



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – November 2017

Centre News

We have emailed the 2018 Re-enrolment form, please return the form to the educators or you can email us on Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au.

Our centre will be closed for one week, from Monday, the 25th of December 2017 and re-open on Tuesday, the 02nd of January 2018.

Our Christmas concert this year will be held on Thursday, the 21st of December 2017 at 3.30 pm. All children and educators have been practising very hard for their performances. Please make sure you save the date on your diary or phone so you won't miss it☺



November Calendar of Events

31st – 01/11/17 – Samhain – Festival marking the end of the Harvest Season.

07th – Tuesday – Melbourne Cup Day



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

15th - Wednesday – Steve Irwin Day.

22nd - Wednesday – Parents Meeting at 6.30 pm.

Clownfish News



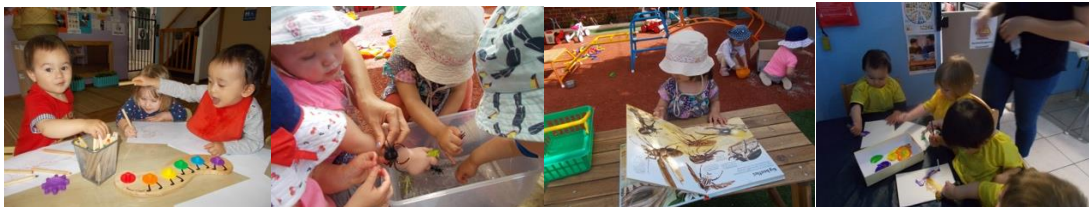
Another month has passed, 2 more months to the end of the year! We can't believe how quick time flies! This month, The Clownfish children have been engaged in various projects that emerged from their own interests.



Sensory week – On the first week of October, The Clownfish children were observed actively using their senses (especially eyes and hands) to explore their surroundings (both indoor and outdoor), Miss Stella decided to introduce different type of textures, started from ***slippery, fluffy, squishy, rough, smooth, and bumpy***. A wide range of sensory activities were available for them to support their texture investigation and exploration further, such as play-dough, rainbow spaghetti, sea shells, pine cones, feather, slime, bath painting, bubble foam, water, and sands. Educators closely supervised their exploration and extended their ideas through meaningful interactions.



Be careful with the germs!! – Alongside with the sensory week, the children have also shown increasing independence and competence in personal hygiene, we spotted the children pretending to wash their hands in the home corner area. For a couple of days, we decided to read a book that shows the children how germs can spread easily if we don't wash our hands after eating, playing, or touching anything. Looking at the children's interest in observing the germ images, Miss Stella and Miss Fenny came up with an idea of sprinkling the glitter (that represents germs) onto children's hands saying that germs usually stick on our hands if we don't wash our hands properly. To further support this project, We also had some painting, drawing and sensory play. After those experiences, the children were encouraged to practice their hand washing steps. Family input has become our source of learning extension! From that we moved on to discuss further about germs by talking about 'bath time' and 'brushing teeth'. Bye bye germs!



Animals - “Butterfly!” “Its from the sky!”– they said .This project has become one of the highlight of this month, as the children themselves found a butterfly flying around the garden. They were very interested in following and observing the butterfly that flew from one flower to another. We then talked about the butterfly details from the insect book and discovered that butterfly has a symmetrical shape of wings which mirror one another. This discussion led to the idea of having a butterfly art activity! The children were given an opportunity to create their own and followed Miss Stella demonstration. Each children had different ways to contribute onto this project, from the colour preferences to the painting method, they showed their creative skill really well! **“Spider! Spider! Spider!”** – Toward the end of the month, this word often has been spoken by the children as they spotted spiders and spider web everywhere (Halloween decoration), we read some stories

in relation to spider ('A very busy spider' and 'Aarrghh spider'). The incy wincy spider song also become one of their favourite songs this month. **"Five little ducks went up one day..."** - This song has also become their most favourite song of this month, the children were expressing their interest and wonder every time they heard this song being sung and confidently used their creative movement while following the Rhythm. They also confidently sang, "quack..quack". We could conclude that the children have been showing great interest towards animals.



Parent reminder:

- Ensure the children are dressed appropriately, as the children often spend time outside during warm weather. I have listed some suggestions that allow us to easily assist your children in maintaining a safe body temperature during this variation of weather.
 - o Cotton short-sleeved top are suggested (ensure shoulders are covered).
 - o Cotton elastic waist pants or short pants.
 - o Cardigans or zip-up jumper (in case of weather changes)
- Please bring a nappy rash cream (if you haven't done so) as the weather is getting warmer these days and some children may be experiencing nappy rash while playing.
- Please send us your family photo (If you haven't done so).

Clownfish educators:

Just to create awareness, this is the list of educators that have been working in our room: Miss Stella, Miss Pimpini, Miss Rozena, Miss Fenny, Miss Chun, and Miss Yuki. Please find them if you have any question or need any assistance.

Until next month,

Clownfish educators

Jellyfish News

A warm welcome to Amelia and her family.

World Food Day



'World Food Day' is celebrated on 16th October each year. It has many objectives, one of which is to heighten public awareness of the problem of hunger in the world, as well as malnutrition and poverty. 'World Food Day is a great opportunity to help children understand that they are lucky to have food on their plate and what food means to someone

who doesn't have it.

We had a short discussion about healthy eating and what to do as to avoid food wastage.

During our discussion, the children showed interest in food as they started to name some of their favourite foods: carrots, broccoli, chicken, and lots more.

We extended on the children's interest in food at the home corner by talking about 'Yay' (healthy foods) and 'Nay' (sometimes foods).



Spiders and Web for Halloween



The children's interest in spiders and web came back when Penelope shared the photo of the Halloween decoration that they did at her home. She shared that her Dad did the spider webs, while her Mum put



some spiders on it. The children realised that we also have the same webs and spiders in our room, and from there, the children's interest in spiders has started to come back.



When they saw the paper and coloured pencils, they asked Miss Criselda to help them draw webs and spiders. Miss Criselda then encouraged them to add more spiders into the web, which they happily did. The children also helped in decorating our outdoor area for Halloween.

Reminders to Parents and families:

Sun Protection

We are a Sun Smart service. All children should bring a hat to centre every day, and shoulders should also be covered. Please do not send your child in singlets or dresses with straps.

Cancer Council NSW suggested that children should wear sun-safe clothing that covers as much of the skin, especially the shoulders, back and stomach as possible. This includes wearing:

- loose fitting shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered necklines
- longer styles skirts and shorts

2018 Re-enrolment form

2018 Re-enrolment form has been sent to families through e-mail. Please return the completed form as soon as possible. If you need a hard copy, please see educators in your child's room.

Christmas concert

We have started to prepare for our annual Christmas concert which will be held on Thursday, 21 December 2017.

Signing in and out

Please ensure you sign in and out your child daily – inability to do so may affect your child care rebate.

Until next month,

Jellyfish/Sunfish Educators

Lionfish Newsletter

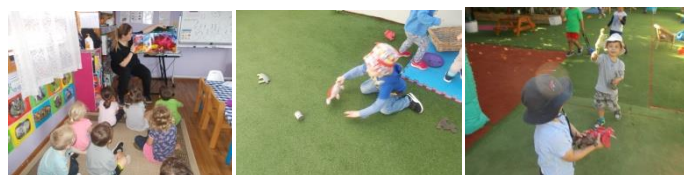
During the month of October, the Lionfish children have continued exploring the garden, discovering new things growing and different insects and other animals . The children have also continued to be great helpers caring for our garden, helping to water it in the mornings and afternoons. They have also been collecting natural resources such as leaves, buds and sand from the ground. We used these to create a nature collage together.



We have also continued our interest in using our imaginations to explore the sandpit using a variety of resources and equipment. We even added some recycled containers that have been brought in to extend on their play. They loved making cakes in these and other foods as well as just experimenting and transferring sand from one container to another. They have also continued their cooking interest in our outdoor home corner, either working in small groups or individually to create a variety of foods and drinks.



The children have also continued their interest in dinosaurs both indoors and outdoors. They have used them in role-play, making roaring noises as they make them eat each other. We extended on this interest by adding playdough and leaves to the dinosaurs which the children really enjoyed. We also drew dinosaurs using the plastic dinosaurs for inspiration and made paper plate dinosaurs. During group times we pretended to be dinosaurs, dancing to the 'Dinosaur Stomp'. We also continued researching dinosaurs using books and the internet.



At news time we have been talking about holidays and looking at photos that some of the children have brought in to show us. Some of them have been somewhere in Australia and others to somewhere overseas, so we have looked at maps and atlases to see where all these places are.

Our other news topic was about 'What I like to dress up as' as the children love role-play and are excited about dressing up for Halloween. Some of the children have brought in their dress up outfits or brought photos of them wearing them. We have also been making spider webs and drawing spiders to decorate our room.



We have been looking at different letters each week, including P, Q, R and S. We have been learning what sound they make as well as finding things that start with each letter and practising writing each letter on the whiteboard. The children are becoming very confident in their letter writing and some of them are even practising writing their names!



We have also continued our Munch and Move as the children request it every afternoon. They love dancing along to the music and doing all the movements and exercises as well as learning about healthy food and keeping their bodies healthy through exercise!

Until next month,
Lionfish Educators ☺

Starfish Newsletter



Starfish October Newsletter

‘Loose parts’ play – The children have been participating in enjoyable experiences using materials from their environments as they engage in play to investigate, project and explore their



own ideas. They have moved, carried, combined, took apart and put together materials such as seeds, plants, leaves, water, sand, pieces of bark, sticks and petals from under our grapefruit tree. The favourite has been making pizzas with the loose materials found in our environments!



The planet interest continues this month – After celebrating a child’s birthday early this month, it was suggested, “Shall we use one of his balloons to create a planet, like these ones up here?”



“Yeah”, the children simultaneously chorused and

decided that because the balloon was so big, they could create the largest of the planets in our solar system (it seems to be the

children’s favourite planet!!) Miss Rebecca also had some balloons left over from another craft and so suggested that we could use those to create smaller planets. The children then



used their imaginations and creativity to re-create the smaller planets that they had shown so much interest in lately. Some children worked collaboratively as they used the creative arts to paint and cover their own

paper mache planet Earth, adding browns, oranges and yellows to create the land as they discussed it with Mr Sim what the colours blue, brown and green represented. Some children transferred their planet interest to home time and brought back great drawings of their representation of the solar system! Additionally, the children have been given opportunities to extend on their planet interest and further their knowledge of the planets by looking at NASA

imagery using the computer. During transitions to outdoor for play, the children have been requesting and listening to the ‘Planets’ song on the class computer.



A planet song! – As a group, we first decided to write our own song for our end of year concert, like we did last year! And as the children's strongest recent interest has been planets, we decided on a space-themed song. The children are quite familiar with two space songs that they have been listening to and requesting often and on the next day, decided that they would actually perform to one of those favourite songs. Working collaboratively, the children came up with their own moves for the performance and we have been rehearsing this month with a lot of enthusiasm!



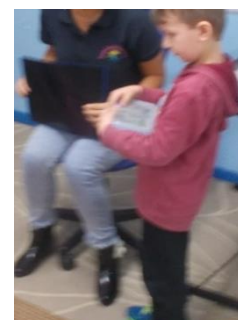
Halloween – The children just couldn't wait for Halloween as they frequently opened conversations about it and shared about their plans to dress up and go trick or treating. On a Friday (the 13th!), the children



started decorating our centre with spider webs and decided to create their own spiders to add to them, as they didn't think the webs had enough spiders. The spiders were created with recycled egg cartons donated by the families and they sure look



spooky! Starting from the 19th, the children started coming to Pumpkin dressed-up! The skeleton dance has been requested often as some children were getting in the Halloween spirit! As the children were often requesting playdough and we were out of it, we decided to make a Halloween themed playdough using black, green and orange. The children also made their own Halloween bags and enjoyed face painting.



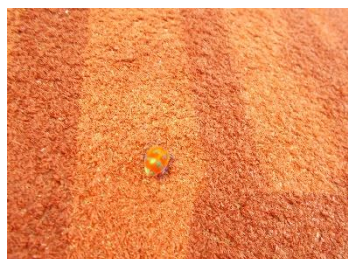
X-rays! - At the beginning of the month, a child shared a picture of the x-ray of his broken arm, telling the story of how it happened. The group listened to how he broke his arm and



made a connection between his broken arm and the Charlie and Lola book another child had recently brought in about Charlie breaking his arm and were assured that their friend's arm would soon be better soon, just like Charlie's in the story! Then, on the 20th, another child had some x-rays to share,



also of his arm! The group was very excited to explore them! He explained, “They put a red light on our and your arm on something hard. You need a special light to see the x-ray. But my arm is fine”. The children identified his fingers, arm and elbow in the x-rays. Another x-ray was brought in on the 23rd, this time of a child’s father’s shoulder and she explained, “He went into a big machine. I also sat in the doctor’s chair.” To give the children more information on the developing interest in x-rays as well as information of the machines that perform them, we used the class computer to research and investigate, explored the ‘Human Body’ book where the children showed curiosity and interest in the imagery, worked on the life-size skeleton puzzle and engaged in role-playing of getting an x-ray done.



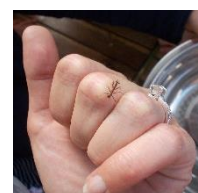
Look what I found! – The children spotted many little creatures this month and spontaneous learning experiences



resulted from these sightings! Exploring their own interests in the outdoor and indoor environments, the children spotted and observed many creepy crawlies, such lizards as they were sun-baking. The children were then given the chance to further their interest in learning more about the lizard on the computer, finding



out that it is a ‘Skink lizard’ and that their eggs are creamy brown in colour and very soft. On another day, the children were enthusiastic to investigate and observe a baby caterpillar that was nestled inside one of the gerbera flowers in our room. When inspecting closer, they made the discovery of not one, not two or three but of 7 caterpillars and had a little handle and closer look



as they used their senses to respond to what they could see and touch. They also found a fish fly and requested “Can we have a look at the fish fly on the computer” and “Can we look at the fish fly eggs as they hatch?” On another day, a child called out as he had discovered a baby Christmas Beetle through his explorations of the outdoor environment. When a very colourful stink bug flew on to Miss Catherine one day, the children were extremely interested in observing it as they huddled around her and watched it walked around her shirt. One afternoon, the children brought to an educator’s attention that they had found what they thought was a moth inside, hiding on the curtains. When observing it closely, they discovered it was a butterfly and helped to move it outside! On yet another day, a child said “Look I found something!” He spotted a baby praying mantis on the table. “Wow it’s camouflaged the same colour as the table, where would be a better place to put it?” Exploring the environment, he found some bark that matched the colour. “Here, we can give it a home there!” “Look I see a stinkbug and beetle, what type of beetle is it?” On the same day, Miss Tracey also ventured over to show the children a wetter insect she had found.

Additionally, the children started bringing in photos of the creepy crawlies spotted outside of pumpkin to share, such as of snails and more caterpillars! We love our natural environments!

Until next month,
Starfish educators