



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter - October 2017

Centre News

Dear parents and families,

The winter is over now, we are entering the month of October from next week. There are 3 months to go until the Christmas holidays. Our centre will be closed for one week, we will be closed from Monday, the 25th of December 2017 and re-open on Tuesday, the 02nd of January 2018.

In this Newsletter, we have attached the 2018 Re-enrolment form, please return this form to staff or email us on: Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au.

Pumpkin Educators

October Calendar of Events

All Month – Energy Awareness Month.

02nd – Monday – Labour Day – Centre Closed.

04th – Wednesday – The Walk to School Day.

16th – Monday – World Food Day.

20th – Friday - Loud Shirt Day – Wear a loud shirt and help deaf children.



19th – 23/10/17 - Diwali– Hindu tradition, Festival of Lights, this festival celebrates knowledge over ignorance.

31th - Tuesday – Halloween Party – come dressed up as a spooky person, “Trick or Treat?”

Clownfish News

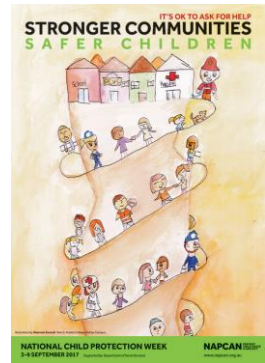


Over the month of September, the new children in the room have been exploring their surrounding and getting familiar with their educators and peers, and everyone has settled in very well! We also have been busy exploring various projects, which have been initiated from the children's interests. One of our goals this month is to concentrate on Sustainability, where the children could learn how we can do our part for the environment, such as caring for plants and using recycled materials for our learning experiences. We would like to thank parent/families that have been donating all recyclable materials for the children's learning experiences.

We started the month by celebrating father's day at the Centre, we painted recycled jars to make a candle holder for all dads! Thank you daddy, we deeply admire you! ☺



National Child Protection Week led us to a discussion of "Helping", "sharing", and



"Caring", the children were being reminded and encouraged to use their hands in good ways like helping, cuddling, holding, and catching. Not for hitting, pushing, and snatching. Some of the Starfish children visited our room too to share their perspectives about this topic (**Kids teaching kids week**).

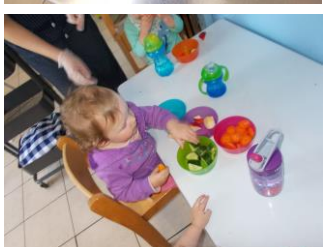


Spring is in the air, the first project that the children have learnt about is

"Around the garden", We noticed the children's enthusiasm in extending their understanding of garden, flowers, leaves, and their surrounding. Miss Stella extended the investigation by reading a book

called, "It's spring time" where the story showed them some animals that fall asleep during winter time and they are awake when spring comes, they also spotted some flowers and leaves re-grow with excitement. For a couple of days, the discussion was extended by talking about life cycle of a leaf and by showing the children how the leave changes in colour (from brown/orange/yellow into green). We also did a flower sorting activity, where the children were introduced to some new

words such as petals and stems. Lastly, the children also were involved in flower and leaves painting.



Role-play experience has been going quite intense among the clownfish children. They used various role-play resources to investigate, imagine, and explore ideas such as kitchen role-play, supermarket role-play, fruit market role-play, and baby role-play. We have responded this ongoing project by providing them learning environments that are flexible and open-ended. Parent/families also contributed some recycled materials from home to be added in our mud kitchen, educators extended the idea of cooking role play into **supermarket role play and making a fruit salad**, Miss Stella read a book daily in relation to each role play topics. On the 14th, we decided to have ‘Outdoor Milk Picnic’ where the children could bring their own lunch box and enjoy the morning

breeze while drinking milk and having some snacks. The children were seen carrying around baby dolls as their favorite companions throughout their indoor/outdoor play, then **Baby care station** (sensory experience) was also set up to further extend the interest of looking after the baby doll, they also brought their favorite role play doll from home too. The children have showed an

increasing awareness of looking after the baby by feeding them milk, patting their back, rubbing their tummy and placing them in the booster. Lastly, the children also painted all recycled materials that we use for the role-play experience. Through these experiences, the children have been developing social skills, practicing negotiation skills, turn taking, sharing, and enhancing their imaginative skills.

Parent reminder:

- Please put the children’s fitted sheet and blanket in a separate bag/fabric bag (not in the bag directly) to help us differentiate their belongings from the others.
- Please remember to label all the children’s belonging for example sleeping bag/ bed sheets, bottles, dummies, jumpers, socks, shoes and bags. It also helps staffs to know exactly where things go so there are no mix ups.
- Ensure the children are dressed appropriately as we enter warmer weather. As the children spend time playing outside on climbing equipment it is very important to have practical clothing which is safe such as enclosed shoes, not thongs or sandals. Aprons are provided for messy activities but children sometimes get caught up in the creative side, so please send them in clothes that can be washed easily.
- Sensory week will be held during school holiday week (23rd September – 8th October 2017, feel free to bring ideas or some sensory resources from home that we can use for their learning experiences.

Until next months,
Clownfish educators

Jellyfish/Sunfish News



October Birthday Celebrants:

Ella- 21st

Jackson- 12th

A warm welcome to Patrick and Haru who joined us this month.



We started the month celebrating National Child Protection Week. We talked about how to keep children safe from harm. We reminded the children that if someone try to hurt them, they have to tell them to stop or ask

help from adults. The discussion was followed by making a 'Peace and Unity' artwork where the children did hand printing, and at the side, we painted a rainbow.



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Planting Project

Thank you to all families for donating empty milk bottles for our planting project.

As preparation for spring, as early as August, we started to plant more herbs and various plants in our garden. The children showed great interest in helping to plant, so we decided to ask for donations of empty milk bottles for our planting project.

On 7th September, we started with our project. The children had great time helping, from filling up the bottles with soil to planting and watering.





Home Corner

The children are enjoying our new home corner set up, both indoors and outdoors. It was so nice to see them practising life- skills. One time, the children were seen baking and cooking pasta for lunch. They also prepared some sausages and toast for everyone to share. They were observed preparing the plates and bowls for everyone sitting on the table, and not just for themselves.



Winter is over!

As winter is over and the weather is starting to get warmer, please ensure that your child's beddings and spare clothes are appropriate for the weather. Please take note as well that we will be having lots of water play so please ensure that you pack enough spare clothes for each day.

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:

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

Until next month,

Jellyfish/Sunfish Educators

Lionfish Newsletter

During the month of September, the Lionfish children have enjoyed exploring the garden and helping the Educators prepare it for Spring. The children have been involved in preparing the soil for planting, helping add soil from our worm farm. We have continued to add new plants, seedlings and even planted seeds that some of the Lionfish families have kindly donated. The children have also been great helpers caring for our garden, helping to water it in the mornings and afternoons.



The Lionfish children continued their caring for the garden to caring of the environment. We extended on the idea of recycling, they looked at how humans can impact the water ways and sea life. The children also learnt more about what we can do to help, by looking at some recycling videos and then talked and worked on recycling material in the centre. We would like to show our appreciation and gives thanks for all the families who brought in recycled material. The children have and will continue to put them to good use.



We have also continued our interest in using our imaginations to explore the sandpit using a variety of resources and equipment. The children have worked independently and in small groups, making cakes, milkshakes, smoothies, moulds, sandcastles, volcanoes, searching for treasure and just exploring the sand. We also utilised the water trolley on a few of the warm days, adding sea creatures and shells for the children to explore. We even added recycled materials so the children can learn about looking after the ocean and environment and not polluting it.



We also continued exploring our Aboriginal culture and the cultures of some of our other families in the centre after having a visit from some indigenous girls from one of our local high schools. We learnt how to do the 'Haka' after Mason demonstrated it to the class and we also looked at traditional dances from some of the other cultures in our centre. We have also continued participating in 'Munch and Move' with the Lionfish children requesting it after rest time on most

days. The children are really enjoying using their physical skills to engage in dancing and exercise, even incorporating musical instruments, either man made or made from recycled materials.



We explored our feelings and how to talk about them during 'Child Protection Week', reading several books and discussing how we feel in different situations. The children were also encouraged to explore their feelings and emotions further through a variety of art'n'craft experiences.



We have also continued looking and learning about letters and numbers through books, doing the calendar every day and through practising writing them during our group times and free play times. Some of the children are really interested in writing their names and their numbers. :)

As the weather is starting to get warmer, just a reminder to send a broad brimmed hat for your child to wear and also apply sunscreen before your child comes in the morning or when you arrive at the centre.

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators ☺

Starfish Newsletter

Starfish September Newsletter

Pieces of art! - On the 1st, the children created a beautiful piece of artwork (which is now part of our room decoration!). They were inspired by a friend's beautiful leggings, who explained "These are my Koori pants!" The children demonstrated to be able

to recognise and understand patterns as they admired her leggings, noticing the patterns and colours and coming up the suggestion of engaging in painting. The children didn't use any paintbrushes and instead learnt a new painting pouring/dripping paint technique. After that, an Aboriginal painting was added to our classroom bought by Miss Elly. On the

children were inspired by the new piece of art and asked "Can we make a painting like that one?"

First the children concentrated on the patterns that they saw and used the dabbers to create a series of dots, though a child initiated a new type of application, as she began painting her hands and using them to create handprints and also to mix in the paints. Her peers followed her techniques and they ended up creating some very pretty new colours and textures. "Wow children! It looks wonderful!" On the 13th, the same child came in with different leggings and inspired her friends to create another piece of Aboriginal art!

Making Musical Instruments using Recycled and Natural Materials

- Following the children's demonstrated interest in playing the bongos in our room and creating their own instruments in the sandpit, the families were invited to share recycled materials so that we could make more instruments! The children have been creating their own instruments with these recycled materials and love playing

them! Musical instruments have also been brought into the children's (much loved!) dancing experiences. As the interest in creating their own instruments continued, the children also used natural materials to create shakers and rattles, such as banksia seed pods, bells, pipe-cleaners and twine. It was wonderful to see the children using a combination of

man-made and natural materials to make musical instruments this month! They look and sound marvellous children!



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Looking out for each other! – To mark Child Protection Week, the children engaged in discussions about being looked after and looking after each other. They know what the word ‘protection’ means as they answered in a group, “feeling safe”. Other important words and their meaning were discussed as we read a friendship book, such as kind, loyal and honest. One interesting word we discussed through the reading was ‘generous’. The children are aware of the word greedy from the book Pig the Pug and we linked the two words as opposites.



Water play – With the lovely start to spring, water play has made a strong return as the children frequently request it! After a friend shared about her sea life experience and another friend brought in shells from a community beach on the same day, the children created an ocean with blue food colouring, shells and lots of sea life creatures in their water play! The children have also been combining water play with looking after their resources as they have been helping the educators to wash toys in their play.



Cooking with natural materials! – The children have been really enjoying playing, cooperating with and working collaboratively with others as they engaged in our new outdoor home corner. They often investigate new ideas through play experiences as they collect sand from the sandpit and add other natural resources such as pine cones and leaves to their play. The pine cones often become delicious cakes and the sand turns into lovely drinks! What a great way to imagine and express creativity through play!



More Science Experiments! - Making Lava Lamps, Ocean in a bottle and erupting volcanoes:

The children have continued to be interested in science experiments this month (following on from their magnet and crystals experiments last month). They created their own lava lamps after Miss Fenny had a couple of lava lamps that she spontaneously brought in, as did a child on the same day – what a happy coincidence! “Can we make some of these today”, the child asked as he held it up to show it. After exploring a child’s volcano book and hearing about a child’s volcano experiment on the weekend, the children engaged in volcano experiments for a few days!



Planet Interest - “I like to learn the names of the Planets”, a child requested one morning. Another child then said “I like to make some planets!” And later on in



the same day, another child arrived with news about her time exploring planets at the Sydney Observatory! Seems like there is a strong interest in planets! The children learned the names of the planets and facts about them, listened to (and have been singing!) planet songs, researched planet videos and created their own solar systems!



Teeth falling out! As the children were having afternoon tea on the 11th, a friend's wobbly tooth fell out! It was a very exciting and spontaneous learning experience for the children! The group got to explore her little tooth and engaged in discussions about why that happened. A week later, the same child lost another tooth and the interest in wobbly teeth returned as we decided to further investigate and discovered that the children's milk tooth begins to dissolve, resulting in the tooth beginning to get loose and over time, the tooth is so loose that it falls out, just like its happened to our friend!

Until next month, Starfish educators