

TERM 3-2019 NEWSLETTER



From Florence, Centre Leader

Kia ora koutou,

Nau mae, haere mae ki te Kohungahunga o Otari!

Despite a very enjoyable holiday in sunny Lake Tahoe, California, with my whanau, I am happy to be back and ready to welcome Spring soon!

On my last day, visiting the town of Berkeley, home to world- renowned Berkeley University, I saw a post that said “What matters in education is what matters in life” and there was a picture and a famous quote from our very own Maria Montessori that read, “Education should no longer be mostly imparting knowledge but must take a new path, seeking the release of human potentials.” I was pretty pleased, of course, to see her educational legacy recognised there publicly and that immediately reminded me of our Preschool vision that is to “Nourish the human spirit to create a better world”.

The confirmed ERO report is now available on their website:

<https://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/montessori-at-otari-preschool-inc-05-07-2019/>

We received ‘well placed’, as we have always achieved. There are three areas that we need to keep developing but the Council and the team are aware of the next steps and will work hard at focusing on those areas. We were pleased that they recognised the high quality of our learning environment; how peaceful, engaged and confident our tamariki are; how well we are supporting children with additional learning needs; how strong our transition processes are into and out of the Preschool and how committed the Council is to achieving our goals, philosophy and vision, just to name a few of their comments.

As most of you will know, Julia Healey is joining Gill, in Kauri from Monday 5 August. This is unprecedented in the Preschool history to have 2 new teachers in such a short time, as we are well known to have had teachers for a very long time or come back to Otari!

Times of changes and transition can be unsettling sometimes for little children; they get used to routines, they build trust with one adult and start developing relationships...and they have to start all over again...Julia and Gill will focus really hard on building trust and relationships, together and with the tamariki and you, their families. But there is also the rest of the team to support the new teachers as well as the children. We aim to work collaboratively and holistically, getting to know all the children and their caregivers over time. If you have concerns or are unsure, please talk to one of us. If it is important to you, it is important to us. While I acknowledge that change can be difficult, I also think there is the great opportunity for new growth and new learning. I look forward to welcoming Julia to

our Preschool and embracing the challenges Term 3 will bring on (maybe not as intense as Term 2, though!)

Here is some useful information:

- Week 9 (Monday 16/09): World Peace Week: we will be celebrating it again this year!
- Bush Walks are still a popular feature of our programme on Thursday afternoons. Appropriate footwear is required, as usual.
- We also keep our mara (garden) open as much as possible so make sure your tamaiti has warm clothes to go outside (we recommend to leave a pair of gumboots and rain jacket at Preschool) and extra clothes if needed!
- Working Bee: Sunday 25 August
- Open Day: Saturday 31 August
- 9-15th September- Te Wiki o te reo
- Education Session with whanau: Friday 20 September, from 9-10.30am (Topic to be confirmed, but if you would like to talk about a specific topic, please let me know)
- Our Preschool has a wonderful Facebook Page, please share the link with your friends and whanau:
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/montessoriotaripreschool/posts/>

Noho ora mai , stay well and good bye.

Florence

FROM MIMI, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Kia Ora whanau and welcome to Term 3.

My name is Mimi Tom and I am the mother of Cara (4) in Kowhai and April (3) in Kauri. This is my first newsletter as President of the Preschool Council. I have big shoes (or jandals!) to fill after the departure of our previous President, Richard Wall.

I joined the Council as a general in March last year when Cara enrolled in the preschool after our move from London. I'm originally from Melbourne and live with my husband Richard who is a Wellingtonian. My main reason for joining the Council was to be involved in the community and get to know parents, as Wellington was brand new to me. It has been so nice to see Cara and April integrate into their new school environment and have an insight on how the preschool runs. The talent amongst the Council is really impressive and opinions are always respected and valued.

Last term we ran a very successful Facebook Silent Auction and raised \$3500! We had such generous sponsors who donated goods and services to our Preschool. I worked closely to organise this event with Nicolas' (Lou's dad) with his graphics expertise and Sarah's charm

(Maria and Anna's mum) and it was so heart-warming to see such wonderful community spirit. Please don't forget to support our sponsors and mention their generous contribution to our Preschool when you visit – this just reinforces that new business can be generated through their donations and we are more likely to receive sponsorship with them again in the future.

I look forward to juggling this Presidency with parenthood and casual work. I am excited to learn and work together with an awesome bunch of parents that have one common goal, to nourish the human spirit to create a better world.

Stay warm and dry!

Mimi

From Camilla, Playgroup Supervisor

Welcome back to the new term. It's so lovely to see all the children back again after the holiday. Even in two short weeks, we can see the children have grown and changed. Especially welcome to the new families who are starting with us this term.

If you have any questions about your child, early childhood education or Montessori philosophy, please do not hesitate to ask. It is often questions from parents that prompt some interesting discussions that we can all benefit from.

Don't forget to sign up for two duties for the term, and also bring a packet of tea or coffee. Also please bring two pieces of fruit each session that can be chopped up for juicing or prepared for morning tea. Apples, oranges, bananas and carrots are best.

It is such a privilege to work with children of this age who are so full of boundless potential. Isn't it incredible how many skills a two year old has developed in such a short period of time? Can you imagine what it must be like when everything they do takes so much effort? Even tucking in a chair may take all their strength.

Montessori identified that in the process of a young child's development they pass through what she termed 'sensitive periods' - important and intense periods of learning, and accelerated growth. For example she identified a sensitive period for movement, for the acquisition of language, for small things, and the one which is so important to a two year old, a sensitive period for order.

During this period a child can be really emotionally thrown when things are not as they expected, or are done in the wrong order. And this is why this wonderful period of development can also be so frustrating, and can result in meltdowns or tantrums.

This sensitive period for order really influences the prepared Montessori environment. That is why we try to find 'a place for everything and everything in its place'. The young child flourishes in an environment of repetition, predictability and order.

I really hope you enjoy your time with us,

Camilla

FAMILY NOTICEBOARD: TERM 3

Welcome to all new families and welcome back everyone else!

Without the input of parents the Preschool could not function. The contribution of all families is required for the following rostered duties:

- Working bees
- Driveway duties
- Morning tea provision.

More detailed information on these duties is provided in newsletters (e-mailed to you like this one, once a term), on the noticeboards in the Preschool foyer, and inside the Handbook which you can find online

<http://www.otaripreschool.school.nz/sites/default/files/2019%20%20Parent%20Handbook.pdf>. If there is any matter that needs clarification or more information, please don't hesitate to contact the Preschool.

The following is a quick snapshot of some of these duties for this term, followed by a rundown of current council members.

Working Bees

Thanks to all the parents who have participated in our working bee days so far this year. It makes such a difference and we are so very grateful for your help.

Working Bees are held once a term and families are allocated to one per year.

Working bees are a fun morning where families have an opportunity to get to know each other, have some morning tea and do a few indoor and outdoor jobs at the Preschool. We rely on parents to help with the annual working bees to clean and repair the classrooms, equipment and outdoor areas, this helps us keep our costs down and fees affordable.

The dates and the families for working bees for the rest of the year, terms 3 and 4, 2019 are listed below. Please note that we have made one of the days a Saturday and hope this will help any families unable to attend on a Sunday.

Families can swap with each other if another date works better for them. Families that do not wish to take part, or do not turn up on the day, can opt out and instead pay a \$75 non-participation fee.

Working Bee 2019: Families whose child's surname begins with the letters:	Date
L – R	9.00am – 12 noon Sunday 25 th August

S – Z	Sunday 3 rd November
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Parent Library

Our preschool has a selection of books, small in size, but big on quality and relevance for the free use of all preschool families (including those on the waitlist). The Parent Library will open every first and third Friday on display in the foyer or by negotiation with Nicola.

Just start a file for your family from the record folder and get the borrowed or returned books signed in or out by Nicola. Please return your book after one month by replacing it in the bookcase and by getting it signed in by Nicola.

If you know of a good book which you can recommend for our library, please do so. We are always interested in good ideas.

Can parents please remember to return the borrowed items- thank you!

Morning/afternoon Tea Lists

Please check the lists in the foyer for this term's roster. Every family has to provide food for morning tea once or twice a year. Thank you.

Driveway Duty

This is a parent's initiative, only relying on their good will and participation to its running. Every parent/caregiver is required to sign up to do driveway duty for three mornings a term, even if your child does not yet use the system. The sign-up schedule is on the whiteboard in the Preschool foyer. It is your responsibility to swap duties if you are unable to do the duty on the day.

On your duty morning, please be at the Preschool by 8:40am, to enable enough time to collect your "gate monitor" badge and high vision vest and be on the driveway ready to accept children at 8:45am.

Gate monitor duties include opening the car door and assisting the child to exit the car, escorting the child safely into the Preschool foyer, through the internal door into the corridor of the Preschool. Gate monitor duty concludes at 9:05am. The gate monitor parent is also responsible to sign in the children.

Also: Please do not drop your child off before 8:40am as the door into the corridor does not open until 8:45am. And please do not park your car in the driveway and walk in with your child. It is dangerous. Use the gate monitor system instead!

Current Council Members and positions

If you are interested in being part of the council please contact Nicola or chat to anyone of the current members below.

You will see who we are from our photos in the foyer and we would be more than happy to talk to you anytime:

President - Mimi Tran (mother of Cara, Kowhai and April, Kauri)

Treasurer – Sarah Chainey (mother of Maria and Anna, Kauri)

Secretary – Amelia Volkerling (mother of Gian-Carlo, Kowhai)

Staff Liaison - Erin Reed (mother of Fletcher, Kowhai)

General Council Members:

Parent Liaison – Briar Simpson (mother of Anja, Kowhai)

Enrolments – Megan Molina (mother of Avery, Kauri and Tristan, Kowhai)

General/Parent Library – Chris Tipuna & Emma Robertson (parents of William, Kowhai)

General/Marketing – Nicolas Zilliox (father of Lou, Kauri)

General/Newsletter – Jane Robertson (mother of Charlotte, Kauri)

General – Claudia Mazuecos (mother of Olivia and Julieta, Kowhai)

General - Silke Bieda (mother of Nelly, Kauri)

Playgroup Liaison – vacant