



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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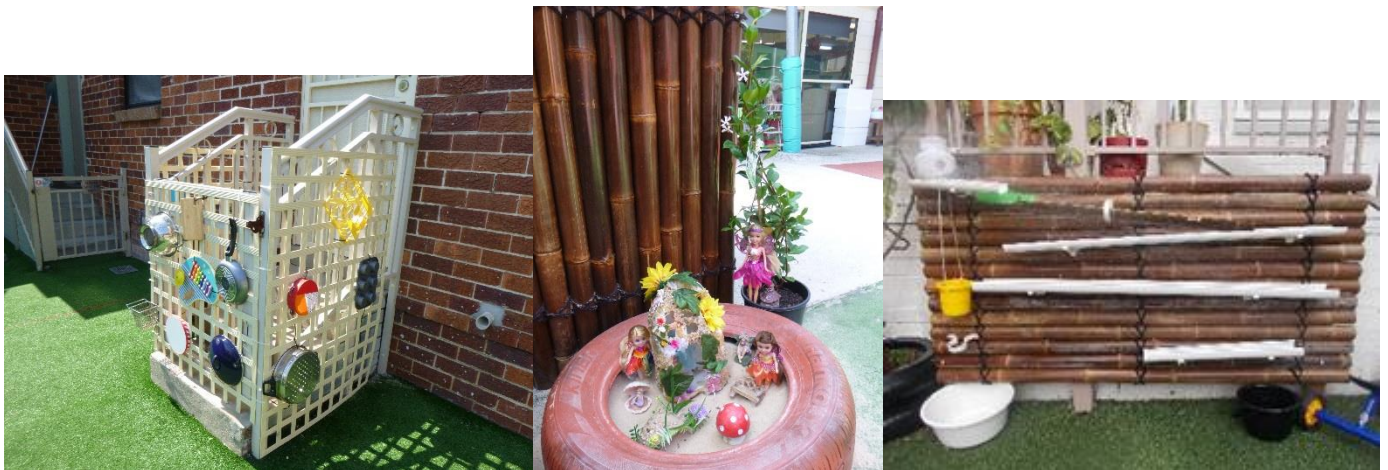
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## Newsletter – February 2019

### Centre News

We renovated and decorated our class rooms at Pumpkin, we painted the rooms, installed a new floor in the Starfish room. We also installed an interactive panel in the Starfish room for our pre-schoolers. Check out our bamboo fencing, we added the water fountains as well ☺

Children enjoyed the water and musical walls outside, Mr Stephen and the educators have been working together to create these walls.



# Calender of Events

**02<sup>nd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> - 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.

**04<sup>th</sup> – Monday – Maha Shivaratri**, Hindu tradition.

**05<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday - Shrove Tuesday – Pancake day**, day before lent begins.

**06<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday – Ash Wednesday**, the first day of Lent 2019

**15<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Red Nose Day**.

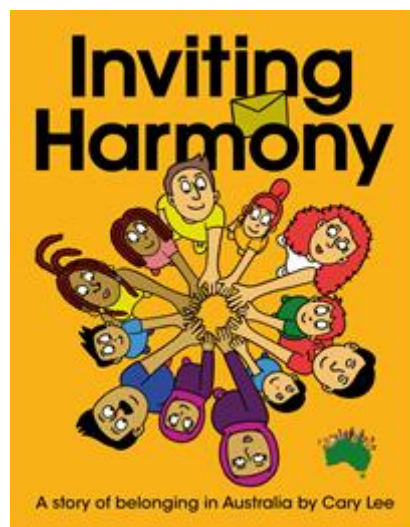
**17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday– St Patrick's Day**, come and dress in green.

**20 – 21/03/19 - Holi** – One of the major festivals of India.

**20 – 21/03/19 - Purim** – Jewish tradition.

**21<sup>st</sup> – Thursday – Harmony Day**.

**26<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday – Clean up Australia Day**.





## Clownfish News

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year. This month was full of celebration for our room. Firstly, we celebrated the **Chinese New Year** as some educators and children celebrate it every year. The educators introduced lion dance, red envelope and qipao (Chinese traditional clothing) to the children as those associated closely together. We had fun seeing the lion dance video where the children could not hide their amazement in seeing the dance, making our own custom red envelopes as well as trying out the qipao and posing for the photos. Secondly, we celebrated the **Valentine's Day** where the importance of expressing love to people in our lives is demonstrated. The children worked collaboratively to make "roses" from the red ribbons to mark this day.

There were two main interests that have been going on with the children for the month. **Baby role play** was the ever-present interest in the children. They took care the dolls by imitating how the educators took care of them such as putting to sleep, feeding them and playing with them. To further the interest, we prepared few activities such as baby care stations that include showering, changing the diapers, dressing up and sleeping.

Throughout the experiences, the children actively exercised their imagination and their knowledge in caring the babies.

Secondly, the children were involved in **healthy eating** and hygienic practices. We introduced the concept of healthy eating by reminding them to eat fruits and vegetables and be physically active. Moreover, we set up different methods such as cooking experiences (salad making and mango tasting), explanation of food



pyramids, art and craft activities as well as sensory activities). Furthermore, the children showed their understanding and independence with the hygienic practices starting from the hand washing and teeth brushing. Through this, the children broadened their understanding of their wellbeing and their health.

**Parent reminder:**

- Please ensure to pack spare clothes for your children as some experiences can get them messy or wet. As the weather keep changing, it may be a good idea to pack thin jumper for outdoor play
- Please remember to bring in a family photo for the family tree. The photo will be displayed in the room to support the children's sense of belonging
- Family input is very important for children's learning and development. Please share any information we could use and include into children's learning plans such as family weekend, current interest, favourite song/books or any exciting news 😊

Until next month,

Clownfish educators.



# Jellyfish News

Happy Lunar New Year to all families who celebrate!! Gong Xi Fat Chai ☺



Welcoming February with a big smile on our face! Warm welcome to Priscilla and Heidi to our room! Also our new friend, Nemo and Dori the fish (our new pet). This month, the Jellyfish children have been really busy exploring different science-related learning experiences. To begin with, we would love to share some photos of our new outdoor play setting which incorporated numerous recycled and natural elements, the children have been enjoying their summer time to the fullest!!



## Jellyfish outdoor set up early 2019



## Under the sea project



The sea creatures interest started when the children showed a great interest towards beach, sandpit, and fishes! The project introduced to the children various enjoyable sensory and science experiments, such as fishing, sea playdough, making glowing jellyfish in the bottle, jellyfish crafts, sea animals' movement, sea stories and many more. Lastly, we also got a chance to take a good care of our new fish pet, we named them "Dori" and "Nemo".

### **Space interest**



The second project that we had this month also challenged the children to imagine and contribute ideas. In this project, the Jellyfish children participated in various space activities, started from visiting a space station, riding a spaceship, looking at the moon and stars, reading a story about planets, shadow play, exploring moon rock, space playdough, and many more. Throughout this science learning experiences, the children actively engaged in their own learning and development. One of their favourite experience is the light and shadow play, where we used light sources to create shadows on the ceiling or wall forming various interesting shapes. The experience really kept their attention and focus.

*We would love to give big thank you to all parents/families that have contributed your endless inputs and supports to our learning curriculum. We are continually striving to provide high quality service to all children in our service, feel free to give us more feedbacks and ideas in regards of children's play experience or environments. Please send it to Jellyfish email ([Jellyfish.pumpkin@hotmail.com](mailto:Jellyfish.pumpkin@hotmail.com)).*

### **Parent reminder:**

- If your child is in the process of toilet training, please pack **3-4 changes** of clothes as our spare clothes is **limited**.
- Please share your updated family photos, send it to us, and we will print it out for you!

**Staff news:**

Due to her study timetable, Miss Stella will only work on **Tuesday and Wednesday** (2 days) start from the first week of March. Miss Maylene, Miss Rozena, and Miss Sabina are still in the room to organise and assist the room routine! Feel free to talk to them, send an email, or write on the family communication book in regards of children's needs or requests.

Until next months,

Jellyfish educators.



## Lionfish News

The Lionfish children are continuing to settle well into the routine with the Starfish children. We have had more new children move up from the Jellyfish Room and the other children have been very welcoming, helping them settle into their new room. We have developed our Room Rules together with the children's input and they are doing a great job following them! 😊



The Lionfish children have continued to show a great interest in role play throughout the month of February, both indoors and outdoors. They have used their imaginations and creativity as they prepare meals in the home corner areas as well as other areas of the playground. They have also enjoyed baby play, looking after their babies, feeding them, getting them to sleep and taking them on picnics. They even asked to take the baby dolls outside so they could continue their play.



They have also continued enjoying their interest in construction, joining in with the Starfish children, using a variety of construction pieces including, lego, project blocks and mega blocks to construct a variety of buildings, towers and houses to which they have added Superhero toys from the centre and those that they've brought in from home. They even made a zoo from the duplo blocks and added the zoo animals.



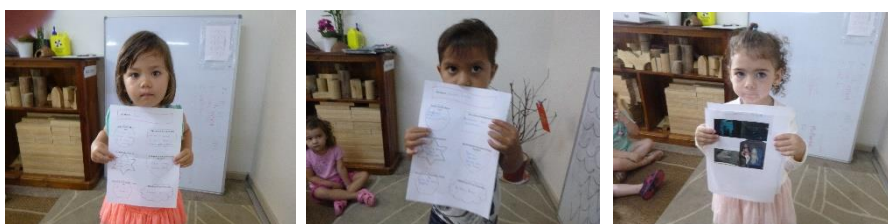
Miss Rebecca has also been organising a variety of art'n'craft activities for the children to participate in, including doing craft to celebrate the Year of the Pig in the Chinese New Year. The children used their imaginations and creativity as they made pigs, lanterns and lucky Chinese



envelopes. We also celebrated Valentine's Day and the children made collages using contact and crepe paper as well as their own cards to give to someone they love.



The Lionfish children have continued to be very enthusiastic about news, bringing in photos, toys and books and information about experiences they have participated in with their families. They have also continued to bring in their 'All about Me' sheets so that we can find out a bit more about their interests, family life, cultural background and aspirations.



We have also continued to revamp our indoor and outdoor environments making a Fairy Garden outside and adding a new fish tank to our room so that the children can learn to be responsible for a pet. The children have loved exploring the Fairy garden, using their imaginations as they role-play different scenarios using the fairies and accessories. They have also enjoyed watching the fish as well as helping the Educators to feed them when required.



The children have also continued their interest in learning to write, practising their fluency and pencil grip as they trace different patterns on the classroom whiteboard. The older children have continued practising their letter and name writing and number writing, either copying the letters or joining the dots of their names and numbers.



We have also been busy doing some cooking experiences after we learnt from our 'All about Me' sheets that some of the children enjoy cooking at home with their families. We made hedgehog slice together and are planning to do more cooking next month. If you have any favourite recipes, we would love to try them. 😊



Just a quick reminder, if you have any bottles or milk containers to recycle, we would love them to use as we revamp our playground. Also if you haven't already sent in your 'All about Me' sheet and your family photo could you please do so.

Until next month,

Lionfish Staff 😊

# Starfish News

The Starfish, Miss Elly, Mr Stephen, the Starfish educators and the Lionfish educators have been busy this month. Together we have revamped both the indoor and outdoor learning environment as well as adding new learning areas as reflected by the children's interest. Our next idea/area requires any old backpacks/handbags, gumboots, soft drink bottles and milk bottles. We please ask if you like to donate these items please give them to one of the Starfish and Lionfish educators. We will be extremely thankful.

Throughout February we have continued to learn about our Starfish friends, through they're all about me sheets. When doing so discussing the various similarities especially in regards to favorite foods, what they want to be when there older and what they wish to do this year. Please continue to bring the all about me sheets in and a family photo for our family sea wall.



**Our Fish...** This month the Starfish have welcomed classroom pet- fish! We started out with five small fish and then got three goldfish. Together we researched the type of fish we have and how we care for them. The Starfish enjoy looking at the fish through out the day and started to name them. So far have Millie and Sal, with the third name still up for suggestion. Feeding the fish has been an exciting group experience. When feeding the fish we discuss what the fish food looks like, how it smells also how we only give them a little bit.



**Valentine's Day...** The Starfish discussed with Miss Tracey about why we celebrate Valentine's Day. This furthered with the Starfish expressing verbally their knowledge and understanding. Together the Starfish watched a video about the origins of Valentine's Day and about how it is celebrated. We found out that we give someone a Valentine to show





them how much we appreciate them. After discussion the Starfish suggested that they should make something make their Valentine's and it was mums and dads, uncles and aunties and even siblings. Using a large heart shape from contact the Starfish decorated it using smaller hearts from the crepe, before sticking it onto coloured cardboard. Once again on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February the Starfish create some beautiful cards for their valentines. The Starfish used foam paddle pop sticks, glue and hearts to make a 'heart bouquet' inside their cards. Once done they decorated them by drawing, using glitter glue/loose glitter and assisted to write inside their card.

**Chinese New Year...** Miss Tracy spoke to the Starfish about what she had seen in our community at Circular Quay. The Starfish reflected on this and some Starfish shared that they have seen it to. We watch a video detailing the Zodiac animals and discussed the importance of not cheating and that even if we don't come first, that we should just do our best. When outside we created our own 'Zodiac' race. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February the Starfish explored how Chinese New Year is celebrated and learnt how this year is the year of the Pig. The starfish joined Miss Rebecca to create their own pigs. The Starfish also expressed their creativity when using pegs and pompoms provided as paintbrushes and glitter/glitter glue to decorate their 'Hong Bao' (Red envelopes), fans and lanterns. With reference to the Chinese New Year display at Eastgardens the Starfish hung their Hong Bao's onto a tree in their classroom.



**Dramatic/Imaginative Play and Cooking...** Most mornings and though out the day the Starfish have been observed using the home corner resources and even the sandpit to cook, have birthday parties and picnics. One child shared for his news that he made hedgehog slice at home.

This sparked discussion and lead to the Starfish working together with their educators and the Lionfish to cook hedgehog slice. We discussed the ingredients, measured, poured, mixed and tasted (everyone's favorite). It was ten out of ten and big thumbs up for the hedgehog slice. The Starfish continued with the cooking theme through using spices to paint and cooking utensils instead of brushes. When doing so discussing the various different smells and transferring



knowledge as to when they have tasted or smelt them. We have explored herbs growing outside and used our sense to further investigate them and other herbs brought it. This leading to discussion about what herbs we want to plant in our garden. We have begun to examine our news topic of healthy eating more depth. Together we explored the rainbow eating challenged and began to cook using fruit and veggies. The Starfish made bugs on a log. Which is cream cheese spread on celery, with sultanas added.



***Dress-ups and Fairy Garden...*** While outside the Starfish frequently request for the dress ups to be brought out. This providing a foundation for further imaginative play. We have had various mummies, daddies, princess, cats and countless superheroes



saving Pumpkin from the bad guys as the Starfish explained.

To further this Starfish have worked with their educators to create their own fairy garden and various fairy houses. The Starfish have expressed great creativity and their extraordinary imagination as they engage with the fairy garden. We are working to create more fairies and



decorations using recycled materials.



***Nature...***The starfish investigated the outdoor learning environment and made various discoveries. The Starfish firstly used magnifying glasses to examine the bird's nest



within the cage hanging from the grapefruit tree.

The Starfish engaged with the nature table, which has new logs, branches and sticks with various animal figurines and dinosaurs. A child brought in her collection of shells and sea glass, which she shared with her peers to closer investigate.



This was furthered enhanced by Miss Rebecca brining her extensive natural resource collection to examine. The Starfish collaborated with Miss Rebecca to discuss the type of shells and its features and characteristics such as shape and texture. Miss Nicole joined the Starfish to



create a nature mobile using shells and sticks, which is now hanging inside, above our reading area. The Starfish also found and further learnt about lizards and butterflies.



**Yoga...** Some Starfish have been participating in a yoga class every Thursday at 10am with Miss Katie (From Inner Child Yoga). If you would like your child to join please add them to the list located at the sign in/out area. Please

note additional fees apply.



Until next time,

Starfish educators 😊