

TERM 1- 2015

NEWSLETTER



FROM FLORENCE, CENTRE LEADER

Kia ora koutou,

Here is our first newsletter of the year 2015! We are trialling a new format, following some of the feedback from the Parents survey in 2014. The newsletter will now be sent during the first week, at the beginning of each term (except this one, of course!) and it will be shorter and more up-to-date. I will include information about what's coming up during the term, to give a general overview. Nicola will include information such as the noticeboard section, key dates and general information relevant to the smooth running of the preschool. The Council President will add his report and a parent will also share about their family.

Each class will continue to send regular updates of their class separately; we are also thinking of printing them out for everybody to read. Because it is a new way of doing it, we are still at the teething stage and we will improve over the coming months. Our aim is to keep communicating openly while being useful to you. One computer is now being used to display photos in the foyer screen, all day long. Such photos will give some idea of what the tamariki are doing at Preschool.

Our current self-review is about planning and recording what the children do and reviewing the format of the newsletters and its content is part of it. Also, Kirsten resigned from her role as newsletter editor at the end of the year and we are still looking for a volunteer! The previous format was a huge job and we are hoping to make it more reader-friendly and easier to lay out. Suggestions to improve are welcome!

So, what about our term 1? We have welcome Nina, Finlay, Edith and Alice in Kauri class. Soon, they will be joined by Maya and Kieran, transitioning from New Entrants. In Kowhai AM, we have welcomed Sylvie and Wilder, transitioning from New Entrants, Karan who has come back to the preschool as well as Lakshitha who has transferred from a Montessori school in India! In New Entrants, we welcomed Thomas, Atash, Naava, Ivy-Mei and very soon Johan! A warm welcome to all of you!

On the 13th, we had our annual family picnic, with entertainment by Mr Fungus! Thanks again to Jacque for being such a brilliant organiser and to all the families who turned up despite the cold weather. It was great to see so many of you and I think the children enjoyed the show!

As usual, every term, we have a fire drill (1st Monday of week 2) and we also run an Earthquake week, every week 4. Your children might tell you about their experience. We will

celebrate Children's day on Friday 27 February. Parents are welcome to come and stay for some time with their child. Each class has sent a reminder.

We are also celebrating Chinese New Year for the next few weeks or so. This year, we have started by the shared lunch with Chinese food on Thursday the 19th; we will continue to talk about it, read stories and do some craft around that topic. We aim to honour different cultures in our programme, so do let us know if you celebrate special events in your culture and if you would like to come and share with us!

Towards the end of the term, I will be resuming the educational session on Friday morning. The first one is on Friday 27 March, from 9 to 10.15am. I take on board some suggestions from the parent's survey, but I am also happy to adapt to your needs and 'hot topics' you are interested to talk about!

If you have any comments and questions, please do not hesitate to talk to one of us. As mentioned earlier, this first new newsletter is a start and I am hoping that a new editor will be able to improve it.

Finally, I would like to mention our amazing website that was revamped last year, by Kim. She did a phenomenal job and we invite you to have a look:

www.otaripreschool.school.nz

Ka kite,

Florence

FROM NICOLA, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

PLEASE CHECK YOU HAVE SIGNED ALL WEEKS IN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER IN THE FOYER. It is a Ministry requirement for caregivers to sign the register each week, acknowledging that your child has been present. This directly impacts on our funding from the MoE. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Record-keeping

The Preschool must maintain up to date records so we have also requested you to update your list of people who are authorised to collect your children. Only people listed on this form will be able to collect your child.

Immunisation record

The Preschool is required to keep an up to date immunisation record. If your child has recently had their 4 year old immunisations please provide a copy to the Office.

Fundraising

This term, we are holding a movie night, **on Thursday the 26th of March**. The Movie is “X+Y”, tickets are \$20, at The Lighthouse Cinema, in Petone. We are looking for donated items to raffle. Book your babysitters right now and let your friends know! If you are able to help prior or on the night, please get in contact with DeAnn Spell: deannspell@gmail.com

We will also be offering Entertainment Books. More details to follow soon.

In 2015, the fundraising money will be used to cover costs that are not funded by the Ministry of Education.

Wanted

- A handy person to help out with small maintenance jobs and advise on bigger property issues.
- A ‘shopper’, somebody who can do shopping for the Preschool, such as baking needs bits and pieces...
- A parent who would like to help sort out the library (children and parents), mend and/or cover some books.
- A holiday gardener: a person (or 2) who know a bit about gardening and who could come and tidy up the garden before the beginning of term.

Please see Nicola.

WISH LIST

Parents often ask us if they could purchase something special for the Preschool, when their child leaves. As a result, we have created a wish list, with books or special Montessori materials that we would love to get. If you are interested, please ask Nicola or Florence. Many thanks!

FROM GRANT, PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi all,

I hope you all had a great break! Over the last few months, the Council have completed and signed off the Strategic plan (next 3 years) and the Annual plan and budget for 2015.

Time to shine the spotlight on two of the activities we are focusing on:

Premises: An interesting fact is that we are leasing the current classrooms from the school, and the lease is due in 2016. We own the Pohutakawa & Ngaio classrooms, which we're never actually utilised! To increase certainty we are working with the Ministry of Education and the Otari School to come up with a long term solution.

Marketing: After the upgrade of the website, we're now working with the playgroup and developing some marketing materials so we can get out there and make sure people know about us! With great help from Doro, some professional pamphlets and posters are being created, and we're working on a plan to get out and about and spread the good word.

Hope to see you all at the AGM on Monday 16 March,

Grant

Current council members and position:

President: Grant Humm

Vice-President: vacant

Treasurer: Emma & Michael Mak

Staff liaison officer: Rachel Scott

Enrolments officer: Marta Karlik-Neale

Property Officer: vacant

Newsletter: vacant

Playgroup liaison: Richard Chapman

General (website): Kim Eros

General (fundraising): DeAnn Spell

AGM – Monday 16 March 2015

Please come along, all are welcome. There are a few positions that will become vacant on the council. The Council is dependent on the diversity of talent within the parent body for input into the development and operation of the Preschool.

INTRODUCING OUR FAMILIES

This term, we are introducing Henry's family:

Who are the members of your family: Matt, Anna, Henry (4) & Gus (1)

Why did you choose Montessori @ Otari preschool? We were drawn to the relative calm and peacefulness of the classrooms, as was Henry. We felt strongly

that our boys should be in an environment of respect and belief in their potential. We love the Montessori equipment and the opportunities it provides to explore and learn.

What's your favourite thing to do in Wellington with kids? Right now we're making many trips to the Air New Zealand exhibition at Te Papa. Henry loves the nose of the plane outside, and his Great-Grandfather was an early Air NZ pilot who among other things flew Edmond Hillary back to New Zealand - his picture, with Hilary, is part of the exhibition! We also love to swim at the beach as often as possible, go for long walks and spend time with friends.

Apart from yourself (of course) - who would you like to think is a role model for your child and why? Probably Henry's five uncles and two grandfathers! They're a great mix of hard working, loving, creative, free spirited, intelligent, fun and so much more.

Where is your favourite place to go on holiday with your family or where would your dream family holiday be and why? Matt's family is from Connecticut and Henry has been lucky enough to visit there three times. We love escaping to hot summers at the beach during New Zealand's winter. And this year we went back for a snowy white Christmas!

What is one of your favourite books, why would you recommend it to others? The children's book "Frederick" by Leo Lionni is a beautifully poetic story about a field mouse. It's imaginative, hopeful and shares a great message about how what each of us offers, has great value. Henry's loved it for years and so have we!

What was the last movie you saw? "Beginners" with Ewan McGregor and Christopher Plummer. Heart-warming (and breaking) and original!

FROM ELKE, PLAYGROUP SUPERVISOR

Greetings from us at Playgroup!

A warm welcome to all our new families this term. It is nice to see the following new children growing into our Playgroup community; Sophia, Sylvie, Lottie and Florence on Tuesdays and Hamish, Jeanie, Zara and Anneliese on Thursdays.

With this fabulous weather we are trying to spend at least a little time after each session at the Wadestown Playground. The children love to have a good run around after a busy session at St. Lukes hall. The children can explore freely the whole playground, increasing their confidence, physical and social development.

Let the sun shine and enjoy the summer days.

Montessori playgroup

The Montessori-at-Otari playgroup is a not-for-profit cooperative run by parents. We offer a friendly and fun playgroup environment for children aged 0-3 years. A Montessori-trained supervisor runs the sessions. We have Ministry of Education certification and meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in St Luke's Hall, Wadestown. We have close links with the Preschool and our equipment is especially chosen for a 0-3 Montessori environment. Attending playgroup makes the transition to Preschool very easy.

To find out more, or to organise a visit, contact Nicola in the preschool office on 475 9688 or email wcmp@xtra.co.nz.

NOTICEBOARD

Morning/afternoon tea lists

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

Working bees

Working Bees are held once a term and families are allocated to one per year. If you are unable to attend your session, please swap with another parent. Working bees normally take place from 9am to 12 noon. This is 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. Families that do not wish to take part, or do not turn up on the day, will be invoiced a \$75 non-participation fee.

Dates to put in your diary already!

Sunday 22nd February A-G

Saturday 16th May E-H

Sunday 16th August I-P

Sunda 8th November Q-Z

Driveway duty

We have a drop-off system in place to help with the busy morning school run. From 9.55am to 9.15am two parent monitors are on duty at the bottom of the driveway. They will escort children into the Preschool. This service is parent-run and relies on volunteers.

Please do not drop your child off before 8:55am as the door into the corridor does not open until 9am.

Monitors are to be at the Preschool by 8:50am. Duties include opening the car door, assisting the child to exit the car and **escorting the child into the Preschool foyer.**

Please do not park your car in the driveway and walk in with your child. It is dangerous. Use the gate monitor system instead!

Every parent/caregiver with a child in the morning classes is required to sign up to do monitor duties for three mornings a term even if your child does not yet use the system.