



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter - November 2019

Centre News

Our centre will be closed for one week, from ***Monday, the 23rd of December 2019*** and reopen on ***Monday, the 30th of Dec 2019***.

Our **Christmas concert** this year will be held on Friday, the 20th of December 2018 at 4.00 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 2019







December Calendar of Events

03rd - Tuesday – International Day of People with Disabilities

08th - Sunday – **Immaculate Conception** – Catholic Tradition, feast day in honour of Mary, mother of Jesus was preserved from original sin

20th – Friday – Centre Christmas Party at 4.00 pm

23rd - 27/12/19 - Centre Closed for one week

25th – Tuesday - Christmas Day

26th – Wednesday - Boxing Day

30th - Monday – CENTRE REOPENED

01st - Tuesday – New Year's Day – Centre Closed

Pumpkin's Festive Fundraising

However you celebrate the festive season, help us light up the lives of sick kids in hospital. Away from home, one of their biggest worries is, "How will Santa find me?" Well, with the help of our school, he will!!!

At Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation, they want to ensure every child, now and in the future, has access to extraordinary healthcare whenever they need it. They help fund state-of-the-art-equipment, the best and brightest practitioners and cutting-edge research. But delivering extraordinary health care extends beyond the medical. As the Hospitals' charity, they do everything they can to give sick kids a positive experience, make life easier for their families and bring smiles to faces in the most difficult times.

By taking part, our fundraising will shine a light on children's healthcare and help ensure all children receive the best treatment and care.

Please contact your child's educators for more details, this event will end on Friday, the 06th of December.

Pumpkin Educators



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Clownfish News

Welcome to the tenth newsletter of the month. This month we celebrate Josiah's and Aleah's birthday who just turned one and Christian's who turned two. Moreover, Josiah has started walking around the room and we cannot be more excited to see him grow! On the other hand, this month the children have been engaged in various projects that emerged from their own interests.

Spring has sprung in Pumpkin



As the weather has turned warmer this month, we spent more time outdoor in the morning and in the afternoon. The children showed their excitement in exploring the environment.

Moreover, we have planted few potted plants last month for our garden and they have sprouted! The children have been contributing to the project by watering them daily. It is said that stewardship behaviours will develop when the children are let to take care of their environment first-hand and exposing them more to nature can improve their attention and concentration better afterwards.



Therefore, it has been our project to create greener and wonderful playground to play with.

Mr sun sun, Mr golden sun



The interest about weather emerged from Matilda that asked about what was happening to the tree outside when she saw the wind blew the leaves on the tree and they swayed so hard. Therefore, to extend it we began our discussion about the weather such as sunny, cloudy, rainy, windy and snowy. We looked at the pictures of each weather characteristic and observed the sky everyday to make the link. We observed the colour of the cloud, felt and listen to the wind and looked for the sun. More activities about it were added such as painting the sun, playing with shadows when it was sunny and creating their own sky with clouds.



Family inputs



Family inputs have been amazing this month with parents sharing about their weekends. Some children went to the zoo and we extended it with exploring the animals with magnifying glasses, creating small world play by using the train and using playdough to extend their imagination. Moreover, Christian's parents arranged mini farm animals such as goat, rabbits and ducks to visit our centre to celebrate his second birthday! The children had an opportunity to have a go at feeding the animals, cuddling and patting them. Moreover, they were so good at handling new situations and self-regulate themselves when expressing their excitement and care toward the baby animals. Thank you for the wonderful experience.



Halloween project

Halloween is coming, hence decorating is in order! However, we won't have spooky room to avoid scaring the children. We made colourful monsters from paper rolls, "spooky spider" from playdough, Halloween pumpkin, and made Mummy from tissue box. We will be having a party as well and cannot wait to see how the children will dress up in their scary costumes.



Parent reminder:

- Please ensure to pack spare clothes for your children as some experiences can get them messy or wet. As the weather keep changing, it may be a good idea to pack thin jumper for outdoor play
- Family input is very important for children's learning and development. Please share any information we could use and include into children's learning plans such as family weekend, current interest, favourite song/books or any exciting news 😊

Until next month,

Clownfish educators.

Jellyfish News



Its almost the end of the year! Welcome to our October newsletter, it was a wonderful and exciting month for Jellyfish room. Jellyfish children have been busy exploring their play environment. Throughout the month of October, Jellyfish children have been involved in various games that enable them to further their eye-hand coordination and abilities to seek challenges. Also, Jellyfish children have been participating and contributing into interest project that actively offer children opportunities to follow and extend their interests.

Animal discoveries!!



The animal interest project went strong throughout the month, to further their interest, Miss Stella shared an interesting story called 'Noah's ark' (The story of the greatest animal rescue of all time), during the story time we learned 2 new words such as 'Ark' and 'Flood', Miss Stella described that Ark is a big boat that can contain lots of people inside. We talked about how bad the flood would get rid of people and animals or even building. Miss Sinni also together with the children constructed a pretend ark and experiment 'indoor' boat riding, the interest then continued as children had opportunities to follow and extend the interest. Closer to Halloween week, Miss Stella decided to introduce children to various animals that are considered as a "Scariest animal" in the

world. Jellyfish children had opportunities to express their opinion and ideas about the interest topic.



On the 25th, children had a chance to meet farm animals through KINDIFARM visit to celebrate their peer's birthday. Jellyfish children demonstrated growing appreciation and care for the farm animals as they were seen patting them and feeding them food and milk. Firstly, they had a chance to pat and rub the two rabbits named 'Chocolate' and 'snowy', throughout the experience Jellyfish children shared humour and happiness enjoying the interaction. Jellyfish children used their senses to explore the relationship between the living and non-living by feeding them vegetables and milk. Moreover, children were also very interested chasing the chicken and the chicks inside the cage. They were positively interacting with them and being playful with the animals. The interest also occurred throughout sand pit play, educators have been extending and providing extra resources to scaffold the interests and learning.



Numbers + letters writing



Number and letter recognition interest are coming up again! Jellyfish children were seen engage with a relationship between oral, written, and visual representation throughout outdoor. Miss Stella provided children a flexible and open-ended activity where children could freely experiment letter tracing. Jellyfish educators incorporated the use of technology in furthering children's learning and for them to make meaning. All children were taking turn experimenting their own name letters, Miss Stella and Jellyfish children were collaboratively engaged in sustained conversation about letters and names. The interest also being furthered as Miss Stella decided to extend the interest by lining up the numbers and formed hop and scotch for children to explore physical activities while learning to count and express numbers. Initially, Miss Stella demonstrated how to do it first and let children to develop ability to mirror, repeat, and practice the action.



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Jellyfish educators actively supported children in conversation and challenges. We also read "What's the Time, Dinosaur" today, as children have shown their interest towards animals, especially dinosaurs and shark. Moreover, using the recycled lid bottles that we collected and colourful bowls, today Miss Stella set up counting activities where children were empowered to count and apply their mathematical knowledge

Halloween discussion + interests + activities



A week before Halloween, children engaged in various Halloween related activities that enable children to use imagination and sensory capabilities to investigate, play, and contribute ideas. On the 31st, jellyfish children proudly came with their own costumes, they initiated conversation expressing what they were wearing. Miss Stella decided to further their excitement by encouraging each child to go to the mirror reflecting on their appearances.

Jellyfish children were seen expressing their happiness and satisfaction (3.1) by smiling and showing off their costumes to their peers. Some of them were seen using imagination to pretend to be scary, they were running and walking around trying to scare their peers with their costumes. We would like to appreciate all family's contribution throughout the week, it has been an exciting week working along with all creative families! To celebrate Halloween, we were holding a party (originated from Shiloh's family's ideas) that encourage family to come and dress up, also enjoying trick and treat together with their children in the service. Educators have been working together planning and setting up activities and light refreshments on the day!



Parent reminders:

- Please remember to pack and clothe your child in weather appropriate clothing. We also require **a shirt with sleeves** and **a bucket hat**, for full sun protection during outdoor play.
- If your child is in the process of toilet training, please pack **3-4 changes** of clothes as our spare clothes is **limited**.
- If you want to share your updated family photos, feel free to send it to us!

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. We have also been learning about insects, especially bees and doing art/craft related to this topic. The children have also continued to be great helpers caring for our garden, helping to water it in the mornings and afternoons and also sweeping the yard. We have also continued planting seeds that have been sent in by families and been on a nature walk in our local area, collecting different things to explore.



The Lionfish children have also continued their interest in role-play both indoors and outdoors. They have used the dress-ups in their role-play as well as a variety of props including natural resources. They have been looking after their babies, shopping, cooking, driving fire engines and a variety of other scenarios.



Because it has been fine weather, we have continued enjoying riding the bikes and cars, practising our ball skills, building and climbing on the obstacle course and sandpit play. We have used our imaginations and creativity as we have explored the sandpit, digging for treasure, making cakes or making sandcastles.



We have also enjoyed creating great constructions using the mega blocks and large plastic blocks. We have made castles, houses, birthday cakes, robots, zoos, jails and monsters.



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. We have been making Halloween decorations for our room, including ghosts, 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.



On Halloween, the children came dressed up in different characters. They were very excited to show their friends what they had dressed up as! The Educators provided a variety of activities for them to participate in throughout the day, leading up to the afternoon. We had ghost bowling, face painting, mask making, sensory activities, pin the spider and spooky music for them to dance to. The children and parents and carers had a great afternoon and really enjoyed themselves!



We have also been busy collecting things for our upcoming incursion from the R.S.P.C.A that the children are looking forward to next month. We have had a great response with lots of families donating old sheets and towels. You can also donate toys or food for the animals. We have also been collecting plastic bottle lids for another charity to help children with disabilities.

The children are becoming very confident in their letter writing and most of them are even practising writing their names and sight words that they've brought in from home to share! We have personalised writing sheets and also encourage the children to practise their fluency and pencil grip.



Until next month,

Lionfish Educators 😊

Starfish Newsletter

Parent Notices and Reminders:

- Please remember to label all your child's belonging including hats, water bottles and sheets.
- Please ensure your child has a set of spare clothes that are weather appropriate.
- With the weather warming up, please remember no singles or thin straps. Children's shoulders need to be covered for sun safety. Also please no thongs.
- With the growing number of children wishing to do news we are now going to follow the two-week roster. This means as the news topics are fortnightly topics, the first week of the topic is week one children and the second week is week two children.

Lunch Boxes... As a part of school readiness, we invite the Starfish to start to bring in lunch boxes.

This will provide an opportunity for the Starfish to practise necessary school going skills including how to open a lunchbox and opening packaging and as well as taking responsibility for items.

Please remember to pack healthy foods and no nuts or egg products.



Construction... Throughout October the Starfish have expressed their imagination and creativity as they used a variety of resources to invent, construct and build. Using the mega blocks, the Starfish have created robots, aeroplanes and castles just to name a few. Using the square and triangle connectors the Starfish have collaborated to make a child size house and even decided they wanted a television which they also built.



While outside the mega blocks have been utilised to create a multi-level house, robots and planes. While inside the Starfish have used the wooden blocks, magnetic blocks and the animals to make zoos and dinosaurs parks.



Care for the Environment... The Starfish have been busy exploring and investigating their natural environment. During most days of October, the Starfish have requested to assist their educators in sweeping up leaves and watering the many plants, flowers and herbs growing. A child in the Clownfish room brought some corn to plant so the Starfish collaborated with their educator to plant it. Every few days the Starfish have been observed checking if the corn has sprouted. During the middle of the month the Starfish took a nature walk into the local street. During the walk the Starfish were provided with the experiences to learn about the various



flora growing in the local community. When doing so also meeting the neighbours and observing the construction of a local house. The Starfish have also used magnifying glasses to have a closer look at what they collected during the nature walk as well as the flora growing at Pumpkin. Working with their educators they have also planted bromeliad, in our garden.



Bees... The interest in bees has continued on from September. Earlier this year a Starfish child created their own bee hive, and brought it to share for news and kindly donated it to us. In response to the interest of bees the Starfish child again confidently shared how he made the bee hive as well as a game he created using the hive and ping pong balls. While outside the Starfish were observed playing this game as they shared and took turns as they attempted to throw the ping pong ball into the bee hive. Using the prowise board the Starfish researched about the characteristics of bees, why they are important and how and why they collect pollen. Using black paper and coloured oil pastels the Starfish drew their own interpretation of a bee. It was great to see the Starfish including their new schemes of knowledge into their drawings



including the pollen and the stringer. The Starfish used water colours to paint images of bees as well as making their own bees using recycled material. Once their bee paintings were dry the Starfish were provided with the opportunity to practise their cutting skills through cutting out the various images of bees. What are bees without a beehive? So, the Starfish worked with their educators and each other to create their own bee hive using recycled materials including cardboard tubes, cardboard boxes and paint. This is now hanging within the Starfish room; we invite all parents and families to come have a look!



Jumping Game... While outside during October the Starfish asked to play the jumping game most days. When doing so assisting to get and connect the safety mats as well as the chalk. The Starfish began to line up and take turns to climb onto the climbing frame bridge before spelling a word with their educator. The educator would write the word down and then the Starfish child would spell the word back before jumping. While jumping there was discussions about safety with the focus on one child jumping at a time and



ensure no one is one the mats. Throughout the course of the month the game also began to include the spelling of numbers, children's names as well as words from various books.



Literacy and Numeracy... After practising writing their names and numbers the Starfish have been provided with the opportunity to take on a challenge. This challenge is either a number or letter activity which required the Starfish to trace and write the number/letter, identify it in a group of other letters/numbers as well as colour the objects which start with the letter or colour in the correct number of objects. All Starfish have



taken on these challenges and will ask to do more throughout the day. The Starfish express great pride, happiness and satisfaction upon their completion especially when showing their educators as



well as peers. Some of these challenges are hanging up within the room as well as being sent home with the Starfish. Using the promise board the Starfish have collaborated to engage in a



variety of literacy and numeracy themed games. This including counting the number of objects as well as correctly identify letters in and out the alphabet sequence. The Starfish have also identify objects starting with a particular letter when shown illustration as well as writing using the promise board. Towards the end of the month a peer brought in a rhyming word book. The Starfish were provided with the opportunity to practise writing these rhyming words. Another peer also brought in a book which focused on different letter and some things which started with that letter. The Starfish asked to use these books for their writing. To link the Halloween the Starfish were challenged to write some spooky words too!



Sandpit... While outside this month the Starfish have been requesting for the sandpit to be open. The Starfish have been excellent helpers to take off and put on the sandpit cover as well as bring and pack away the sandpit resources. The Starfish have been busy engaging in dramatic play while in the sandpit through cooking and sharing the food with each other and educators. The Starfish have dug for treasure when playing hide and seek with smaller resources, as well as making castles, towers and using the sandpit moulds. The Starfish have also collaborated with each other to dig a big hole in order to find the bottom of the sandpit.



Halloween... The Starfish have expressed an interest in Halloween and were frequently overheard discussing what they want to dress up as. The Starfish engaged in various Halloween craft experiences including making ghost and spiders using recycled material, ghost using paint and pipettes and sandwich bags to make wall decorations. The Starfish have been observed engaging in zombie and witch dramatic play. While outside the Starfish assisted to make the cubbyhouse look spooky through using fake spider webs. The Starfish added spiders which they frequently count, find and then hide them again. Using a hula hoop and tape the Starfish engaged in a spider toss experiences. While outside the Starfish have used chalk on the soft fall to draw various witches and pumpkins. The Starfish have also collaborated with their educators to make playdoh in the colours of green, orange and purple. The next day creepy crawly bugs and natural resources were added to the playdoh. The Starfish were observed expressing their imagination and creativity as they manipulated the playdoh into various things. After looking at a special Halloween cookbook the Starfish asked to make chocolate spider crackles. Once the ingredients were obtained the Starfish collaborated to make them and were very eager to taste test them. I am happy to say it was two thumbs up from everyone including the Jellyfish tried them too. The Starfish also made biscuit ghost. This being by icing a



biscuit and adding M&M's for eyes and mouth. Using egg carton and boxes donated we made spiders and haunted houses and decorated them using various collage materials. These spiders are now hanging in our room. The Starfish also engaged within various Halloween themed games including eye ball toss, ghost bowling, pumpkin and ghost toss and Halloween dancing (Which had a Starfish led conga line!). We created our own sensory table adding sand and various Halloween items for the Starfish to explore. This high level of interest led to the Starfish collaborating with their educators to dye sand to be used for a sensory table for the Halloween party. The Starfish assisted their educators to set the sensory table for the party and of course trailed it in the morning.

Halloween Party... One of the highlights of Halloween was the Halloween party. The Starfish were very excited to dress up and show each other what they were wearing. Thank you to all the parents, families and friends who came and brought something to share. It was great to see all families, children and staff all having a fun time.



Until Next Time,
Starfish Educators ☺