



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter - November 2018

Centre News

Our centre will be closed for one week, we will be closed from **Monday, the 24th of December 2018** and reopened on **Monday, the 31st of Dec 2018**.

Our **Christmas concert** this year will be held on Friday, the 14th of December 2018 at 3.30 pm. All children and educators have been practicing very hard for their performances. Please make sure you save the date on your diary or phone so you won't miss it ☺

Pumpkin educators are wishing all families the blessings of a wonderful Christmas time. May the Christmas season bring only happiness and joy to you and your family. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and we look forward seeing you in 2019.



Staff Info

Miss Alessandra from the Starfish room will be on her maternity leave from Wednesday, the 02nd of January 2019.

Miss Elly will be away from Monday, the 17th of Dec 2018 and she will be back on Monday, the 07th of January 2019. Please email or talk to your child's educators in the room.

Miss Yuki will be away from Monday, the 31st of Dec 2018 and she will be back on Monday, the 07th of January 2019.

Miss Rebecca will be away from Monday, the 31st of Dec 2018 and she will be back on Monday, the 14th of January 2019.

December Calendar of Events

03rd - Monday – International Day of People with Disabilities.

08th - Saturday – Immaculate Conception – Catholic Tradition, feast day in honour of Mary, mother of Jesus was preserved from original sin.

14th – Friday – **Christmas Concert, 3.30 pm.**

23rd - 28/12/18 - Centre Closed for one week.

25th – Tuesday - Christmas Day

26th – Wednesday - Boxing Day

31st - Monday – CENTRE REOPENED

01st – New Year's Day – Tuesday- Centre Closed.

Clownfish News

Greetings everyone! Welcome to the last newsletter of the year from the Clownfish room. It has been a month full of celebration for Alicia, Cara, Olivier and Shaun which have their birthday. Happy birthday children ☺. This month, we saw developmental milestones achieved for Alicia and Cara who have started walking. All the educators were very thrilled to see that and cannot wait for other crawlers to join in walking around the room!

Seed planting and caring for our garden

The month started with the project of planting seed in our garden. For half of the month, we began the seed planting in our garden as the children showed their care and interest about what happening in our garden. Therefore, we prepared different types of seeds such as tomato and flower where the children were involved the process of planting the seed in the soil as well watering them. As we walk around in the garden, we found few animals that live in our garden such as snail, slug, worm and birds! The children showed their excitement in their adventure to look around the garden to care for the plants and spot more animals. Moreover, we had the chance to have picnic in the outdoor garden and indoor pretend garden where the children had relaxing time such as reading books and drawing.



Christmas is coming

For the other half of the month, the children showed their interest in the Christmas tree and decoration that were put up in the room to celebrate the festive season. We started to look at the tree, read the book about Christmas and even made our own tree and decoration. The room became more festive with the artworks that were contributed by the children. Moreover, the children have been practicing for their concert with enthusiasm and energy that we cannot wait to show it on the day!



Yeah and oo ohh!

In their play, the children showed tremendous interest toward constructing and hand eye coordination play. The older children loved to build tower collaboratively with the blocks up to half their height, watch it fall and then build it again. Meanwhile, the younger children have been exercising their hand eye coordination by trying to match the shapes in the places, sorting boxes, puzzle pieces or putting tacks into the holes. These plays help children to build their motor skills,



cause and effect as well as the object permanence that are beneficial for their development through the destructive play

Until next time,

Clownfish educators

Jellyfish News



Hello everyone! It's been another busy summer in the Jellyfish room. Finally it is our last newsletter before we begin the New Year! We are so thankful to see lots of parents/families contributing their ideas throughout the year. This month, we are still working together with families in terms of toilet training. Almost everyone in our room are trained, partnership with families is the essential key to achieve this outcome. We would like to give a big thank you to all of you

Exploring Japan and Australia culture



This interest project (cultural learning) started when one of the children shared some photos of her holiday to Japan. The Jellyfish children were encouraged to explore some Japanese words, games, sports (sumo), traditional dresses (called 'Kimono'), and cherry blossom trees. The learning was being extended as the children were sharing their enjoyment in expressing ideas and imagination through art activities. As the Jellyfish children showed great interest and curiosity towards cultural learning, Miss Maylene brought a globe to expand the children knowledge about the world they are live in. The children were also instructed to invent or draw their very own world map. One of our children noticed an Australia flag in the map, he kept mentioning Australia throughout the discussion. We then decided to do some research about Australia, even though it

seems that we already live here for such a long time. We still need to learn more about this country as Australia is one of the world's most ethnically diverse nations. We talked about some Australian animals such as koala, kangaroo, and wombat. , the research showed us some beautiful place or beaches in Australia that we have to visit. During the research we also learned that Aboriginal people is the first people who lives in Australia. Miss Stella then showed the children some pictures of aboriginal art in the book, then decided to let the children create their own aboriginal art associated with colours of earth colour paint such as brown, dark yellow, black, and red brick. The learning continued as the children spotted a blue area in the globe as water! We then further the investigation by exploring sea creatures and doing a science experiment using water, cooking oil, recycled bottler, and blue food colouring. The children had an opportunity to shake the bottle and saw the waves and big blobs of colour fall through upside down.

Healthy eating!



The interest project started from early November when families started to bring in fruits to share to Pumpkin such as strawberries, blueberries, and apples for breakfast. We then decided to further the learning by asking families what are the benefits for eating fruits. Families suggested to eat fruits as our primary snack instead of consuming sugary food (sometimes food). The Jellyfish children also spotted our strawberry tree in the garden which started to grow, we decided to use magnifying glasses to further the investigation of the unique seed-texture on strawberry skin. To further the interest, the children brought in their own lunch box filled with strawberries on the next

day for outdoor picnic. At the end of the week, we involved the children in fruit cutting experience where they had a chance to observe, learn, and taste it.

Move your body!



On the 20th, the learning continued as Miss Stella introduced the importance of physical activities in their daily lives besides eating healthy foods (Reference from Munch and Move). We did some research about type of sports such as football, basketball, tennis, golf, and swimming. The children showed a great interest and enthusiasm when it came to swimming pictures, they loudly expressed, “Swimming!”! It might be because families have been bringing them to the local swimming pool during summer! On the 21st, the children brought in their swimming suit to explore various water activities during outdoor play.

Farm animals’ exploration



Towards the end of the month, the Jellyfish children had an opportunity to explore various farm animals and its habitats. The children were exploring and expressing their imagination and creativity as the educators set some farm animal figurines and blocks to further the learning. The children were also invited to learn through creative arts such as visual images, animal sounds, music, and body movement (gallop like a horse, roll around in the mud like a pig, or even swim like a duck).



Parent reminder:

Please bring a bag for your child every day. The bag should contain **bed sheets (2 is preferable), a water bottle, a hat and a full change of clothes (suited for the weather)**. Please try to ensure that all belongings are labelled so we can make sure they return home at the end of the day. With the weather heating up, it is extremely important that your child can stay protected and hydrated during any outdoor play. A full change of clothes is needed for every child, so they can change if need be (painting and water experience can get them messy or wet!). Families, please keep us updated when something exciting happens so we can be sure to share the news! Please bring your family photos if you have not done so 😊

Staff news:

Miss Stella will be away on the 30th November – 15th December 2018. Miss Maylene, Miss Sabina, Miss Rozena, and Miss Yuki will still be in the room. If you have any enquiries or information regarding the children's needs, please let them know or write down in our family communication book.



Until next month,
Jellyfish educators

Lionfish Newsletter



On the 6th of November the Lionfish commenced discussion dealing with the Melbourne cup and watched a horse racing video. This was furthered through two children's news on Thursday the 8th. One child brought in a "Horsey balloon" as he described. Another children brought in a horse toy, which we learnt he brought "Because of the horse race! I saw the horse running on my mum's phone! Mummy was watching it and me too!" The Lionfish listened to the noises created by the horse, which in turn lead to an investigation of walking, pace, trotting, cantering and galloping on the class computer and even made their own horse sounds using their hands and legs.



On Sunday, 11 November 2018 it marked the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, which ended the First World War. The Lionfish watched a video detailing and explaining the importance of Remembrance Day. In response the Lionfish were provided with the opportunity to create their own purple and red poppies. Learning that the 'purple' represented the animals whereas the 'red' poppies represented the fallen soldiers.



Earlier this month the Lionfish children observed educators packing

away some Halloween decorations. This lead to a group discussion about the next celebration-

Christmas as the Lionfish enthusiastically shared. The Lionfish began discussing what Christmas meant to them, what they might see at Christmas. These responses were then used in a writing activity using the large whiteboards. Through out the month the Lionfish have been involved in various differing Christmas crafts and activities. These crafts provided an opportunity for the Lionfish to explore various differing art and craft techniques and methods. They even created their own Christmas tree ornaments!



During the month of November the Lionfish have been very busy continuing to rehearse for the upcoming Christmas concert. They have also work collaboratively with the aid of their educators, to make props to be used in their concert. The Lionfish will continue to keep rehearsing for the big day.

(Please Note: The children are invited to wear Christmas colours to the concert and it will take place on Friday, 14th of December from 3:30pm).



Through out the course of the month the Lionfish children expressed a heightened interest within the sandpit. While engaging with their vivid imaginations and working collaboratively they began to dig, sift, explore and create. We had various chefs cooking up delicious cakes and cupcakes, children digging to make a big hole and even children creating a volcano. Imaginative and dramatic play also extended inside where the Lionfish frequently role-played being mummies and

babies as they described. While inside the Lionfish also prepared countless picnics and meals, were they would invite their peers and educators to join in.



While outside the Lionfish worked together using the Legos, waffle blocks and mega blocks to assemble and construct. Working together they stacked blocks to top of each other to try to make the tallest tower, compared the height of the tower to each other and quickly knocked them down to start over again. We also had countless towers and zoos being constructed which lead the way to further imaginative and role-play.

Until next time,

Lionfish Educators 😊

Starfish Newsletter



Rehearsals! – As our end-of-year concert is getting closer, the children have continued to rehearse for it with a lot of enthusiasm! We have also been



discussing what type of clothes/props the children would like to wear during the performance and have decided on Christmas colours and bear ears (which the children have been creating this month)! Last month, we also started to create our own props to go with our performance and have continued to do so this month! We are now rehearsing outside with our props for the big day!

(Please note: The children are invited to wear Christmas colours to the concert and it will take place on Friday, 14th of December from 3:30pm).



My school – At the end of last month, many of the children started attending school orientations and have continued attending this month. This has created links in our program



between schools and Pumpkin as the children (and families) enthusiastically shared about their experiences. After one child brought in a t-shirt that said “I am going to big school next year” and spoke about her school items, the children were invited to share

some school items. This month, we also explored special things the children made at their orientations, role-played ‘big school’, discussed school buddies, new teachers and friends and

have been singing a school song after two children learnt it at a school orientation and taught us the song upon returning to Pumpkin.

My lunchbox - As most children prepare for their school transition, they have also been invited to start bringing in a lunchbox as part of their school preparation. This has led us to talking about what types of food we should and shouldn't pack in a lunchbox. Also this month, we have been having a lot of fun learning facts as we engaged with the fruit and vegetables



flashcards, read the 'The magic lunchbox' book (received from a kit in the mail from the NSW

Health Promotion Service) and danced and sang to the 'Lunchbox' and 'Fruity treaty' songs from our Munch and Move CD.

Melbourne Cup – On the 6th, the children engaged in a discussion about Melbourne Cup day and watched a short

video of horses racing. On the 8th, two children brought special things to share, a horse balloon and a toy horse! A peer asked, "Why did you bring your horsey" and the answer was, "Because of the horse race! I saw the horse running on



my mum's phone! Mummy was watching it and me too!" We then heard a sound of galloping coming from the horse. Miss Rebecca asked the children if they wished to learn more

about the different types of movements that horses do and facilitated a group-time for the children to watch and see the differences and similarities of walking, pace, trotting and cantering/galloping on the class computer.





Remembrance Day Video and Craft – Marking the important day on our calendar, we discovered that the 11th of November 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, which ended the First World War. Therefore, we decided to watch a video about the importance of Remembrance Day. The children were



introduced to soldiers and animals that were on the battlefield. They also were invited to create their very own purple and red poppies, learning that the purple represented the animals, whereas the red poppies represented the fallen soldiers.



Decorating our room – After one child brought in a Christmas wish list she made, we decided to also get in the Christmas spirit and started decorating our room. The children just loved



creating Christmas related craft and putting our Christmas tree up, as well as decorating it! Our room looks great! Ms Elly bought us many new Christmas books and the children have loved reading them this month. The children were also invited to share about their plans for Christmas/end-of-year.

Games – In the beginning of the month, the games interest carried over from last month with the children continuing to show an interest in creating their own games, as well as playing 'Duck, duck goose' (and variations of it such as 'Unicorn, unicorn, goose'), our 'Pop goes Froggie' game and putting puzzles together.



Nature interest – The interest in nature has been present throughout the whole year for the Starfish children and it was



no different this month! The children have continued to notice a lot of changes in our gardens and during their morning and afternoon teas, the children have been continuing to collect seeds found

in their vegetable and fruit scraps. The interest was extended with some more seed collecting and also planting!

Until next year,

Starfish educators