



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter – March 2018

### Centre News

As winter is approaching fast, please make sure you dress your child in warm clothes and bring a jacket or jumper just in case they need it when they play outside.

Please also bring some spare clothes for your child for changing if needed.

### Easter Hat Parade and Eggs Hunting

*Thank you to all the parents for preparing the Easter hats and joining us for our eggs hunting. All children had fun with their hats parade, they also found lots of Easter eggs. May you and your families have a peaceful holiday, and a happy and holy Easter!*







# **April Calender of Event**

**01<sup>st</sup> - Sunday** – Easter Day.

**02<sup>nd</sup> – Monday** – Easter Monday, Centre Closed.

**30/03/18 – 07/04/18** – Passover, Jewish Holiday.

**06<sup>th</sup> – Friday** – Walk to Work Day.

**18/04/18 – 19/04/18** – Yom Ha Atzmaut, Jewish Holiday.

**25<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday** – Anzac Day.





# Clownfish News

Activities and interests that occurred during the month of March:

Children were introduced to the three stages of colours which consisted of the primary, secondary and tertiary colour wheels.



Secondary colour, mixing blue and yellow to result 'green'. Wow!!! Children looking with amazement in their eyes as the experiment unfold.

## CREATIVE MOVEMENTS!!

The children were seen doing various kinds of movement copying and mimicking each other. They use their physical skills to engage in dance and creative movement.



## BABY ROLE PLAY!



Children showed some role playing with the baby dolls. We added medical equipment to their dramatic play. They extended their own ideas and interest with enthusiasm, imagination and creativity.

## Alphabet and Numbers!



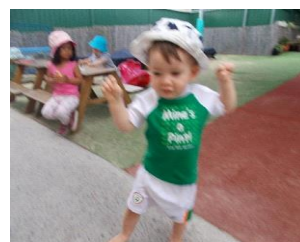
We learnt from the twin's (**Erin and Xavier**) Mum that their current interest is singing the alphabet, especially Erin. To extend upon the twin's interest, we read the ABC book for our group time. Aside from learning the alphabet, the children also had fun identifying the things that start with the corresponding letter.

### Special events and celebrations:

**Sea Week 2018** – Children were given an opportunity to be involved in a hands-on activity making a 'sea in the jar' where children can find-out more about 'what is in the sea?'. Some of the children have never seen or felt these sea items before. Children thoroughly enjoyed it.



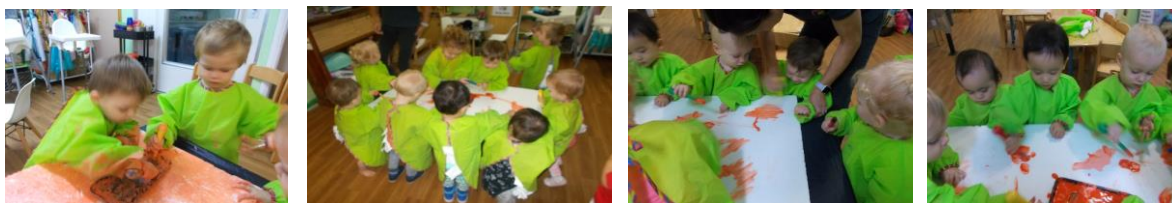
**Happy St Patrick day** – Lilly, Alexander, and Neo were seen wearing green. We played some Irish music throughout the children play. We incorporated our celebration of St Patrick with some hand painting of green colour, during the hand painting we introduced to the children and showed them 'the four clovers leaves'.



**Harmony day** is celebrated throughout Australia on 21<sup>st</sup> March. It's about inclusiveness, respect and the sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. The central message for harmony day is: 'everyone belong', which reinforces the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians.



For our activity on harmony day we had a Styrofoam canvas donated by Patrick's family, we did some painting of orange colour which signifies communication and meaningful conversation.



### Easter Celebration:

Easter Bonnet parade



and egg hunt.



### Great moments:

- Congratulations to Alexander who started walking in mid-March. watching his first few steps was remarkable.
- Two of our young babies has advanced from puree to solid food (Zayne and Alexander).



Happy birthday to all our March children.

Anastasia Burgess and Zayne Smith.

## **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 as colder season approaches.

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

Until next month,

Clownfish Educators

# Jellyfish News



Welcoming Losa and Kobi who have just joined the room. As you may have seen from our learning stories and art displays around the room, we have been very busy throughout this month! The Jellyfish/Sunfish children have been learning about various projects which were primarily based on their own interests.



**Secondary colours** - At the beginning of the month, the children were involved in a wonderful project to see how primary colours mix and create secondary colours. Red and blue can be mixed to become purple, red and yellow to become orange, and lastly yellow and blue to become green. This experience provided an opportunity for children to exercise their scientific thinking of making predictions, observations, comparisons, and experimentations.





**Sea week 2018** – We also celebrated sea week this month (New Zealand’s annual national week about the sea). This year the theme is *“Toiora te Moana – Toiora te Tangata – Healthy seas, Healthy people”* which highlights our connections with the sea and the ways we can keep our coastline and seas healthy for all. Some of the Jellyfish/Sunfish families donated several sea shells for the children to further their exploration. The children discovered and identified different kinds of sea creatures, painted sea shells, went sea shells hunting and experimented with beach themed sensory play.



**Water play and sand pit** – The children have also been requesting these all-time favourite sensory explorations. They were seen using their imagination and motor skills throughout the experience. The children were offered various materials and physical settings each day to encourage their little imaginations to grow.



**Spontaneous creative movement** – This interest started when one of the children instructed the group to roll their hands, followed by another child who creatively demonstrated how we can move our body upside down and showed some facial movements to entertain the group. The children

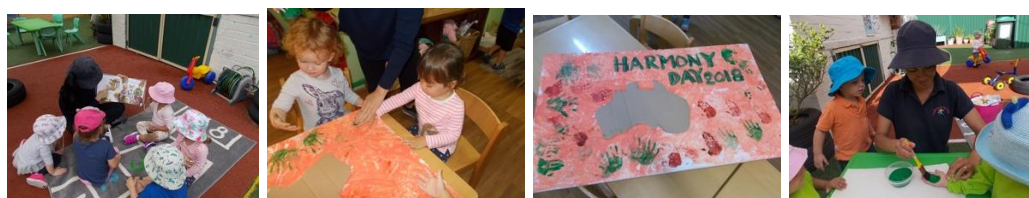
also had the chance to experience meditations (this experience came up from the family input) where we learned deep breathing exercises and help us to balance our emotions before we start the day. Throughout this project, the children were seen connecting their creative movements with self-expression and learning while enjoying the freedom of physical activity.



**Role play** – This interest came up from one of the children in our room who just had a twin baby sister. The interest continued as the children showed enthusiasm looking at the photos and role playing. This is followed with setting up some role play tools and stories. The children were seen enjoying their small group interaction with peers and educators.



**Alphabet and Numbers** – We often heard the children mentioning numbers and alphabets throughout their play experience. The children began to connect their play experience with the pattern of counting during block activity, sorting activity, transportation, and others. Educators have been giving them lots of opportunities to explore, recognise, and name numbers as well as alphabets. Flash cards and alphabet magnetic boards were offered to the children to extend their interest towards alphabets and practice their alphabet recognition.



**March Celebration** – On the 16<sup>th</sup> we celebrated St Patrick's Day, where some of the children wore green and we listened to traditional Irish music. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, we celebrated Harmony Day and had a discussion of the importance of respecting one another. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, the children had a blast during their Easter hat parade and egg hunting. The children came to Pumpkin with their very own

decorated Easter hat. They spent time creating arts and crafts to celebrate these celebrations. Well done! We would like to thank all parents for the support!



**Parent reminders:**

- Please make sure that all belongings brought to the centre are labelled to ensure that the item is not misplaced
- Please send an appropriate change of clothes as the weather is getting cooler. Please make sure they are labelled clearly.
- We are completing our family trees, please bring one in if you haven't done so.



Until next month,

Jellyfish educators



# Lionfish News

During the month of March, the Lionfish children have continued to settle in really well to the Starfish Room. They have continued to improve and become really confident with their self help skills, helping to set the tables at every meal time as well as making their own beds.

The Lionfish children have also continued their interest in books and literacy, being encouraged to bring in their favourite books for news time to share with their friends. We have learnt about Dinosaurs and also practised our rhyming skills while reading Dr Seuss books and a variety of other books. We have also enjoyed some humorous books.



The Lionfish children have also shown a great interest in drawing which has extended to letter and name writing. Whenever they are doing a drawing, they practise writing their letters and ask an Educator to write any letters they are unsure of so they can practice them. We have also provided the children with laminated writing sheets that are available for them to practise on whenever they want.



The Lionfish children have also shown a great interest in role play this month, confidently expressing their identity through dramatic play. They have used various resources as props to re-enact various scenarios. They have pretended to be different family members, ice cream sellers, princesses, monsters, robots and a variety of super heroes. They have also enjoyed role playing cooking, either in the home corner area, inside and outside, or the sandpit.



They have also enjoyed practising their ball skills, throwing, catching, bouncing , kicking and rolling the balls. They have used the basketball hoop and also the soccer hoop that was donated by one of our families. They have enjoyed learning the rules as well as practising their turn taking and sharing skills.



They have also continued to use their imaginations and creativity with a variety of blocks and building resources. They have made houses, castles, tracks for their cars and trains and even robots. They have also used recycled materials to make roads for their cars, joining the Starfish children and painting recycled cardboard and paper towel rolls to create roads and also a car track with Miss Rebecca's help.



On the 16th March, we celebrated St Patrick's Day. The children were encouraged to dress up in green, and learnt about St Patrick and what he stands for. To keep in the theme, the Lionfish and Starfish used green paint to create green shamrocks on the day as well. We have also been preparing for Easter this coming weekend, making a variety of crafts and having on the 29th March we had an Easter hat parade and an Easter egg hunt for the children to participate in.



Hope everyone has a great Easter and we'll see you all after the long weekend!

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators ☺

# Starfish News

**Recycling!** - The children's interest in recycling was still present this month! The children continued to bring in recycled items from home, with a special interest in egg cartons. Exploring different cartons brought in, we spotted chickens, chicken coups, nests, numbers, farms and farmers. That led us to talking about farm animals and the produce they give us. We made a connection between a chicken laying eggs and those eggs being at

our home to be eaten. We explored this process through a book about a farmer (Jobs that people do). The book also explained the process of cows providing us with milk. The cartons brought in by the children have been used to create beautiful art by them. For example, following last month's interest in dinosaurs, the children created their own, massive egg carton dinosaur and a couch for it with more recycled materials brought in by the children, educators and families!

**Roads, car tracks and bridges** – The children have been showing a strong interest towards creating car tracks, bridges and roads using our blocks inside and parts from our balancing frame outside. Combining this interest with our recycling/upcycling interest, the children created a great, big car track (with bridges, of course!) using the resources brought in by them and recycled here at Pumpkin! They also created traffic signs for their car track and we will further explore signs during our excursion to Heffron Park next month!

**Literacy interest continued** – The children have been using scissors to practice cutting along straight lines (a school readiness skill!). They have combined this practice with their literacy interest by cutting letters from magazines and creating collages with them. The children have also been enjoying writing sensory experiences, such as writing in sand and in paint. Together with Ms Nicole, they have created a fishing letters game and have often requested to play with it this month!





**Our new outdoor kitchen!** – The children have been enjoying engaging in dramatic play in our new outdoor kitchens. There has been a lot of ‘cooking’ going on over there this month!



**Games interest continued** – The children continued to show an interest towards physical group games, such as playing soccer with a soccer goal that has been given to us by a father who is a sports teacher at a local school. Indoors, the games interest has also continued, with the children often requesting and playing games together, such as air hockey.



**St.Patrick's Day** – The children were introduced to the Shamrock, as Ms Rebecca showed them three-



leaf clovers, brought in from her own collection. Passing around a plastic version of the four leafed clover/shamrock, the children looked closely and were able to see the similarities in the real ones compared to the fake one. The children were then involved in a short video where they watched the story of St Patrick and were given the option of choosing what they wished to create



for their St Patricks Day craft. Combining the children's interest in volcanoes (see below) with our St Patricks' Day celebrations, the children participated in making a large green volcano. The children were also given the chance to participate in a craft where they will be able to use blocks and sponges to create their own 3 and four-leafed Shamrocks. Additionally, Miss Tracey and Miss Rebecca got up and danced the 'River-Dance' in front of an Irish Flag brought in by a child, with the children tapping their feet under as well as listening to some traditional Irish instrumental music. During their rest period, they were able to listen to more, hearing the flutes, drums and other instruments played by the Irish people.

**Volcanoes** – After a child was showing his peers the volcanic rocks in his collection from a recent holiday during playtime, a group was facilitated. With Miss Rebecca's help, the children did a little research where they watched the same volcano that the child had visited with his family in Hawaii. And it was erupting, cooling down and then cracking through the ground's surface! Seeing as the children were so enthusiastic in doing this, Miss Rebecca went through one of our



volcano books and found the recipe for the volcano experiment, reading it out to the children. To extend further on the children's interest in looking at the rocks, Miss Rebecca provided her own collection of volcanic, ocean rocks and fossils and shells for the children to investigate further, using the magnifying glasses and sharing them in a large group. After creating their own volcano, the children joined together excited to do more experimentation with their newly created volcano and two smaller ones from last year. They experimented with the chemical reactions that occur when mixing vinegar with baking powder and bi-carb soda, as well as added primary colours together to create new ones. After watching all three of the volcanoes erupting, the children were able to use trial and error and strategical thinking to guess which eruption would be bigger and what colours the 'lava' was going to be.

**Easter** – To give the children ideas for creating their Easter hats for our parade, they were shown an example created by Miss Rebecca and her son. The children were excited to hear that Easter was coming up and that they would be able to start their creating their Easter hats and baskets for our parade. They were encouraged to create and decorate their hats as they wished and started counting down sleeps until the day!



**Harmony Day** –  
The children had a  
busy day on the

21<sup>st</sup>, marking Harmony day! They



cooperated with and worked collaboratively together to put a world puzzle together. During news, two friends shared traditional clothing from Bangladesh and Vietnam! Looking through our World Atlas book, we spotted many countries and the children enjoyed

spotting the native animals from these countries. The book was further explored the children, as they explored more flags. Also during news, another child shared a video from the All blacks team performing the Haka. Before lunch, Ms Nicole read a story called 'Whoever you are' which talked about different places, different foods and different people. Finally, one of the children's donated recycled cardboard became a canvas as the children also marked Harmony Day by making a beautiful piece of group artwork using orange, the Harmony day colour!





**Dramatic/Imaginative play interest** – Towards the end of the month, the children started showing a strong interest towards imaginative play, games and songs. They often requested to play and sing to songs such as 'What's the time Mr Wolf', engaged in lots of role-playing with dress-ups and pretended to be educators, which has resulted in a 'classroom' being set up outside for the children to continue and further this interest!

Until next month, Starfish Educators 😊