



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter - October 2018

### Centre News

We have sent out the 2019 Reenrolment form, please return the form to staff or email it to [Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au](mailto:Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au).

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

Our **Christmas concert** this year will be held on Friday, the 14<sup>th</sup> 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☺

### Halloween at Pumpkin



## **November Calendar of Events**

**31<sup>st</sup> – 01/11/18 – Samhain** – Festival marking the end of the Harvest Season.

**06<sup>th</sup> – 10/11/18 - Diwali**– Hindu tradition, Festival of Lights, this festival celebrates knowledge over ignorance.

**06<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday – Melbourne Cup Day**



**11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Remembrance Day** - remember to buy a poppy and wear it to childcare, we will also be making our own poppy's.

**15<sup>th</sup> - Thursday – Steve Irwin Day**

## **Clownfish News**

Welcome to October newsletter and this month we celebrated Alyssa's and Christian's birthday. Moreover, this month is the month of milestones achieved for our crawlers where they started to stand up with help or on their own. Clownfish educators are very thrilled to witness the development achievement and cannot wait to see them walking!

We started the month with the children's interest in the transportation toys where the children were so into the trains and cars. The educators scaffolded their interest with different types of activities such as shared book experiences, painting, creating your own train and pretending on car rides. The children were able to express their imagination and creativity as well as develop their verbal communication and social skills.

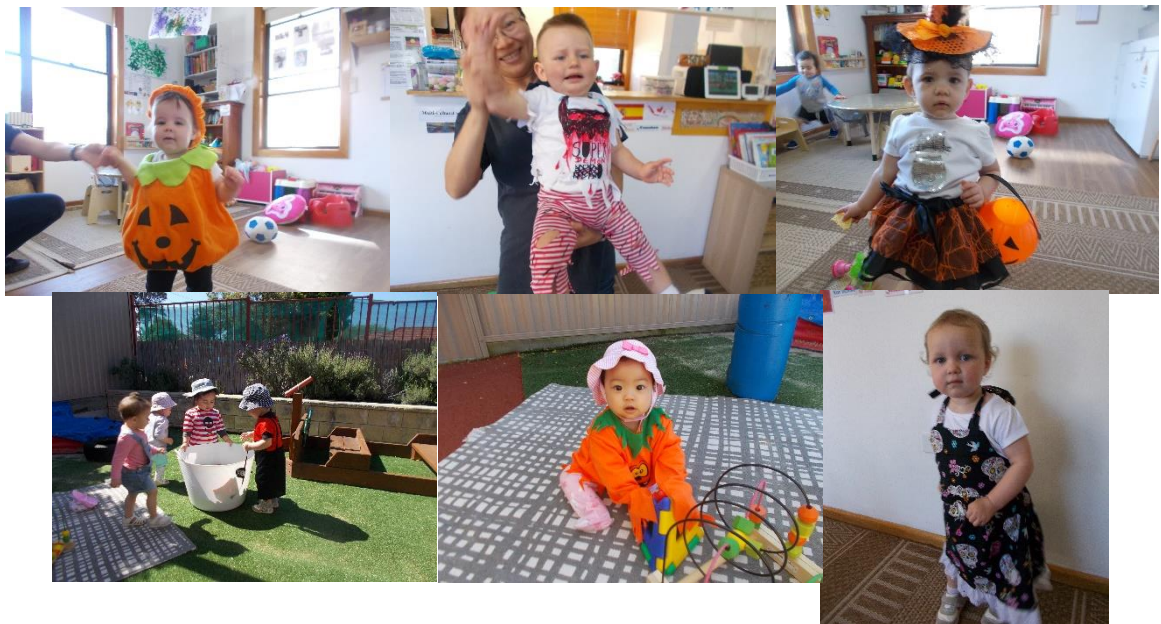


In the second half of the month, the children became very interested into the pretend play that involved kitchen toys and baby dolls. The children were seen exploring the kitchen corner for a long time whether alone or with their peers. The older children expressed their imagination by pretending to make cakes, pizza, drinks etc while the younger children explored the corner using their senses. Moreover, educators planned their experiences by bringing different resources such as pretend picnic, pizza making, toast making, cakes painting and play dough. moreover, as the older children saw the educators cared for the younger on in the room, they started to copy the actions by using the baby dolls. The children were able to transfer their knowledge into their play by pretending to put baby dolls to sleep, putting the seat belts on and walking the dolls around.





We closed the month with our celebration of Halloween day where the children came to the center dressing up in the spooky characters. The educators further added up their knowledge with the explanation of the Halloween customs such as trick or treat, the pumpkin basket, skeletons and spiders etc. The children showed their wonder in their surrounding decorations that involved the pretend spider webs, spiders and their artworks that were being displayed.



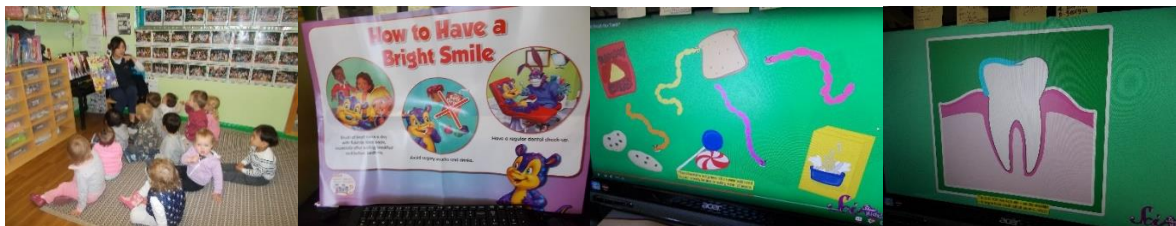


# Jellyfish News

Hello everyone! It's been another busy month in the Jellyfish room. It's almost the end of the year! We are so thankful to see lots of parents/families contributing their ideas throughout this month. This month, we have been working together with families in terms of toilet training. We have attached a useful link for you to get a better understanding of some signs of readiness to begin toilet training.



<https://aussiechildcarenetwork.com.au/articles/parenting-articles/toilet-training-toddlers>



**Oral health** – Earlier this month, the Jellyfish children were showing a big interest towards oral health. The interest was extended from the cooking interest that happened at the end of September. The Jellyfish children were encouraged to brush their teeth at least twice a day and to eat healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables (not only sugary food, which often get their attention more!) They were also informed that the dentist would



come to visit them on the 17<sup>th</sup>. During the project, the Jellyfish children had a chance to practice their teeth brushing next to their peers. Some of the children proudly brought in their own tooth brush and tooth paste to further their own learning. We also discovered baby teeth inside our mouth, tooth fairy, bacteria that might stay in our teeth if we do not take care of our teeth, and other interesting facts about tooth.



**Dinosaur “roar!”**– Dinosaur was another topic of interest this month. We got to know some of dinosaur’s food, sounds, sizes, and names during various exploration. The Jellyfish children frequently engaged in interesting conversation in relation to dinosaur. They had an opportunity to

further the knowledge and interest through various inquiry based activities such as making a paper mache, making dinosaur eggs, making a frozen dinosaur egg, painting a dinosaur land, and many more. They also often applied their mathematical knowledge in counting and sorting mini dinosaurs. Several dinosaur-themed book also being brought by the families to support their learning experiences.



**Creative arts** – we had many rainy days this month, we kept the children busy by creating an opportunity for them to practice their fine motor development. Observing the children’s keen interest in cutting. We decided to offer more cutting resources such as different shapes of kid scissor



(child-safe) and origami. The children were persistent throughout the experience. At first, many of the children had not had access to scissors before and educators slowly demonstrated to the children how to use the scissors correctly and safely in order to enable them to be able to cut the paper. It was not an easy task for many of the children, however, they persisted. Many children are able to snip the ends of a piece of paper and with lots of practice some children have mastered cutting through a piece of paper. Cutting allows them to build up the tiny muscles in the palm of their hands, as they have to continuously open and close the hand during the ‘cutting’ movement. The ‘cutting’ experience can also improve a child’s hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and concentration.



**Halloween** – Jellyfish celebrated halloween this month! The Jellyfish children were given the opportunity to create their very own halloween art and craft. Throughout the week, families have contributed various ideas in supporting the event. On the 30<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup> ,all Jellyfish children were experiencing pride showing off their halloween costumes! We had a lovely group photos, face painting experience, scavenger hunt, and more halloween related activities.



**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 😊

Until next month,

Jellyfish educators



# Lionfish Newsletter

During the month of October, the Lionfish children have continued exploring the garden, discovering new things growing and different insects and other animals . The children have also continued to be great helpers caring for our garden, helping to water it in the mornings and afternoons when it has not been raining. We have also continued planting seeds that have been sent in by families.



We also talked about Dental Health and going to the dentist to prepare the children for our visit from the dentist on October 17th. We read books and looked at information and videos on the internet. On the day of the visit, the dentist who was accompanied by a large tooth, talked to the children about looking after their teeth and what foods were good for your teeth, giving a demonstration on how to brush. The children knew what to expect so were happy to sit in the chair while they had their teeth checked and/ or cleaned.



As it has been quite a wet month, we have spent time indoors, doing puzzles, playing games, using our imaginations and creativity building with the blocks and train tracks and role-playing in home corner. We have also shown an interest in animals after Hunter brought in some photos of his visit to a farm to share. We have role-played with the plastic animals, making farms and also enjoyed singing 'Old MacDonald had a Farm' together and read books about farms and farm animals. We have also continued practising our songs for our Xmas concert at the end of the year.





When it has been fine weather, we have continued enjoying riding the bikes, bouncing on the bouncy balls, building and climbing on the obstacle course and sandpit play. We have also enjoyed creating great constructions using the mega blocks and large plastic blocks.



We have been talking about Halloween as we approach the end of the month and as the children love role-play and are excited about dressing up for Halloween. We have also read some Halloween stories as well as listening to some on the internet and also looking at some children 'Trick or Treating'. Some of the children have brought in their dress up outfits or brought photos of them wearing them. They have also been pretending to paint each other's faces in their chosen characters. We have been making Halloween decorations for our room, including bats, spiders and pumpkins. We have talked to the children about what they want to dress up as for our Halloween parade and also the week of Halloween.



The children are becoming very confident in their letter writing and some of them are even practising writing their names! We have personalised writing sheets and also encourage the children to practise their fluency and pencil grip.

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators ☺

# Starfish Newsletter

**Nature interest continued** - While outside in the playground, the children have been noticing that the flowers planted by them have been opening up and that the tomatoes have been growing!

“Have a smell and tell me what you think”, Miss Rebecca

encouraged the children to use their senses to explore our gardens! The children have also discovered some snails in the garden, “Look we found snails!” And added, “Some snails don’t have shells” and were reminded that they are called slugs. The children were also encouraged to smell the sweet-pea flowers and pig faces that opened, noticing that the petals tickled their noses. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, Miss Rebecca found quite a few packets of flower seeds in our room and suggested that we could also sew some in the extra pots that Miss Tracey had found. Miss Rebecca explained the names of all of the seeds, “This one has sunflower seeds, these are marigold seeds, this one is called ‘Alyssum’, those are the strawberries, these are Californian poppies and this packet

has some sweet pea seeds”. The children were then encouraged to add the soil to the planter pots, pat the soil down, poke a hole in the dirt and then choose their seeds to sprinkle and cover over. The group spoke about the differences in the size and colour of the seeds they had chosen. Miss Rebecca also brought in some Mulberries to introduce to the children. As the children were enjoying their morning tea, they were each given a berry and asked what they thought of the taste and look of them. It was wonderful to see the children trying new fruit as Miss Rebecca explained that these berries grow on a very big tree in her backyard, with the berries being very popular to eat along with animals finding them irresistible.

**Halloween** – The children just couldn’t wait for Halloween as they started opening conversations about it and shared about their plans to

dress up and go trick or treating from the 15<sup>th</sup>. The children started decorating our centre with Halloween craft after a child requested,







“Can we make some bats?” As well as dressing up outside in preparation for Halloween, the children came up with the idea to use the xylophone as a face paint board and stick to apply it to her friends faces, asking them what they would like to be and to choose the colours from their ‘palette’. To give the children a better understanding of the Halloween celebration and what to expect to see within their community, the children were given the chance to view some video footage on the class computer of children and their families making



their way around dressed in costumes, knocking on doors and asking and treats and performing tricks. “I can see a witch!”, “I can see Snow white”, “I see a ghost!”, “There’s a skeleton”, the children were overheard responding to what they were watching and hearing. Miss Rebecca explained that not everyone dresses up in scary outfits, that some dress up as favourite cartoon characters, superheroes/villains as well as what we normally think of, including skeletons, witches, vampires, monsters, ghosts and other ghoulish costumes and masks. Miss Rebecca asked the children, “This year do you want me to bring in my face painting kit for Halloween?” “Yeah!” the children responded excitedly. Combining Halloween with our literacy interest, Miss Rebecca suggested “How about we practise writing some Halloween words on the mini-chalk boards?” The children have also enjoyed watching some short Halloween stories on the class computer. Using the videos as inspiration, the children created their own pumpkin Jack-lantern, choosing its emotion, from happy to scared! The children were excited to see their happy and scary Pumpkin Jack-lanterns being hung up in the classroom next to their scary spiders and bats. With Ms Yuki, they also enjoyed dancing to the Skeleton Dance! Starting from the 29<sup>th</sup>, we had Halloween face-painting and the children came to Pumpkin dressed-up!



**Dentist visit** – As we were having a visit from the dentist on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Miss Tracey continued (interest started in July) talking to the children about dental health and visiting the dentist to get them prepared. They read books, watched short videos on YouTube about dental hygiene and discussed their experiences with looking after





their teeth! We talked about where we might sit, what the dentist might wear and what equipment he/she might use whilst checking and cleaning our teeth. The children were eager to join in the conversation, telling Miss Tracey about what type of toothbrushes they use or about their previous visits to the dentist. Sometimes and everyday foods came up during these learning experiences too. When the day finally came and the children were having their turns in sitting in the chair and getting their teeth checked, they were able to see the tools that were in the story read out, noticing that they looked very similar, learning the names and uses for the items through listening to the dentist's explanation. The children learned more about; dental tweezers, mouth mirrors, dental scaler, dental probe, suction device, special toothpaste and electric tooth brush. The children were given a demonstration as to how to brush their gums and teeth correctly by Pearly the 'Tooth' using her very large tooth brush. The children were excited to hear that they were going to get a toothbrush once they had finished and did extremely well in lying down and adhering to instructions given to them by the dentist and assistant.



**Games!** – Starfish children have shown much interest in creating their own games this month, using the assortment of bouncy and hopper balls, hoops, tyres as well as other resources and equipment to further express their ideas. It is wonderful to see the children using their own imaginations and creativity to create their own throwing, bouncing and balancing games along with using their language skills to the relay rules and then confidently demonstrating how to play in front of their peers and teachers.

Until next month,

Starfish educators