



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – January 2018

Centre News

Welcome back to a new and exciting year at Pumpkin! We have sent out the News topic and All About Me's forms to all families. We believe that everything parents and families do interest children and these events, no matter how big or small are the best educational resources you can provide for the centre. We use these events in our curriculum/program and the ideas explored from your weekend can last for weeks. This allows you to see firsthand what we do and your child sees that there is a connection between home and the centre. This also strengthens the learning link.

As a part of the continuous improvement required by the National Quality Standards, we will be focusing on: engaging in open, meaningful interactions with children. Please let us know if we are not picking up your child's nonverbal cues. Please also find attached the Parent Survey with this Newsletter, your feedback will be greatly appreciated and used to maintain or improve our high quality standard here.

Christmas Concert 2017

What a successful concert we had last year! Thank you to all the parents, educators and of course the children that worked and practised so hard in preparing for the concert.





Calender of Events February 2018

4th – Sunday – World Cancer Day

13th – Tuesday - Shrove Tuesday – Pancake day, day before lent begins.

13th – Tuesday – Maha Shivaratri, Hindu tradition.

14th- Wednesday - Valentine's Day.

14th- Wednesday – Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent 2018

16th- Friday – Chinese New Year (Year of Dog)

22nd – Thursday - Parent Information Night at 6.30 pm.

28th – 01/03/18 - Purim – Jewish tradition, Purim celebrates Queen Esther's saving of the Jewish people from Haman, advisor to King Ahauerus of Persia. The traditional practices of Purim include public reading of the book of Esther, feasting of charity to the poor and gifts of food amongst friends).



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Clownfish News

We would like to welcome everyone to the first month of the year 2018! We hope you all have had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and are ready for the great year ahead.

We welcome all our new friends Alexander, Alyssa, and Ailsie to the room and hope they enjoy their time with us. 😊

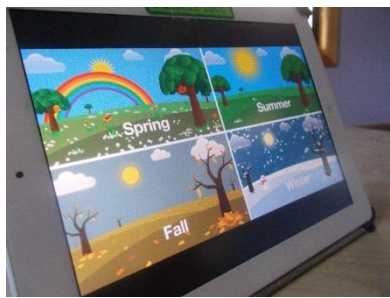
The Clownfish children have been building a strong relationship to their peers and educators as the children were also heard

verbally making a request and expressing ideas. **A rainbow project** has been strongly grabbing the children interest, the interest started when one of the children noticed a rainbow during out weather discussion. The interest was being extended by further

discussing primary and secondary colours, making our own rainbow with shredded papers and also introducing a rainbow parachute activity where the children could contribute some ideas “How to play with the parachute?”

The Clownfish children also have been involved in a lot of **drawing experience** where they could explore their imagination and develop their fine motor skills. **‘Taking turn’** has also been becoming the on-going discussion between educators and peers, on 24th of January Miss Stella decided to read a book in relation to that topic. The children were

being reminded to help each other during pack away time, sharing toys, and taking turn during play experience.





Happy Australia day – On 24th and 25th of January, the Clownfish children had a chance to do some research regarding Australia and the national flag as well as identify some shapes and colours on it. Miss Stella ended the discussion by introducing our national anthem “Advance Australia Fair” and encouraged the children to sing along.

Parent reminder:

- Please ensure to label all your child’s belonging (water bottle, milk bottle, bottle lids, bed sheets, etc) to help educators identify their items.
- Please remember to bring in a family photo for our family tree as it will be displayed in our room to support the children’s sense of belonging.
- Family input is very important for children’s learning and development. Please share with us any information we could use and include into children’s learning plans. (Please fill in all about me form/share family weekend via email/children’s current interest at home)

Until next month,
Clownfish educators.

Jellyfish/Sunfish News



January Birthday Celebrant:

Penelope- 10th January

A very big welcome to our new friend Hunter and his Family.

We are currently updating our family tree for 2018. We want to ensure that all families will be included, so if you haven't done so, please send us your family photo. Thank you.

Christmas concert:



Fantastic performance in our Christmas concert, all the children did very well. Thank you to all the families who helped their children come in dressed in red and white with Santa hat. They all look fabulous.



HAPPY NEW YEAR:



With the New Year everyone was excited to see each-other after a long break. The children welcomed back their friends with a big smile. In the beginning of January Children showed many different spontaneous interest from sand-pit, construction building blocks, water play, ball games, quiet reading, pretend play, kitchen corner and many more. As the children's imagination is boundless, the children like to express their creativity through collaborative play such as



castle building, dinner preparation, dinosaurs hunting and many more. Moreover, the children learned more about letters, numeracy and mathematical concept such as big, small, heavy and light through their play.

Australian Day



To celebrate Australian Day which is fall on the 26 January, we made little project with the children. Firstly, we made Australian flags where the children made a blue colour base with white stars.



Furthermore, we made Opera House themed art from paper plates on blue papers which represented the skies. The children worked with enthusiasm to finish their project beautifully.

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:

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

Until next month,

Jellyfish/Sunfish Educators

Lionfish News

It's a brand new year in the Lionfish room! We have said bye to some old friends who have moved into the Starfish room, and invited in quite a few new friends. The Lionfish enjoyed sharing what they had received over Xmas with their friends. We also looked at our Calendar and reviewed the days, months and also the year change. The Lionfish have always shown an interest in animals. Particularly, this month, they have shown an interest in zoo animals, using them in role-play experiences as well as building homes for them using a variety of blocks.



The Lionfish have also shown a particular interest in building and constructing things this month. They have been using their imaginations to build with all different types of blocks. They have made cakes, even adding candles. they have also constructed houses, garages and other buildings.



The Lionfish children have also continued their interest in role-play . During outdoor play, they enjoy using the dress ups to create different characters and scenarios. They also used their imaginations, playing families and taking on different roles or pretending to be their favourite Superheroes. They have also continued to role-play in the sandpit, making cakes and discovering hidden treasure.



They have continued their interest in cars and trains, particularly during outdoor play. They have worked together, assembling the train track or even the obstacle course to use their cars or trains on. They have even tested other surfaces to see how their cars move.



They have been eager to show and talk at Newstime about things that they have brought in from home. We will be emailing an updated News roster in the next few weeks, following the children's interests.

We celebrated Australia Day by making a few different things. Miss Tracey talked to the children about Australia Day and how we celebrate and the Australian flag. We made our own collage, using recycled leaves that we collected in the garden, depicting togetherness to display in our room.



We have really enjoyed getting to know our new Lionfish (as well as some new things about our older Lionfish). Just a friendly reminder to bring in a family photo so that we can update our Lionfish family tree! Soon, we will also be sending out some 'All about me' sheets if you could please fill these in, and bring them back. This will help us to gain a better understanding of each child and their background, as well as what they like/dislike. Also, please try to remember to label all your belongings, so that we can avoid losing things, or getting belongings mixed up with others.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead with lots of learning and fun! If you have any questions or queries please feel free to ask one of our staff or email the centre.

Until next time,

Lionfish Educators :)

Starfish News

This month we have welcomed new peers who have transitioned from the Lionfish room and we have been enjoying getting to know them better! We have also farewelled many of our school friends this month and wish them all the best for the next step in their education! Also this month, we have been inviting family members to send us recent family photos (please email us your family photo if you have not done so yet!) to be added to our lovely family tree, which has led us to getting to know more about our peers' and their family members, as well as learning that all families are different.

2018 Rules – Ms Alessandra explained that like our family tree, we should also update our room rules. She read out the rules set by the children last year and encouraged the children to think about what rules they would like to set for this year to ensure we all have happy and safe days together all year long! Our 2018 rules have now been set by the Starfish children!



My news - The children started the year with lots of news to share, getting straight back into news time! They excitedly shared lots of stories, videos and pictures and showed many interesting items, such as a 'Prehistoric timeline' of dinosaurs and maps from holidays. The children have been able to reflect back on their learnings from last year in



regards to the importance of symbols after many peers brought in maps to share. For instance, there were two similar maps shared which contained images and symbols depicting forms of transport and areas visited within the Blue Mountains as well as in Taronga Zoo, which sparked the children's interest in animals further, leading onto discussions and more sharing (see below). The children also explored maps from Luna Park and a water park in Queensland after friends visited both places.

Animal interest – The children enjoyed exploring an animals' book brought in by a friend this month. They exchanged knowledge of elephants, beetles, weaver birds, panda bears, ostriches... The day after a discussion about jellyfish, a child brought in a book about sea creatures. The book got us exploring starfish, hermit crabs, rock-fish and of course, jellyfish! On the 10th, another child brought in a box of cicada shells he collected during the holidays. He was encouraged to pass the box around for everyone to get a closer look. This led us to talking about cicada sounds and shells. Researching online, we found pictures of cicada shells like the ones he found and even one of a cicada getting out of its shell!



We also watched a video of a cicada making its loud sound and learnt that the high-pitched song is actually a call made by the male to call out the female cicadas and that each species has its own distinctive song! Also, we discovered that cicadas are the only insects capable of producing such a unique and loud sound.

Readings and learning more about ocean creatures – As one of the extensions of the sea creatures interest, Miss Nicole read a book called ‘Three little fish’ based on the ‘Three little pigs’, which the children found very amusing as they listened, calling out animals that they recognised as well as reading along with her. During news group, a child called out “When I went to the beach I saw a blue dragon eating a bluebottle!” Which so happened to be a big coincidence as Miss Rebecca had actually taken videos and pictures of them at the beach. The children were curious and watched the video of the ‘Glaucus Atlanticus’ moving around after repeating the name noticing that it was camouflaged perfectly for the water. On Miss Rebecca’s phone, the children were able to observe a bluebottle fish - bluebottles that had rainbow colours in them and then used the class computer to look more into the camouflage of the Blue-Dragon.



Importance of Fruit and Vegetable - During the children’s morning/afternoon tea times, we have been noticing that quite a few children are avoiding the fruit/vegetables. To increase their awareness of the importance of eating these for their growing bodies, Miss Rebecca asked “Would you like to listen to a couple of songs on the computer about the fruits and vegetables that you are eating?” The children were eager to watch and listen to the songs and were encouraged to use their senses to respond to what they heard and saw, “See if you can spot the fruit and vegies that you have chosen to eat today!” The first song played for them was called ‘The Vegetable Song’, for which went through



the A-Z of vegetables and after it had finished, other children suggested ‘The Fruit Song’ and each of the children were overheard repeating the names of the fruits. Throughout the month the children have continued to request the songs! Additionally, the children have carried over from last year the strong interest in collecting seeds during meal times. Our collection of seeds is getting quite big (see below)!

Feeding the Worms, Seed collecting and “Can we plant our seeds?”

– Also carrying over from last year has been the children’s interest in feeding and handling our worms. And as our seed collection is getting very big, it was suggested, “Where can we plant our seeds children?” “Over here!” the children directed Miss Rebecca as to where they wished to plant them. “What’s that?” the children spotted something on the leaves of the Gerbera plants that had sprouted. “Shall we have a closer look and see if we can see what is making a yummy feats out of our plants?” Gathering around, the children spotted the culprits, “There are three caterpillars on there and one over on that plant! They are very hungry caterpillars!”



Australia Day - The children celebrated Australia Day this month by talking about what Australia Day means to them. Additionally, they



were invited to bring in something that is Australian to them. The children brought in Australia flags, the ‘Six white boomers’ book, ‘My Aussie dad’ book, A-Z book of all things Australian, showed Australian accessories and tattoos and shared Australian animal toys such as a wombat, a platypus, kangaroos and an echidna. As a group, the children requested to explore our A-Z book of Australian bush creatures which led us to discussing various Australian animals such magpies, orange-bellied parrots, possums, wallabies...We also explored the Australian map in the book, finding Tasmania after talking about Tasmanian devils. Listening to our national anthem was another request and we sang along to The Wiggles as they sang it in a video we chose to watch. Some children also created their own representation of the flag. Finally, as we continued to explore our friends’ family photos, we spoke about the many cultures that now call Australia home and the children reflected on their own families.



Introducing our Name/Number Writing sheets to the new children - Our writing sheets are ready for 2018 and the new Starfish children were introduced to their own sheet this month. The children were keen to get started and after tracing their names and being shown how to copy them in the lines underneath, they quickly found the numbers on the other side of the sheet and have continued their writing on their own.





Our **Webbing Wall** is ready for the new year of programming. Our programming starts again from the 29th of January, as do our topics. The news topics follow the children's interests and will be set accordingly. We will

provide new topics as children's interests are observed and shared. All families are very welcome to share children's topics of interests noticed outside of Pumpkin, to be further explored. We will try to stick to the usual fortnight period, however we will also be flexible as we follow the children's lead. Whenever there is a new topic of interest, we will send an email out and continue to place it on our Notice Board and on top of the sign in/out sheet. Bring on the 2018 interests, children and families! Our current topic of interests are: Nature interest (seed collecting/worm farm feeding); Animals (especially sea creatures and Australian animals); Maps from holiday places/activities and the introduction of our name writing sheets has been a success! The children have been initiating their own name writing daily!

Until next time,

Starfish Educators :)