



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter – December 2019

### Centre News

Our centre will be closed for one week, from **Monday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2019 and re-open on Monday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2019.**

Our Christmas concert this year will be held on **Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 at 4.00 pm.** All children and educators have been practising very hard for their performances. Please make sure you save the date on your diary or phone, so you won't miss it😊



### Staff Info:

- On Friday, the 29th of November it will sadly be **Miss Stella's** last day at Pumpkin. Miss Stella will be pursuing her career as a preschool room at another centre. We wish Miss Stella all the best in her future endeavours.
- **Ms Alessandra** is back from her maternity leave and she will be taking the role as our room leader in the Jellyfish room.

- Due to family matter, sadly **Ms Rebecca** must move to the Central Cost. We wish Ms Rebecca all the best in her future endeavours. Her last day at Pumpkin will be on Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of December.
- **Miss Elly** will be away from the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2019 and she will be back on Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2020.
- **Miss Tracey** will be away from the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2019 and she will be back on Monday, the 06<sup>th</sup> of January 2020.
- **Miss Catherine** will be away from the 09<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 and he will be back on Tuesday, the 07<sup>th</sup> of January 2020.

## **DECEMBER 2019 Calendar of Events**

**03<sup>rd</sup> - Tuesday** – International Day of People with Disabilities.

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

**20<sup>th</sup> – Friday** – Centre Christmas Party.

**23<sup>rd</sup> - 27/12/19** - Centre Closed for one week.

**25<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday** - Christmas Day

**26<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday** - Boxing Day

**30<sup>th</sup> - Monday** – CENTRE REOPENED

**01<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day – Tuesday-** Centre Closed.

## ***Light Up Christmas 2019***

Dear parents and families,

Every year, more than 155,000 sick and injured children are cared for across both Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, and The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Patient travel across New South Wales, and sometimes from outside the state, to access the specialist expertise that only available at the Hospitals that were mentioned above.

Please come and join our disco night to support our fund raising event in order to make life easier for their families and bring smiles to faces in the most difficult times.

Hopefully we will see you all there!:)

Kind regards,

Pumpkin Educators

**6TH DEC / 6.30-8.30 PM**

@Pumpkin LDC

the  
children's  
hospital at Westmead

**SYDNEY  
CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL**  
RANDWICK

# DISCO NIGHT

**SIZZLING BBQ GRILL.  
FOOD & DESSERT STALLS**

Come and support the Light Up Christmas appeal to raise funds for sick & injured children that are cared across The Children's Hospital at Westmead and Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.

**ENTRANCE TICKET \$5 PER PERSON  
(INCLUDING DISCO GLOW STICK & RAFFLE PRIZES)**



## **Clownfish News**

Welcome to the eleventh and the last newsletter of the year. This month we celebrated Alicia's and Cara's birthday where the children were excited to feast on the treats that parents have prepared and we had chances to sing birthday song merrily. Moreover, this month the children have been contributing into interest projects that allow them to follow and extend their interest.

### **"The Very Hungry Caterpillar"**

The interest came from when the children requested to read and listen to the book every time we had chances. Therefore, to extend their interest, we started to look closely to the elements of the book, from the process of the caterpillar turned into butterfly, what type of food were there and the discussion about healthy food and sometime food. The children also participating in creating the story into life with painting and paper mache as well as verbally communicating what they think caterpillar like to eat.



### **Dinosaurs Hunting**

The dinosaurs project started with one child started to notice pattern on his bibs. We started to look at different dinosaurs that used to live on Earth, the difference in their appearance such as tall, short, spiky, walk with two feet or four feet and many more. Their interest was extended



through different activities such as dinosaurs hunting, pretend play and frozen dinosaurs.



Through these, the children engaged in learning relationship on their own or collaboratively, recognised their achievement, confidently interacted with their peers or educators verbally and non-verbally, and imagined, followed and extended their imagination.



### **Christmas is coming**

As Christmas is fast approaching, we started to decorate our room with children's help. We have made the Christmas

tree from the children handprint as well as our tree from the cardboards. The children loved to get creative and exploring the provided resources. We will slowly add more decoration to the room to celebrate this festive season. Moreover, children have been practicing song for our concert and we can't wait to show it!



Lastly, we wanted to thank you all parents for their amazing contribution throughout the year such as sending the news about their children, dressing them for the occasions and donating for the good cause through our Crazy Hair Week 😊

Few reminders for the parents:

- Please remember to dress and pack clothing for your children appropriately to the weather. As the weather getting unpredictable, it may be a good idea to pack thin long sleeves, short sleeves and shorts for messy play. Please dress children in a shirt with sleeves and a bucket hat for sun protection during outdoor play
- Families inputs play a big part in our curriculum. Please send us any interesting news about the child current interest, family weekend or favourite song/books 😊

Until next time,

Clownfish educators

# Jellyfish News

Miss Stella is saying goodbye ☹️😊



Dear all pumpkin parents/families,  
I have had the wonderful time to work at Pumpkin for the past 5 years. I have worked with amazing and supportive leaders and educators during my time here. It is with much thought, I have accepted a new position in other service and I am excited about the continued growth and development that awaits me as I begin this new job. I am especially delighted of the relationships that I was able to foster and develop over the years with all children, educators, and families at Pumpkin. I wish all the best to Pumpkin children, educators, and families!! Keep in touch xx

Miss Alessandra will be replacing my role as Jellyfish room leader and Miss Theresinni will still be the ZIC in the room. Miss Rozina, Miss Pimpini, and Miss Sabina will also work along them together ☺️

*"Inside Every Child is a Rainbow Waiting to Shine"*

*Frederick Douglass*



Finally, it is the final months of the year! Welcome to Jellyfish November & December newsletter. We would like to thank all families and pumpkin educators that have been working together in sharing and exchanging information about each child's development. We would say it has been



the drive to all our curriculum planning cycles. This month, our Jellyfish explorers have been busy exploring and investigating various play-based experience originated from family input, also their own interests. In particular, we have also been focusing closely on senior Jellyfish who have turned 3 years old for having a smooth transition to preschool room early next year. We talked about name writing, independency, toileting, self-help skills, and changes that are going to happen in the big room!

### Little artists



At the beginning of the month, Jellyfish children were extremely excited participating in various creative arts activities such as drawing, dancing, singing, creating, and more creative experiences. Jellyfish educators responded to all children's strengths, interests, and abilities positively by ensuring their pride and achievement are acknowledged and displayed. We have decided to display all their art work at the room, please find your child's name on the wall and observing their creative expression and stories. One of the highlight of the creative experience is when Miss Sisilia (workplacement student) who is great in playing guitar leading us well with various nursery rhymes that children love! The music experience really enabled children to share happiness and enjoyment through songs and rhymes.

### Bushfire



The bushfire learning and discussion occurred as one child showed curiosity and contributed his knowledge during group play experience "Do you know, Miss Stella? I see smoke that caused by the bushfire when I drive pass" Observing the interest, Miss Stella decided to get the group gather and talked about the weather yesterday, also how it relates to the bushfire that that child

mentioned before. Miss Stella then decided to print out some images and did some research to further children's wonder and interest. During the conversation, one child also showed their knowledge about our natural habitat and commented, "Do you know Miss Stella the fire is coming to the ocean and all fishes are dying" the discussion went deeper as Miss Stella talked about the 'Koala rescue', how some koala perished in the forest because of it. Jellyfish used reflective thinking to consider why things happen and what can be learnt from these experiences. We believe children as an active agent that have significant roles to be part of building sustainable future for the world. To further the investigation, Miss Stella provided children some paper, paint colours (red, yellow, and orange), and some paint brushes to broaden their understanding about the world they are live in, also transferring knowledge from one setting to another.

### **'Letter to Santa'**



Approaching one of the most anticipated event of the year, Jellyfish children have been showing awareness by expressing various thoughts and expression observing at the centre decoration. One day, one of the children in the room brought in a Christmas stories where children were

introduced to the traditional Christmas elements and stories. Upon the positive responses from the children, children and educators worked together making our own Santa mailbox pretending that we would send letters to Santa telling him what are their wishes for Christmas. Throughout the experiences,



Jellyfish children showed curiosity and shared happiness and enjoyment putting the letter card to the box while expressing what they wanted. For instance, "I want piano!"; "I want yoyo!"; "I want candies!"; or "I want Thomas the train"; and more! Observing it, Jellyfish educators continuously planned for time and space where children can reflect on their play experience and learning and encourage them to see similarities and connections between them. Jellyfish children and educators also involved in several cooking experiences making Christmas tree with ice-

cream cones, also Christmas cupcakes! It has been an experience that have created enjoyable opportunities for life-learning and encouraging children to be involved in their own learning while using their sensory capabilities.



## Splish and splash week highlight!!



Jellyfish children actively participated in water experiences when the weather got warmer during mid of the month. Parents and families have been sharing



information regarding children's swimming lessons experience outside the service. One week, they all came with their own swimmers, towels, and swimming equipment. We decided to plan water activities that support children to revisit their interest, try new ideas, and engage in group experiences. We talked about some basic water safety and children responded positively!



Until next year,

Jellyfish educators



# Lionfish Newsletter

During the month of November, the Lionfish children have joined the Starfish children talking about getting ready for school and working on our self-help skills so we're ready the following year. We have continued practising our pencil grip, fluency and name and number writing using our laminated writing sheets and writing books and extended ourselves by looking at some sight words and practising them and also doing some educational worksheets.

We have also continued to enjoy construction, both indoors and outdoors, using our imaginations and a variety of blocks to build houses, a variety of transport and birthday cakes. We have enjoyed building with the large mega blocks, the mobilo and the magnetic blocks.



We have also continued to enjoy a variety of physical activities which have included riding the bikes and cars and constructing challenging obstacle courses. We enjoyed inventing games and participating in a variety of games that the Starfish children have invented too.



We have also enjoyed having the R.S.P.C.A visit our centre and learning about caring for animals as well as bringing in things that we could donate for them to use to care for animals. The R.S.P.C.A really appreciated all the items and money that the centre donated to a great cause, so thank you to everyone that helped. 😊 Miss Nicole also brought her dog in from home as a special treat.





We also enjoyed participating in Crazy Hair week, either coming with our hair done in a crazy style or getting our hair sprayed and bringing in a gold coin donation for the Sydney Children's Hospital. We have also been practising our dancing as we get ready for our Disco on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December which is also to raise money for the Sydney Children's Hospital. We look forward to seeing you there.



We have continued exploring our garden and caring for our garden and the things we planted. We have also enjoyed collecting natural materials such as the grapefruits, leaves and flowers that have fallen on the ground. Working together and then using them in our roleplay or even practising our counting skills after we have collected them.



We have been busy practising for our end of year concert as well as making Christmas decorations for our room using a variety of recycled resources. We have made a Christmas tree and sleigh from recycled boxes, as well as wreaths and Christmas decorations from other recycled materials.



Until next month,

Lionfish Educators ☺

## Starfish Newsletter

Thank you for an amazing year and all the support you have given the Starfish children and educators.

**Christmas Concert...** The Christmas Concert will be held on Friday the 20th of December at 4pm. Please join us in celebrating the all the children at Pumpkin and say good bye to our Starfish friends who are going to primary school. We ask that on the day the Starfish wear Christmas colours (Green, red and white).



**Fundraising...** A big thank you to all families, friends and parents who supported our various fundraising



throughout November. We have filled half a shopping bag with bottle lids for

EnvisionHands. These have been dropped off and will be melted down to make

prosthetic limbs for children. Earlier in the month parents, families and educators donated towels, blankets, sheets, animal food and toys as well as a gold coins for the RSPCA. The RSCPA have thanked us for our generosity and have estimated our donations to be \$451. During Monday the

18th till Friday 22nd we had crazy hair week. It was great to see the various crazy

hairstyles and the Starfish donating money to get their hair sprayed different colours.

During this week we have raised \$200.60 for the Sydney Children's Hospital. Early in December we will have our Disco to continue to raise money for the Sydney Children's Hospital. Thank you to the parents and families who have already purchased tickets.



**Remembrance Day...** On Friday the 8th of November the Starfish collaborated with Miss Rebecca to learn about Remembrance Day. Working with Miss Rebecca they discussed the meaning of Remembrance Day, looked at the symbolism of the poppy and listened to the poem/n

*Flanders Field*. On Monday the 11th the Starfish further discussed the meaning of Remembrance Day and observed two minutes silence. The Starfish also expressed their imagination and creativity when engaging within two different poppy crafts.





**RSPCA...** Earlier in the month the had the RSPCA dog safety program incursion. Before the incursion the Starfish collaborated with their educators to explore and discuss the dog's behaviour and how to



care for them with the aid of the promise board. During this incursion the Starfish learnt about how to read a dog's behaviour and the three important steps to meet a dog. A few days after the incursion the Starfish had a special visitor- Mia (Miss Nicole's 3yr old German Shephard). The Starfish were very excited to meet Mia and practise what they learnt through the incursion. In the last week of November, we had another four-legged visitor- Fluffy (A dog of one of our Starfish friends). The Starfish asked questions and our Starfish friend with the aid of her dad answered them. Once finished the Starfish were once again provided with opportunity to pat Fluffy.



**Dancing...** While outside the Starfish have requested to have music put on. Once the music was on the Starfish commenced busting various dance moves individually and within groups. The Starfish also started to request their favourite songs and were heard singing along. This interest in dancing



lead to the Starfish frequently engaging in various games of musical statues. The Starfish were lucky to join with one of our practical experience educators as she sang and played play guitar.



**Obstacle Course...** While outside this month the Starfish have collaborated and cooperated when using the stepping stones and balancing beams to create various different obstacles courses. When doing so discussing where the



stepping stones and balancing beams should go while working together to move them into the desired location. Once complete the Starfish demonstrated their prosocial behaviours as they lined up and took turns to move through the obstacle course.





**Nature....** The natural environment was an interest for the Starfish through out November. Most days the Starfish express care for the environment as they assisted the educators to water the garden and sweep up the fallen leaves. The Starfish used their senses explore some of the plants and flowers we have growing in our environment. The Starfish also used magnifying glasses to explore natural resources found as well as a bird's nest and a wasp nest.



The Starfish have spent a large amount of time collecting various natural resources in particular the countless grapefruit seeds and leaves. The collected leaves were used to create a leaf collage as an idea from one of our children. As well as using the other natural resources within dramatic play and even made a salad using leaves and plants and added the grapefruit seed pods for extra



flavour. One Starfish child brought in some rocks she collected on a family holiday. Through some research the Starfish learnt that this was a game where people would decorate rocks and hide them for other to find. The Starfish were excited to decorate their own rocks and invited families and friends to take a rock or two to hide for others to find. In late November the Starfish investigated the topic of drought using the book *Professor Cockatoos' Amazing Weather Dust*. This laid the foundation for further discussion and research as to what is a drought and how



we can each do our part to save water. While outside the Starfish asked to create their own weather dust. The Starfish were seen each collected various item before adding them into the big dish.



**Christmas...** We got in the Christmas spirit very early this year. The Starfish brought in

various Christmas books to share as well as, requested Christmas books to be read during group times. During meal times the Starfish have listened to various Christmas carols and even broke into song alongside their educators at various times. Together the Starfish have painted and decorated a recycled box Christmas tree and Santa's sleigh which will be used for our Christmas concert. The Starfish have engaged within various Christmas craft this including





(but not limited to) making baubles, wreaths, snowflakes and even their own Santa searchers. The Starfish have made their Christmas presents to their families (We won't say any more as it is a surprise!). While outside the Starfish have frequently requested to play the Grinch, who stole Christmas game. Which requires an educator to be the Grinch and find all the "presents" (typically Lego) which the Starfish have hid.



**Literacy and Numeracy....** During the afternoons the Starfish educators have been encouraging the Starfish to challenge themselves in regards to literacy and numeracy. The Starfish have used writing cards to practise writing different objects and animals. As well finding words beginning with particular letters in books and trying to write them. The Starfish have also requested to do letter sheet challenges. In addition to this the Starfish have been writing their first names, surnames and numbers. Some Starfish have also challenged themselves to write their middle names, peers name and numbers beyond ten! While outside the Starfish frequently request the jumping game. The jumping game provides an opportunity for the Starfish to practise their spelling and counting. It is great to see the Starfish requesting literacy and numeracy activities as well as the huge improvement in their knowledge and abilities.



Until Next Year,

Starfish Educators 😊😊