



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – June 2019

Centre News

We are going to celebrate the NAIDOC week in July. Australians regard NAIDOC week as a time to commemorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements – an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and society. NAIDOC week is also a time to reflect on how opportunity and the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples lag behind that of the broader population. ***We embrace with pride, admiration and awe these great and ancient cultures we are truly blessed to have among us, cultures that provide a unique, uninterrupted human thread linking our Australian continent to the most ancient prehistory of our planet (Rudd, 2008).***



Illness and infectious disease

The health and safety of all children is a major concern for us. Parents and families are asked to keep their sick children home until they are well. This is particularly important if your child has had a fever, infectious disease, diarrhoea, or been vomiting within the past 24 hours. If your child is unwell while at day care, we will ask you to collect them. If your child has been sick with an infectious disease, you will be required to provide a medical certificate (clearance letter) confirming that your child is well enough to attend childcare.

Many illnesses, while not fitting exclusion criteria, can transmit disease to other children in care. Please refer to our 'Infectious Diseases Policy' (we also attached this policy in this Newsletter). Please advise Pumpkin educators on arrival verbally or in writing of any symptoms requiring administration of medication to their child in the past **48 hours** and the cause of the symptoms if known. This advice must be provided the first time the child attends after the medication has been administered.

Kind regards,

Pumpkin Educators

Staff News

- **Miss Rozina** will be away from Monday, the 08th of July and she will be back on Monday, the 29th of July.
- **Miss Sabina** will be away from Monday, the 22nd of July and she will be back on Monday, the 29th of July.

July Calendar of Events

07 - 14/07/19 - NAIDOC Week – Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth.

27th - Friday – Asalha Puja Day – Buddhist – Buddha's first sermon.

27th - Friday – Schools Tree Day.

29th - Sunday – National tree Day.

21st – 22/08/19 – Tisha B'Av – Jewish Tradition, on this day Jewish people fast in order to remember the sufferings of the Jewish people throughout history.

Clownfish News

Welcome to the sixth newsletter of the year. The time has passed so quickly and now we are ready to enter the second half of the year. The children have been growing incredibly and we cannot be prouder of them! Moreover, thank you to all parents that came for the parents and teachers interview few weeks ago and shared their views and goals with us. We will try our best to create meaningful and effective learning environment for the children to grow during their days at Pumpkin ☺.

Animals interest

The animals' interest was still going strongly in the room as the children imitated the animals sound whenever they stumbled upon the animals' toys. They showed their proficiency in making monkey, lion, snake, elephant, and many more. Moreover, the educators encouraged the children to say the name of the animals, and they showed their enthusiasm in doing so. To extend on that, many activities were provided different type of activities where the children were encouraged to explore, investigate and experiment in their learning. For example, shared books reading experiences, animals hide and seek, painting, building houses for the animals, oobleck play, and nursery rhymes about animals which they loved so much! Through these opportunities, educators tried to broaden their knowledge and vocabulary.

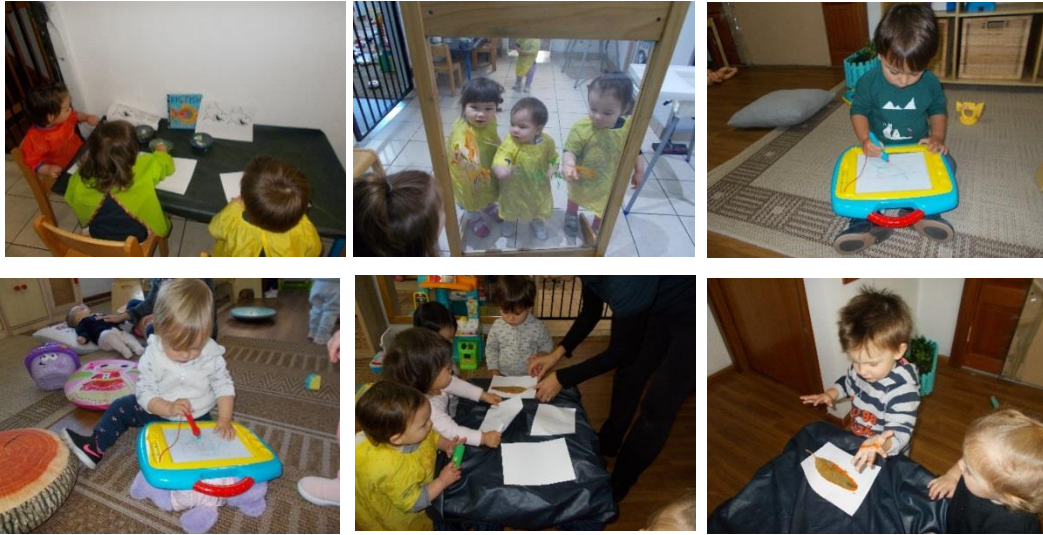


Colours interest

Another interest that has been going on in the room is the colour interest, especially painting and drawing. The children loved it whenever the educators provided them with the resources and spent long time in expressing their creativity and imagination. Moreover, as the children had the



opportunity to see a rainbow after one rainy day from our room, we did experiments on colours such as the walking water and making the oil and water jar where the children were introduced to new ideas and knowledge.



Parent reminder:

- As the weather has turned cold, please dressed the children warmly.
- Please pack several spare clothes for the children as some experiences can get them messy or wet as well as clothes that suit the unpredictable weather.
- Please remember to bring in a family photo for the family tree which will be displayed in our room to support the children's sense of belonging.
- Family input is very important for children's learning and development. Please share with us any information we could use and include into children's learning plans. Example of the information are family weekend, new favourite books or songs, current interests or any exciting news will be appreciated

Until next time,

Clownfish educators

Jellyfish News

Welcome to June newsletter! Jellyfish children, educators, and families would like to welcome Elias from Clownfish room. Over the month of June, Jellyfish children have been demonstrating increased independence regarding toilet training. We acknowledge and value their efforts day to day! ☺ We collaboratively work alongside each other as educators also parents and families. We have received lots of great input from families regarding this matter! Before we share our interest projects this month, we would like to appreciate families who came to parent-teacher interview this month, your feedbacks are very important to us ☺ whoever could not come to the interview, you can talk to Miss Stella personally to talk about your children's development ☺

Winter project



The project started when some Jellyfish children came wearing winter outfits and proudly showed it to educators. Throughout the project, children were exposed to various winter theme activities indoor as sometimes it's just too cold to play outside. The interest was being extended alongside Princess Elsa's interest and frozen interests. Originated from it, children were furthering the interest learning about snow, cold weather, and ice involving several science experiments and music and movement. Furthermore, sparkling glitter is one of their favourite tools added in each experience. We also integrated sensory and pretend play experiences into the projects such as playdough, making an ice castle, snowman making, cotton balls exploration, cloud dough, making Elsa's castle, being a princess, penguin and polar bear exploration. Jellyfish children were exploring, inferring, predicting and



hypothesising throughout the project and increasing their connectedness to the environment. In addition, we also had opportunities to experiment a frozen yoga with Miss Stella! ☺

Healthy eating



This project was originated from parent and families during the interview, we value families' feedbacks and would like to support the movement of incorporating healthy eating/lifestyle into children's routine and play experiences. We started this project with interesting discussion about different fruits and vegetables, followed by recognising fruit images (with light board), fruit painting, fruit colour mix and match, and 'Orange topic'. Jellyfish children were offered to do an orange picking in the garden with their basket. The interest grew fast as children were so enthusiastic sensing the orange skin and tasting the orange juice. Moreover, Jellyfish children were involved in the process of making orange juices and orange jelly! Children also had an opportunity to promote

their healthy lifestyle through some exercises initiated by children and assisted by educators. 'The Pear in the Pear tree' also being read to further the learning and investigation! ☺

Playdough experience + construction interests



towards the end of the month, children were seen showing grown interest towards construction again! Alongside with children's ever-present interest towards playdough, we combined the activities. Throughout the experience, children were actively reaching out to educators or peers to collectively build a high building/tower. Various type of tools and materials were provided to scaffold the learning and expand their imagination. 'Stuck in the mud' game was very popular among the children as we combined various interests into one. Jellyfish educators sensitively attuned to children's attempt to hypothesise and expand their thinking throughout the learning experience.

Parent reminder:

- Please pack few undies and pull up nappies if your child is in toilet training.
- Please share your family photos if you have not done so.
- Please pack 1-2 jumpers/long sleeves/jackets as we are approaching cold days.
- Please label/name your child's belongings to avoid misplacement.

Until next months,

Jellyfish educators

Lionfish News

During the month of June, we have been talking about Winter and the change of season as some of the children have been sharing their new jackets, beanies and gloves for news. We have also been looking at our calendar, changing the days of the week, the date and what the weather is like. The children have enjoyed taking it in turns to change the day, date and weather as they learn to recognise the different words, numbers and symbols.

The Lionfish children have also continued to use their imaginations and be very creative in their role-play. They have continued their interest in home corner role-play, cooking a variety of meals. They have also enjoyed baby play, caring for and feeding their babies as well as taking them on a variety of outings, including picnics and shopping in the trolleys.



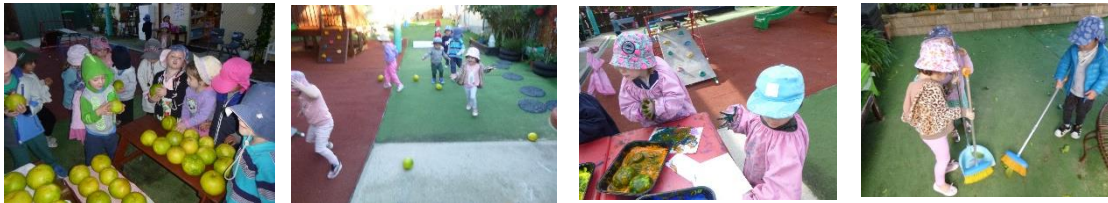
We have also enjoyed using our imaginations and creativity as we build with different types of construction materials, including mobilo, mega blocks, duplo and lego. We have built towers, different types of vehicles, zoos and houses.



We have also continued to enjoy lots of physical activities, especially during outdoor play. We have been practising our ball skills: throwing, catching, bouncing and kicking and using our thesees ball skills to play soccer and basketball. We have also enjoyed working together with our friends and Educators to make challenging and elaborate obstacles courses for everyone to use to practise our balancing and coordination skills, as well as jumping.



The Lionfish children have also enjoyed exploring the garden, helping to pick the grapefruits and using them in a variety of ways. The children invented racing games using the grapefruit, practised their counting and measuring skills, used them for printing, explored their texture and taste and tasted other fruits that Miss Rebecca brought in from her garden. They also learnt about the tongue and the tastebuds, taste testing a variety of foods. They have also enjoyed helping to look after our garden, watering the plants using the recycled water from our tank and helping sweep up the leaves and sand after our rainy, windy weather.



They have also been interested in exploring our world globe, finding Australia and learning about where other countries are situated. We also looked at the atlas and learnt about some of the flags from different countries. We also looked at some of the countries that our families are from.



We also had our parent teacher interviews and had very positive feedback from the parents who attended. Most parents said they were very happy with their children's progress and they wanted us to continue getting them ready for school in 2021. The Lionfish children have shown a great interest in letters and letter writing so we have been providing them with a variety of activities to extend on this interest, including personalised writing sheets, practising on the whiteboard, numeracy sheets, letter recognition, sounding out our letters as well as practising recognising rhyming words during story times. We have also been using our Prowise board for literacy and numeracy activities.



Reminders:

Please remember to bring a sun hat to kindy even though the weather is cooler.

Please make sure all your child's belongings are clearly labelled, especially water bottles and jackets and jumpers.

Please bring sheets and a blanket for rest time.

Also, if you have any clothes that your child has grown out of could you please bring them in for spare change clothes. 😊 Thankyou

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators 😊

Starfish News

Parents Notices:

- Please remember to ensure your child has weather appropriate spare clothes in their bags. This including least two changes of clothes including socks and underwear.
- Please clearly label all your child's belonging including bottles, jumpers and bed sheets.
- Please be aware of small hair clips/bobby pins they are choking hazards and finding them on our floor.
- Our lost and found box is getting full, can you please check and take any items that belong to you. Anything not claimed by the end of this month will used for the centres spare clothes.
- If your child has any shirts, pants or jumpers/jackets that they have grown out of and willing to donated for the centres' spare clothes, please bring them and give them to Miss Nicole, Miss Rebecca or Miss Tracey. They will be much appreciated.

Parent Teacher Interviews... All the mid year reports have been sent out and parent teacher interviews are now complete. Thank you to all the parents you came to have a discussion about your child's progress. The Starfish educators are implementing feedback given within our program. Please remember to bring back your child's folder if you still have not.



Numeracy and Literacy... A common theme following the parent teacher interviews was the extension of the Starfish's numeracy and literacy knowledge and understanding. Through out June the Starfish developed an interest in the dinosaur eggs resource. This resource has various eggs with numbers on them and countless different colours and species of dinosaurs. While engaging with this resource the Starfish have categorised according to colour and species as well as counting. This being counting the number the dinosaurs they have and placing them within the correct numbered egg. In the

afternoon the Starfish have been collaborating with each other and educators to complete various prowise board activities. The Starfish have counted various sea animals and then selected the

correct number as well as using their fingers to add in an addition game. The Starfish have also participated in various word webbing, matching letters and were introduced to



vowels and consonant before identifying them within their name. The Starfish have also been requesting the leapfrog tag reader and associated books.



Cutting... The Starfish have participated in learning experiences, which have aided their fine motor skills in regards to using scissors. The Starfish first requested shapes to cut out and before deciding to cut out the letter of their first name and various numbers. These are hanging up within the room, come have a look! The Starfish have also practised their cutting skills when cutting through various resource and food magazines to used in other learning experiences.



Grapefruits... The Starfish have expressed a growing curiosity to the countless grapefruits we have growing on the grapefruit tree in the Starfish outdoor learning environment. There has been discussions as to what they are, which lead to the Starfish aiding their educators in picking them. Using the grapefruits we have compared and ordered the size from smallest to largest as well as used them to measure each other. The Starfish



investigated the inside of the grapefruit through a sensory experiences and squeezing the juice inside. The Starfish were also provided with the opportunity to use slices of the grapefruit within a stamping craft experiences. As a request from the Starfish there has also been various grapefruit races.



Taste Testing and Tongue and Taste Bud Investigation.... To further the interest and learning in response to the grapefruits the Starfish were provided with the opportunity to taste test various foods that are sweet, sour, bitter and salty. This including the



grapefruits, kumquats (Growing at Pumpkin) and pomelos and tangerines (Brought from Miss Rebecca's garden). Using the images of food cut up, the Starfish created their own tongues and discussed the taste of the foods they tasted down. The Starfish were also shown a short video clip which explored the tongue and the various tastebuds. This led to the Starfish practising writing words that were discussed within the video. The Starfish were engaged within discussions about tastebuds and got to explore



what the tongue and tastebud actually look like. A Starfish friend also brought in some mandarins he had grown to share.



Recycling... It has been great to see families donating various recycled materials for us to use (Thank you ☺). Within the month of June we had a suggested news topic of recycling, were some Starfish brought in some recycled materials and suggested things they wanted to make using them. Using cereal boxes, tissue boxes and cardboard Starfish created their own starfish, shells and jellyfish. These make a great addition to our family sea wall, come have a look! The Starfish also collaborated with their educators to make and decorate their own racing cars using donated Yakult bottles and bottle lids.



Ball Games... The Starfish have a continuing interest in ball games. While outside the Starfish have been requesting the basketball hoop and the soccer net to be brought out. Once out the Starfish use their strong communication skills to include their peers and educators within a game. Through this month the Starfish have engaged with their gross motor skills as they run and kick the ball in various soccer games/experiences including the



Starfish's created goalie game. We have also had countless throwing and catching games, with some also using the basketball hoop.



Construction... The Starfish have continued in furthering their interest within construction. The Starfish have used a diverse range of resources including the mobilos, Lego, assembly connectors, mega blocks and magnetic tiles to assemble, invent and construct as they express their creativity and imagination. It has been great to see the Starfish working together and engaging their peers and then proudly explaining their creations to their educators. In the afternoon the Starfish have used some special Lego brought in from an educator to make their own Lego person, planes and various other creations.



Our Fish.... Each day the Starfish will observe our fish and have expressed a growing interest in assisting in feeding them. Each day our table helpers for that day are provided with the opportunity to assist the educators in feeding the fish a little bit at a time. While



watching our fish we have noticed that the fish have given birth to some baby fish. The Starfish (children and educators) were very excited to hear this.

Until Next Month,

Starfish Educators 😊😊

