland, learning about the letters R, S, T, U and V. They have been enjoying making lots of arts 'n' crafts, for example, for letter R they made Robots and Rocket ships, requested by them, to remind them of things that start with the Letter r. They have shown great determination and concentration in learning how to write their letters by practicing on the whiteboard, and especially focusing on their hand grip.



The Lionfish have shown a particular interest in learning about Police, Fire Fighters and other emergency services. They enjoyed watching a short video and listening to a story about Police officer. Then while inside play the children pretend to be Police and ambulances using the block Kayla, Xavier, Samantha, Chayce and London all created a city and then made the siren of the different services. Samantha said M places is on fire,

while Kayla said 'I put it out for you.' While at the drawing table Siena Said "look at my policeman, Fireman and ambulance their help people ." While Abigail said "Look the girl got stung by a blue bottle and is sad." Peyton said "look at the fire, its an emergency. While Olivia said look "I drew a police lady with her dog."



The children have also been very interested in the new nature table that we have in our room, as well as their already established interested in gardening and the outdoors. This has been very evident through their collecting of "beans" and leaves outside, and their seed planting in Ms Elly's garden.



Kayla found a leaf that had fallen from our Grapefruit tree. As she held it up to show Miss Catherine she said, "This can go on our Nature Table!" The children love collecting different things from the playground and also on the weekend to place on our Nature table for everyone to share!

The Lionfish always notice new things about the garden when we play outside. Olivia said, "Look that flower needs water!" She noticed that the flower was a bit dry. Miss Tracey said that Miss Elly had just watered the garden and the flower was ready to fall off. We talked about the pollen in the flower after Samantha pointed to the stamen and said, "What's that?" Miss Tracey explained about how bees collect pollen to make honey. The girls were very interested.

The children like to play games outside so that they can include everyone in their play. "What's the time Mr Wolf" has been a very popular game with them this month. The group took it in turn to pick the number that the group had to go to get closer to the wolf. Olivia,



Abigail, Stella, Robert, Xavier especially like the running away. The group also loved the Musical mat. Chayce, London and Hart made their own beats and sang their favourite song.

The children continued to show their interest in dress ups and imagination play. The Lionfish children chose what outfits they want to dress in and were encouraged to put them on themselves. Some of thme sat on chairs, some on the floor, but they all did a great job putting on their dress ups themselves! When they finished getting dressed up they roleplayed different scenarios.



Stella asked, “Can we have the Doctor’s kit to play with?” Miss Tracey got that down too and Chayce dressed up in the Vet’s outfit and Samantha as a Nurse. Olivia and Abigail pretended to be dogs so Chayce could look after them. Samantha put the stethoscope in her ears and checked Olivia’s heartbeat to see how fast it was. As she checked she counted, “1,2,3,4,5,6!”

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators :)

Starfish October 2015 Newsletter

Welcome to our Starfish Newsletter for the month of October. We can't believe it's time for a newsletter already. Where did that time go? It has been a busy month in Starfish as we have exploring and learning lots of new discoveries....



A visit to the library!!!!

Earlier this month, Educators in Starfish organized another excursion and this time we visited the library. The children were super excited as we took the bus to get to **Bowen Library in Maroubra**. Our Bus Driver's name was **George** and he introduced himself and the bus they were going to travel on, to the children. The children were thrilled to be in the big bus with their friends and as we passed houses, streets, the park, they were able to recognise their local community. Some children stating that they lived nearby while others spoke about friends, houses and other places that they had been.

The children also spotted many interesting vehicles along the way on Anzac Parade - the pickup truck, the Ambulance and Fire engine.

We were really happy to see that Jaedyn were already at the Library waiting for us with his Dad and brother, Koby. Sally and her Mum also joined us as they were already in the library.

At the front desk, Miss Cory introduced our class to one of the Librarians, Vicky, who gave us all a tour of the Library.

The children looked around and noticed that Vicky and her colleague had placed assorted reading material on the tables, as she went through them, she explained that the Library doesn't only provide books but also read along CD's w/ books, games, illustrative books (Books with only pictures), as well as explaining the difference between '**Fiction**' and '**Non-Fiction**' books.

Vicky read four different books to the children, as well as showed a short movie about the importance of reading each night, rather than playing video games.

During the tour of the library, Vicky explained to the children that there are 'quiet area' for people who need to do their study or research. She also showed us the children's area where children can explore various toys, puzzles and books.

We finished the tour around at the main area where Vicky showed us the special machines that adult can use to borrow books.

The children had an exceptionally wonderful time at the library learning about lots of new things. They also listened and behaved very well throughout the day. =)

We would like to thank the parents for helping us on the day! Your cooperation and contribution are highly appreciated. =)





We have been learning letter S for our Letterland this month and the children have come up with lots and lots of words starting with letter S. The educators in Starfish decided to have cooking experience – making SUSHI!!! On Thursday, the 15th October, we invited Hana's mum, Kaori, to show us how to make sushi.

The children commented, "I love eating sushi with avocado inside." "I like carrots and cucumbers in my sushi." "I like the fish one". "I go to sushi shop with my mum and dad and eat lots of sushi." "I've been to Sushi Train before."

After group discussion about what to put in our sushi, the children suggested "avocado, cucumber, carrots, and tuna."

Hana's mum showed us how to put the tuna, cucumber, carrot and avocado in one straight line and how to roll and hold the bamboo tightly and said, "Let's squeeze.. Squeeze the bamboo...." And voila.... The sushi is ready!!! Yummo! =)



Mars, Mercury, Neptune and the Sun!

The children have been furthering their knowledge of the Solar System this month, they have made the planets Mars, Mercury and Neptune also the Sun. Working as a team, they were able to re-create what they had researched with Miss Cory within the books and on the Internet. Each planet was created based on what they had observed in their findings, as they referred to the planets various colours and textures.

As the children studied the Sun, they noticed that the surface was varied in colour, showing yellows, oranges and reds. To resemble the texture of the Sun we decided to use the Puffy Paint recipe, which worked out pretty well as it reflected the light due to the salt content in the mixture. We have yet to complete our Solar System, as our next group project is going to be creating a Paper-Mache Moon Using the same technique.



Splish splash splosh....

As the weather gets warmer this month, the children have been exploring water play during outdoor play. We filled in our water trough with sand and water and added various sea creatures such as turtle, fish, and crocodile.

The children had a blast role playing different animal characters – bathing the animals and making up their own stories.

They have been exploring ideas and theories using their imagination and creativity.

Starfish children also enjoyed filling and pouring water using pourers, cups and jugs and have been discussing about things that can float and sink!

On some very hot days, we used water hose to cool ourselves down and we saw rainbow (!!!!) effect as the water drops and sunshine cross path!

How exciting!

We will do more science experimentation on floating and sinking next month and let's see where it will take us to.....



IT'S HALLOWEEN!!!



Starfish celebrated 'Halloween' this month and were really excited to commence their Halloween craft activities that the educators had set up for them. The children were given the opportunity to create their very own **'Black Witches Cat'**. As soon as the children finished making their 'Black Witches Cats', they then were observed role-playing with them during their free-play time.

Starfish educators provided a fun 'Spider-Web' craft, where with the help of Miss Rebecca's guiding hand, each child was able to create their own spider-web complete with hanging spiders. We had requests for Ghastly Ghost crafts, so we gave the children some scissors and asked them to cut out their Ghosts that Miss Rebecca had drawn up and once they had successfully cut it out, they were asked to use the brushes and glue to place it on the black paper, giving the Ghosts an 'eerie' look. The children also made some 'Scuttling Rats' out of recycled coloured cardboard, as they had requested the craft after reading one of the Halloween books earlier in the week. Starfish listened as the educators read spooky stories to them, like 'The Most Haunted House', 'Spooky Riddles and Jokes', 'Witches Stories', plus a few others that had the children intrigued and spell-bound.



We saw some scary characters as we walked through Pumpkin's doors. Our very own Miss Cory dressed up as 'Vampyress', Miss Catherine was a 'Police Officer' and Miss Rebecca was a 'Fallen Angel' complete with black wings. We had some 'Little Devils', 'Warty Witches', 'Scary Skeletons', 'Ghosts', 'Vampires', 'Zombies', as well as other not so scary characters such as 'Spiderman', a 'Cowboy', a 'Batman' and a 'Pirate'. The children heightened their senses and imaginations when they explored Miss Catherine's Halloween experiences during their free-play outside, playing guessing games as they felt inside mystery boxes filled with gooey, slimy, spongy, wet and unusual materials. The children played a game called 'Monster, Monster, Ghost' and listened and danced along to 'The Monster Mash' on the computer. Face-Painting was also available, which proved to be quite popular, turning children into all sorts of Ghastly Ghouls.



We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to all of the parents/families who have donated their time and efforts during this month and also to those who were involved in making this Halloween celebration here at Pumpkin as special and scary as possible.

The children looked 'Terrifyingly Terrific' and those Chocolate Spiders and yummy Lolly-Pops were an absolute treat!

☺ **HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!** ☺

Until next month. Cheers from Starfish Educators.

