

TERM 1- 2016

NEWSLETTER



FROM FLORENCE, CENTRE LEADER

Kia koutou and a very warm welcome to all for another year of fun and learning!

I hope everybody had a lovely break with their whanau. I heard the weather in Wellington was beautiful while I was away. I had a fantastic time in Europe, catching up with my family and friends. I hadn't been back to France for 3 and a half years so it was wonderful to have such a long vacation over there.

We are welcoming many new children and families over the next few weeks, some of the children are siblings and some children are new to our community. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to ask one of us; if it is important to you, it is important to us.

We are all delighted to be back, hoping the weather will stay warm, as we love being in our garden. As a matter of fact, the team is going on a workshop at the end of February, to reflect on the outside environment and how we can best use our space, within our Montessori philosophy. The workshop will be run by Pam Shand who came to our preschool in 2014. Some great PD for us!

There are a few changes in our team timetable. Bronwyn is dropping off her Friday morning, working in Kauri from Monday to Thursday. I am joining the Kauri team on Friday, with Nina in the class and Julia in the garden. I am very excited to be back in the morning! I am still in the classroom on Monday and Tuesday from 12 to 3pm. You can find me in the office every morning (except Friday now). Seedeви will also drop her Thursday afternoon, only working until 1.30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (and all day on Friday). Pam will be stepping in to support the team on Thursday and Friday from lunch time till 3pm. My priority is to maintain consistency and stability for the children and the programme. Pam has been part of the team as a reliever for a while now and we are happy to welcome her as a regular member of our team!

We got some useful feedback from the parents' survey that can be implemented easily, especially about our communication. We are keeping the term newsletter, in week 1, as well as the class updates 3 times a term. We also want to be more effective with ongoing information and notices, so we have decided to send weekly notices every Thursday.

On April 16th, the new Health and Safety law will be effective. As a result, the Preschool will have to put some new procedures in place. One of them could be a signing in-signing out book, for every person coming to preschool, from staff, to parents and visitors. Technically, it means that if you wish to stay after drop off, parents will be asked to sign out when they leave the building. The reason for that is to always be accountable for people on our premises, in case of an emergency. We have one term to get ourselves organised and will keep you posted when we officially implement any new changes.

The Preschool is closed on Monday the 8th for Waitangi Day, which also coincides with the beginning of Chinese New Year. Our first social event is our family picnic next Friday, the 12th, from 4.30pm with entertainment at 5.30pm.

I look forward to having another exciting year with you and your tamariki!

Have a good long weekend everyone,

Florence

PS: It is definitely 'Sunhat' time in Term 1. Please help us protect our tamariki from the sun while encouraging them to be independent. We are still using our 'hat basket' in each class and highly recommend your child always leaves one hat at school. We will provide spare hats, in case of need so as not to impede the child's time in the garden. We are looking at possibly buying our own preschool hats for parents to purchase and keep at school. The fundraising team will come up with ideas and will let you know.

FROM NICOLA, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Welcome back everyone to what will be another exciting and busy term. The key term dates are attached, please print them out or put them in your phone especially working bee dates, class photo day, mother's day etc... All families have been allocated to a working bee, please note the date of your working bee, put it in your diary, and make arrangements to swap if it doesn't suit – the working bees are an important way to keep our environment beautiful and are also a great way to meet other families. We will be running the holiday programme in the first week of the school holidays (Monday 18th April – Friday 22nd April, excluding Wednesday 20th).

PS: There are a few **afternoon places** (full days) available, see me if you are interested.

Please check that you have:

- Signed all weeks in the attendance register in the foyer. This is a Ministry of Education requirement.

- Signed up to do **3 driveway duties** this term (even if your child does not yet use the system).
- Given me a copy of your child's **latest immunisation record** (especially if your child has recently had their 4 year old immunisations).

Important

Please remember when packing lunches that **we are nut free**. This includes peanut butter, Nutella spread and muesli bars.

The Preschool has a hazards register. This is a living document and is checked regularly by staff and the property officer. Items are added and removed. If you become aware of a **potential health and safety hazard** please note it on the register in the foyer.

Thank you.

Nicola

FROM RICHARD, PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello everybody. What a cracking summer break I had. Did you all enjoy my break as much as me? Of course.

Here we are again at another beginning of the year. This time the year is 2016. The most exciting news of the year (in point of fact, the end of last year) is that we have now, finally (and definitely), secured a 34 year lease on our building. That means one big weight has been lifted off our shoulders and we can direct our energies towards other important projects.

The year promises to be full of great, great things for our children to get stuck in to. If you have an interest in learning more about the Montessori philosophy then please look out for Florence's regular morning/evening information sessions. They are both excellent and informative. I encourage you all to attend at least one this year.

Also, there will be the Preschool Council AGM this March 14th at 7:30pm. All are welcome. Please come along. We will be electing some new officers. If you are interested in joining the Council please let me know: richard.guy.chapman@gmail.com, or Nicola at the office.

Super,

Richard

Current Council Members and Positions:

President - Richard Chapman
Treasurer - Emma Cottier-Mak & Michael Mak
Secretary - Sandra Henzschel
Staff Liaison - Jane Ward-Marshall
General Council Members:
General – Deja Harrison (until March 2016)
General/Website - Kim Eros
General/Newsletter - Dorothee Vere-Jones
Parent liaison - vacant
Enrolments – Marta Karlik-Neale (until March 2016)
Fundraising - vacant
Property - vacant
Playgroup Liaison - vacant

Introducing our families

This term, we are introducing Atash's family:

Who are the members of your family? Azra, Atash, Riyaaz and Joy.

Why did you choose Montessori @ Otari preschool? We chose Montessori because of its philosophy and we believe it has helped Atash to acquire independence and confidence, due to being surrounded by the friendly, qualified teachers. We like the structured program and how the kids learn at their own pace.

What's your favorite thing to do in Wellington with kids? The kids love the library, museum, beach and catching fish with dad on those rather good days in Wellington.

Apart from yourself (of course) - who would you like to think is a role model for your child and why? Their dad Riyaaz. He is always a supportive father in everything they do, is always giving them a helping hand and they love to imitate him.

Where is your favourite place to go on holiday with your family or where would your dream family holiday be and why? Napier. It is extremely beautiful and the kids loved the National Aquarium.

What is one of your favourite books, why would you recommend it to others? "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne. In this book, you'll learn how to use The Secret in every aspect of your life. Check out these quotes from her below:

“Believing involves thinking, talking and acting as though you have already received”.

“Plant as many good thoughts as you can each day. As you begin to think good thoughts, you will attract more and more good thoughts, eventually the good thoughts will wipe out the negative thoughts altogether”.

“Your imagination is an extremely powerful tool”.

“You are free to think thoughts of worry or joy, and whatever you choose will attract the same kind back to you. Worry attracts worry. Joy attracts joy”.

FROM CAMILLA, PLAYGROUP SUPERVISOR

Welcome back to playgroup! We warmly welcome Lucus Chin who will be joining us on Thursdays this term. A few of our biggest children left during term 4 leaving us with a few places for new families. If you would like to come for a trial session with your little one you are most welcome to come and check us out. Just send me an email: Camilla.browne@icloud.com to let me know when you would like to come.

Our sessions run on Tuesday's and Thursday mornings at St Luke's Centre in Pitt St Wadestown. You can choose which day you would like to come or sign up for both if you are keen.

We have had a lovely first week and the children seem to be pleased to be back in their familiar routine. It's amazing how much they have changed over the holidays. More words emerging, some children looking taller and more mature, babies rolling and confidence growing.

We are striving to make playgroup as relaxed and fun as possible. Let me know if you have any requests or suggestions.

Here is a quote from Maria Montessori: *"The first essential for the child's development is concentration. The child who concentrates is immensely happy."*

I hope you have a most enjoyable term.

Camilla

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 tea 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.

Families whose child's surname begins with the letters:	Date
	9.00am – 12 noon
A – D	Saturday 5th March
E – H	Sunday 22nd May
I – P	Sunday 14th August
Q – Z	Sunday 30th October

Driveway Duty

We have a drop-off system in place to help with the busy morning school run. From 8.40 am to 9.05 am 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. Monitors are to be at the Preschool by 8:35am. Duties include opening the car door, assisting the child to exit the car and escorting the child into the Preschool foyer.

Please do not drop your child off before 8:40am as the door into the corridor does not open until 8.45am. Every parent/caregiver is required to sign up to do monitor duties for three mornings a term even if your child does not yet use the system.

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

Primary School Playground

Otari Primary School kindly lets us use their playground. Please bear in mind that this playground is set up for children year 1-4 and not for preschoolers. Supervise your child closely and take into consideration that this space is for the primary kids to run around during their lunch break. The tables outside Kereru classroom, which are covered with the shade sail in summer, are for the primary school children to have their lunch. There are more benches provided opposite under the trees.

Road Patrol

The primary school children operate a road patrol every morning guarding the pedestrian crossing on Wilton Road. Two students run a sign each supervised by a teacher to ensure safe crossing for all children. Once the road is clear one child will start with "Signs Out" followed by "Check" and "Clear". The procedure finishes with "Cross now" and only then are you allowed to cross. Please respect and follow their instructions to set a good example and encourage their good work and effort. It's a great service we and our children also benefit from.

Term 1 2016 – Key Dates for your calendar

Date	Event
Monday 8 th February	Waitangi Day observed – Preschool closed. Chinese New Year starts
Friday 12 th February	Fire Drill – all classes (week 2) Annual family picnic 4.30 – 6.30pm in the Preschool garden. Entertainment: String Bean Puppets (The Penguin and the Sea Monster).
Monday 15 th February	Chinese New Year shared lunch (provided by Preschool)
Tuesday 16 th February	Information evening 7.30pm at the Preschool. For parents on the waiting list and new to the Preschool.
Monday 22 nd February	Earthquake Drill all week – all classes (week 4). Council meeting 7.30pm at the Preschool.
Friday 4 th March	All classes - Children's Day Celebration details to follow.
Saturday 5 th March	Working Bee (surnames A-D) 9am – 12 noon.
Monday 14 th March	Council meeting (AGM) 7.30pm at the Preschool. All welcome. See Nicola if you are interested in being on the Council.
Friday 25 th March	Good Friday – Preschool closed
Monday 28 th March	Easter Monday – Preschool closed
Tuesday 7 th April	Parent education session – around 9am in Otari School staffroom. An opportunity to discuss education, parenting and Montessori with Florence. Preschoolers welcome. Tea and coffee provided.
Monday 11 th April	Council meeting 7.30pm at the Preschool.
Friday 15 th April	Last day of Term 1
Week 1 of holidays – Monday 18 th , Tuesday 19 th , Thursday 21 st , Friday 22 nd April	Holiday programme – children will be enrolled and can come on any or all of the days, for their normal school hours. Further details to follow.
Monday 2 nd May	Term 2 starts
Coming up in Term 2 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class and individual photos 5/5 • Mother's day celebration 6/5 • Council meeting 7.30pm at the Preschool 16/5, 13/6 • Working Bee (surnames E-I) Sunday 22/5 • Open Day date tbc • Last day of term 28/7

