



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter – November 2020

### Christmas this year

Dear parents and families,

Christmas is coming! Due to COVID-19, unfortunately we cannot hold our Christmas concert like before, but the show must go on! The children will still be performing this year, but we will record it and publish the videos in our Storypark app.

We will send another email or notice with the dates, so you can dress your children up on their performance day.

***Our centre will be closed for one week, we will be closed from Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2020 and reopen on Tuesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2020.***

We also want to thank all of you for your support this year during this unprecedented time.

Kind regards,

Elly Tjanterik



## **December Calendar of Events**

**03<sup>rd</sup> - Thursday** – International Day of People with Disabilities.

**08<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday** – **Immaculate Conception** – Catholic Tradition, feast day in honour of Mary, mother of Jesus was preserved from original sin.

**18<sup>th</sup> – Friday** – **Proposed Centre Christmas Party**

**21<sup>st</sup> - 25/12/20** - Centre Closed for one week

**25<sup>th</sup> – Friday** - Christmas Day

**26<sup>th</sup> – Saturday** - Boxing Day

**28<sup>th</sup> - Monday** – **CENTRE REOPENED**

**01<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day – Friday** - Centre Closed



# **Clownfish News**

Welcome to the last newsletter of the year! This month we welcome Bonnie and Leo to the room and cannot wait to see them grow and have fun with us. We also celebrated Brooklyn's birthday who turned two 😊

## **Exploring senses**

At the beginning of the month, the children have been exploring and using their senses. Experiences have been prepared around that such as exploring musical instruments, textures, colours as well as motion. The children explored the musical instruments, dance, and song by shaking and tapping the instruments as well as singing and dancing to nursery rhymes. Their favourite songs so far have been "The Wheels on The Bus" and "Freeze Dance".

Also, we explored colours by using the colourful light box, chalk painting with corn starch and coloured sensory jars where the children were experimenting with colours and expressing their ideas through painting.

The last one was exploring texture. The children have been exploring texture such as sticky, soft, smooth, or rough through materials in their everyday life. For example, sand, flour, salt, rice, a mixture of oil and flour.

## **NAIDOC Week**

NAIDOC Week is a time to reflect and celebrate the rich history, culture and achievement of Australia's First Nation Peoples and this year theme was Always Was, Always Will Be. To raise awareness in children, we started to do Acknowledgement of Country with the children







during morning group time, shared Dreamtime Story and music. We also made our handprint in the colour of the Aboriginal flag, where Red represents Earth, Yellow represents Sun, and Black represents the people. We also made our representation of the Rainbow Serpent with black, red and yellow. The Serpent represents one of the great and powerful forces of nature and spirit. connected to water, the rainbow serpents are the great life-giver and protector of water which is his spiritual home.

## Animals exploration



Animals exploration was another interest in the room during the later month of November. The children and educators discussed about the animals name, sound and size (big and small). The children have been showing their enthusiasm



in imitating the sound and movement during the book reading. Educators have prepared



experiences such as hunting the animals in the

cupcakes tray, with play dough and painting to extend it. Moreover, Miss Chun brought a bird nest from her backyard to show and prepared to make it with the children 😊

## Ball play

Last interest that was evident in the room was ball play. The children have been exploring with different types of balls, small, big, spiky, and smooth as well as learning to use their motor skills by throwing, rolling, picking up and kicking the balls. We even made our pins to play bowling with!

**Dear parents, this month has been unpredictable month so far, so there please remember to pack short sleeves and shorts as well as thin long sleeve in case the weather changes. Thank you!**



# **Jellyfish News**

**A big welcome to our new friends, Josiah Irish and Bianca!**

**Reminder: Photo days (group photos only) – Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of December.**



**Melbourne cup** – To mark Melbourne Cup, Miss Sinni provided the children with a horse craft after a short discussion. The next day, the children combined their water play interest with the horse learning by washing horse figurines in the water. The group were engaging and playing cooperatively, sharing the recycled cups and bottles to rinse the horses and enjoying squeezing the sponges and rubbing the horses clean. Finally,

Miss Sinni showed the children a video with facts about horses. Miss Sinni then engaged the group in an open-ended discussion to explore their knowledge about horses. The group learnt about what food horses like to eat, the type of walks they do, such as learning that they can walk, gallop, trot and run!

**We love our environment!** – With the heavy rain at the beginning of the month, the children had been finding that our water table was filled with the rainwater and have been using this water to water our gardens. As they watered the garden on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Miss Pimpini noticed that we had a big bunch of parsley, she then grabbed scissors to cut the parsley, and the children reached out to Miss Pimpini and verbally asked 'I want to cut too!' As they were cutting the parsley, they found a big snail and two baby snails and talked about them eating the leaves. Miss Sinni then discussed with the group that we should eat healthy food like the snails, because vegetables are good for our body! Also, on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Miss Elly told the children that we have lots of other herbs in the Starfish playground, so we decided to have a short tour there. As we walked, we spotted mints on the way and lots of rosemary! Wow! The children used their senses to smell the herbs. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, the children were excited to see a large butterfly fly and land on the plants, as they all laughed and chased after it until it flew away. The children then joined Miss Catherine in listening to a butterfly book and engaging in a discussion about the butterfly life cycle afterwards.







**Snails** - On the 4<sup>th</sup>, Ava decided to look for snails in the garden, initiating a snail hunt once again (interest initiated on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September). "Look, Alex! I found snail. Ohhh, it's just the shell". We decided to go look for more snails since Ava



was disappointed that she had only found the shell. Miss Alex found a snail for them to explore, up high on the fence. As the children were worried about a snail falling off the wall, Miss Catherine told the children about the slime, explaining that it helps the snail to stick on things. The children also enjoyed using magnifying glasses to explore more about small and big concepts (a continuing learning topic) as they looked at snails. Miss Pimpini then suggested looking at the worms from our worm farm and the children enjoyed exploring them with the glasses too as they spotted big and small worms! The Jellyfish children love exploring relationships with other living and non-living things! 😊

**Dinosaurs** – The children love dinosaurs! After Sonny brought his dinosaur toy to share with us, we extended the interest in dinosaurs by engaging in a dinosaur footprint painting. They dipped the dinosaur feet into the paint and stamped it onto the recycled cardboard box. And to continue their learning of small and big concepts (started on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October), Miss Sinni asked the children to pick one dinosaur and together, they found the smallest biggest and medium sized dinosaurs! The children have also been enjoying combining water play with dinosaur play as they enjoy giving them baths!



**Our Christmas concert** - Miss Alex initiated a discussion with the children on the 5<sup>th</sup>. She shared that we are now in November and that Christmas is coming very soon, next month in December, which means Christmas concert! Together, the children and Miss Alex chose two songs to perform to. Miss Alex also explained that this year will be different, as we will perform without families present watching and instead, we will film the children performing



and we will share the videos through Storypark. The children have been having a lot of fun rehearsing this month. We look forward to performing soon! We will continue to rehearse until the big days. **Families: We are planning on performing (for the camera) on Tuesday (15th of December), Wednesday (16th of December) and on Friday (18th of December). All three days, we will upload the videos of the performance here on Storypark. You are welcome to dress your child in Christmas clothes on all three days or to pick one of the three days if you prefer. 😊**



**Naidoc week** - To raise awareness towards Naidoc Week 2020, Miss Sinni intentionally read a book called 'Father Sky and Mother Earth' to the group on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Miss Sinni also showed the children the Aboriginal Flag, talking about the meaning of each colour. Miss Sinni then asked the group whether they wanted to do hand painting to celebrate Naidoc

Week. Miss Sinni also set up a lovely corner with resources for the children to explore as we marked Naidoc week. Miss Alex invited the children to choose a story from there to be read on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Ava chose one, "I want the kangaroo". Together, we read and discussed the book, a story from the very small Aboriginal community of Belyeun. The story spoke about the animals going hunting for bush tucker. Miss Alex became an intentional teacher, leading the children to learn more about bush tucker. In the story, we saw pictures of an example of bush tucker, long yams. Further, we discussed it being food native to Australia and used as sustenance by Indigenous Australians, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Miss Elly has now bought bush tucker plants for our garden! We have been exploring them closely! And to extend their interest in Kangaroo book reading, Miss Sinni then cut a kangaroo shape from the cardboard and the children worked collaboratively in making a collage, sharing the resources and taking turns patiently. Finally, the children created a rainbow snake after reading about it.





**Remembrance Day** - To mark the day, the watched a video called "Here They Come - A Day to Remember". Miss Angel engaged in interactions with the children as they discussed further about the meaning of the Poppy Flower.



**Numeracy and Literacy** - Alicia shared pictures from her birthday, which led us to numeracy learning after spotting the number 3 on her cake. Miss Sinni then discussed the concept of age/number with the group. Miss Sinni wrote numbers 1,2,3 on the board to extend on the numeracy learning. We then together sorted the group into group age 1, age 2 and age 3. Miss Sinni then counted 1-

10 with the group in English. Ava initiated to count in Tongan when



being asked which language they wanted to learn today. Miss Sinni used technology to show them how to count in Tongan. The children have since been engaging in lots of fun numeracy and literacy experiences such as combining

letters and numbers in their water play, short word puzzle completions and bigger, floor puzzle completion of the alphabet and numbers 1-10. The children also engaged in 'Counting all around' book reading, with dinosaurs' letters connectors, used the whiteboard and individual whiteboards for letter/name writing!



**Christmas is coming everyone!** - Miss Sinni has started to decorate the Jellyfish room and the children enjoyed joining in the tree decoration! We have been reading Christmas books, the children wrote letters to Santa and decorated pinecone ornaments! 🥰

Until next month,  
Jellyfish Educator





# Lionfish & Starfish Newsletter

## General Messages:

- Please frequently check Storypark for any messages or keys dates
- Christmas concert and graduation will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. These will be filmed and posted onto Storypark.



**Sandpit...** A reoccurring interest from October is that of the sandpit. The Starfish and Lionfish have been busy expressing their imagination and



creativity. We have countless chefs cooking up a storm, various mermaids and children excavating. The Starfish and Lionfish have frequently investigated the transferring of sand between various containers. This being furthered through using various recyclable materials, loose parts and different sized



funnels. The Starfish and Lionfish have also requested the larger trucks and vehicles in the sandpit too.



**School Orientations...** This month the Starfish children are beginning their journey onto primary school, through school orientations. Throughout November the Starfish happily shared about what they did and saw at their school orientations. We have read various books including “Daisy’s First Day” and had countless discussions about primary school. This provided the foundation to explore what happens at school and how school is similar and different from Pumpkin.



**Construction...** The interest in construction is still in full force. The Starfish and Lionfish have been constructing with an array of resources. This including magnetic blocks, Lego, mobilio and waffle blocks. Examples of creations include cars, transformers, houses, suitcases





and helicopters. Once finishing creating the Starfish and Lionfish have commenced engaging in dramatic play. **Gross Motor Activities...** While outside the Starfish and Lionfish have effectively demonstrated their balance, coordination



and gross motor skills through various obstacle courses. Most days the Starfish and Lionfish move into the pergola with educators and select what resources they want.

Once outside they commence cooperating and collaborating to create their obstacle course, before confidently moving through it. The Starfish

and Lionfish have also been employing their fine and gross motor skills as they engaged in various ball games and ball skills. This including but not

limited to soccer, cricket, basketball, throwing, catching and skip balls.



**Fish...** The Starfish and Lionfish have shown an interest again in the Starfish fish tank. During various times throughout the day the Starfish and Lionfish will frequently observe the fish swim and comment on how big they fish are and what they are doing. To follow on



from this we visited the Jellyfish fish tank to explore the similarities and differences. The Starfish and Lionfish also assisted and observed Mr Stephen cleaning the fish tank. The Starfish and Lionfish created their own origami fish and created an ocean scene for the fish. Using various



books and the interest the Starfish and Lionfish have joined educators to research fish and other sea animals. This was further through Starfish and Lionfish children sharing information about various fish and sea animals for news.





**NAIDOC Week...** During November we celebrated NAIDOC Week. Miss Nicole introduced NAIDOC week before showing the Starfish and Lionfish this year's poster. The Starfish and Lionfish began discussing the various patterns colours and what they saw in the poster



before creating their own interpretations. A Lionfish peer brought in a boomerang, which inspired the Starfish and Lionfish to create and design their own. Miss Nicole introduced the Starfish and Lionfish to Esme Timberly (Elder from the La Perouse area) shell art works. The Starfish and Lionfish explored how shells are used to make various patterns on various items. Using shells donated from the local area the Starfish and Lionfish created their own shellworks.



**Remembrance Day...** On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November the Starfish and Lionfish researched what is Remembrance Day. When doing exploring the importance and symbolism of the red and purple poppy and listened to the Last Post. The Starfish and Lionfish also created their own field of poppy through an artwork.



**Road Safety...** On November 15<sup>th</sup> till the 22<sup>nd</sup> it was road safety week. During this week the Starfish and Lionfish explored how they can keep themselves and others safe around the road. To introduce the topic a book was read which highlighted how we keep



safe in and around cars. To further this outside, we explored road signs and created a road scene for the Starfish and Lionfish to practise how to keep safe.





**Christmas...** The Starfish and Lionfish have been already spreading the Christmas spirit. They collaborated with educators to set up and decorate our room Christmas tree. The Starfish and Lionfish have

frequently shared photos of their Christmas trees, decorations



and brought Christmas toys to share. There has been countless craft experiences, such as Christmas wreaths, baubles and trees just to name a few. The Starfish and Lionfish have also been preparing for our end of year Christmas concert and graduation, which they are very excited to share with everyone.



Until next month,

Starfish and Lionfish Educators ☺ ☺