

# TERM 2-2018

## NEWSLETTER



### FROM FLORENCE, CENTRE LEADER

Kia ora koutou,

When we developed our strategic plan last year, the council and the staff wanted to focus on bi-culturalism and improve our te reo Māori so it could be used and heard within the Preschool. We decided to have regular language classes for the team, throughout the year. I met a passionate young Māori teacher who was able to deliver classes to us, tailored to our needs and our environment...and so we started at the beginning of Term 1! After 3 lessons, we have revised basic greetings like *Tenā koe* (1), *korua* (2 people), *koutou* (3+) *katoa* (everything else too);

*Kia ora* – Hello; *Nau mai* – Welcome; *Ka kite anō i a koe* – Will see you again; *E noho rā* (farewell said by the person leaving to the person staying); *Haere rā* (farewell said by the person staying to the person leaving).

We have learnt simple structures to ask a person how s/he is, what they are doing, where they are from; we can give basic instructions such as “come here-*haere mai*”, “listen to me-*whakarongo mai*”, “let’s eat- *me kai*” ...; we have also made games to practice sentences like “what is it – *He aha tēnei?*”, “Pass me the...*Homai te/ngā*”, “I went to the market/zoo/pet shop/beach...and I saw...”

Our aim is to build our confidence over time and use the language often and in an authentic way. Venice, our tutor, advised us to say a sentence in te reo, then in English and in te reo again. Once the children are familiar with the new vocabulary, we won’t need to translate anymore. I can only encourage you to give it a go too!

We are also learning new songs and practicing our favourites, we like to sing in the classroom and in the garden! Last year, we organised a 2-hour workshop at Preschool with Sharon Holt who has written fantastic singalong books in te reo. They are another resource we often use; some children love those books so much that they play them by themselves on the CD player, over, and over again! Here are some links of the audio version, which you can listen to with your child, based on the books we have in the classrooms.

[Matariki NZSL with te reo and English subtitles](#)

[Matariki NZSL with te reo subtitles](#)

[Kia Ora NZSL with te reo and English subtitles](#)

[Kia Ora NZSL with te reo subtitles](#)

[He aha tēnei? NZSL with te reo and English subtitles](#)

[He aha tēnei? NZSL with te reo subtitles](#)

[Kei te Peke Ahau NZSL with te reo and English subtitles](#)

[Kei te Peke Ahau NZSL with te reo subtitles](#)

This year, the Primary school had some places available for the Montessori strand (6-9 class). We are delighted that all our applicants got a place! It means that our tamariki can stay at Preschool beyond

5 to move into the Primary class closer to their 6th birthday. Our programme caters for the needs of children from 3-6 and it is essential that we keep a small cohort of older children. Whether your child moves to the Montessori strand or not, there are benefits staying on a bit longer:

1. Children are allowed to continue in a familiar environment at a time when many new skills are beginning to emerge. This means that the children continue to blossom, free of the additional stress of coping with a new environment.
2. Every child experiences being the oldest child in the class: they become our leaders for the young ones. The confidence they develop knowing they are much more capable than the younger children is a delight to see, especially when they eagerly share their skills with the younger children and help them in everyday tasks. This develops excellent social skills, nurtures their self-esteem, builds their confidence, and gives them a tremendous feeling of independence.
3. The six year old is much more able to cope with the change of environment than a five year old. By six they take a change in their stride. At five they often approach it with apprehension.
4. The Montessori Curriculum is designed to cater for the developmental needs of children from 3 to 6. We have a full range of materials to ensure that the children continue to progress. Some of the more advanced materials are generally presented around 5 or after 5, for children who are showing an interest in such work.

During the holiday, some of us went to listen to Nathan Mikaere-Wallis talk about the developing brain; it was very validating for us, Preschool teachers, to be reminded that the first 6 years of development are so crucial. Here is one interview of him on RNZ that might interest you:

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoonoon/audio/2595176/what-3-to-7-year-olds-need-to-learn-nathan-mikaere-wallis>

Deborah, the 6-9 Montessori teacher, has invited the Preschool teachers and parents to collaborate on an information evening about the transition between Preschool and Primary. If your child is moving to Pohutukawa (in 2018 or 2019), or if you are interested in Montessori education at the primary level, put the date in your diary: **Thursday 17 May at 7.30pm**. More details will follow.

Now that the cold weather is on its way, make sure your child has warm clothes to go out (warm jacket and woollen hat), and as always, a pair of gumboots to go outside and another pair of shoes for inside; unless it is pouring down, the garden will be open and available to all!

Also note that there is one newsletter at the beginning of each term; there will be 2 updates per term, with a focus on the programme; the weekly notices are emailed on Thursday; and we use Storypark as a platform to share any community events, reminders or notices. You will also receive the Term key dates very soon to give you an overview of the term. Make sure all caregivers/au pair/grandparents also receive information to ensure the smooth running of the Preschool.

Finally I would like to finish with our new karakia; it was developed during another te reo PD in 2016 by the staff and the tutor especially for our kōhungahunga. It has been slightly improved by Venise:

Manakitia mai tēnei whanau o te kōhungahunga o Otari Montessori  
Mahea te ara mō mātou akoranga  
Tihei mauri ora

*Take care of us, the family of Otari Montessori Early childhood environment  
So that our learning path is clear from obstruction  
Breath of life*

## FROM RICHARD, PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kia ora and welcome back to term 2.

Last term we said goodbye to some wonderful people from the council. On behalf of the council and parents I extend a deep and heartfelt thanks to Jane, Rebecca and Martin for their wonderful service over the years. I also wish to thank the new council members for putting up their hands and helping the school. I am impressed with the skillset the council has at its disposal.

I must take this opportunity to put on my stern hat. There is ABSOLUTELY NO PARKING IN THE SCHOOL DRIVEWAY!! You can stop to get your child out of the vehicle so the person on driveway duty can take your child in to the preschool, however you cannot leave your vehicle parked on the drive while you take your child in to the preschool. The preschool has two parks allocated from the primary school. These two parks are primarily for parents/caregivers who also have very young babies. If the parks are taken, parents are expected to park on one of the streets around the school. We CANNOT park in the driveway. This is because emergency services and service vehicles need to have access to the school, as do other parents of course. I understand that it can be tricky, however the safety of everyone is more important than a little inconvenience for you. Leave your car in the driveway and expect a berating from other parents, the Primary School Principal, or me! You have been warned.

At the end of last year all parents had the opportunity to participate in the Annual Parent Survey. Approximately half of the parents responded, and I thank you for that. Overall the feedback was very favourable in almost all facets of the school, and in particular of our wonderful teachers. We included questions about the use of Storypark, as it is new technology for the teachers to be using. It was found to be a valuable communication tool between the school and parents.

A great big high five goes out to everyone who helped our fundraising efforts last term by selling chocolates and going to the quiz night. The quiz night is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the community feel of the school and to socialise with other parents. Thank you all so much for supporting our wonderful preschool and long may it continue. We all get out of it what we put in.

Richard

## From the council

Thank you to all the parents that came to the AGM in March, we had a fantastic turnout. We'd like to welcome our four new council members listed below in red.

### **Current Council Members and Positions:**

President - Richard Wall (father of Florence, Kauri)  
Treasurer – Sarah Chainey (mother of Maria, Kauri)  
Secretary – Fiona Miles (mother of Zelly, Kauri)  
Staff Liaison – currently vacant

### General Council Members:

Enrolments – Stefanie Dixon (mother of Frank, Kauri)  
Property – Richard Wall (father of Florence, Kauri)  
General – Tammy Smith (mother of Oliver, Kowhai)  
General – Bernhard Resch (father of Juri, Kauri)  
General/Website – Lara Charles (mother of Evan, Kowhai)  
General – **Michelle Ingram** (mother of Hamish, Kauri)  
Playgroup Liaison – **Megan Molina** (mother of Avery, Kauri)  
General/Newsletter – **Jane Robertson** (mother of Charlotte, Kauri)  
General – **Mimi Tran** (mother of Cara, Kowhai)

## **Introducing our Families**

This term, we are introducing Cara's (Kowhai) family:

**Who are the members of your family:** Richard (father), Mimi (mother), Cara (3.5 years old), April (2 years old).

**Why did you choose Montessori @ Otari preschool?** Cara was attending a Montessori preschool in London before we moved to Wellington and it was the closest one to us. We both feel Cara benefits and enjoys the Montessori method of learning and after visiting Otari preschool and seeing the large classroom and garden, we were sold!

**What's your favourite thing to do in Wellington with kids?** Discovering new playgrounds, having babycinos/fluffies, dipping our toes in the ocean and looking for shells at the beach.

**Apart from yourself (of course) - who would you like to think is a role model for your child and why?** Cara's cousin Jacqui who is 18 years old. Jacqui is confident, patient, kind and funny.

**Where is your favourite place to go on holiday with your family or where would your dream family holiday be and why?** Last summer we went to a resort in Halkidiki, Greece called Porto Sani and it was amazing. The kids were well thought of at the resort and there were activities such as paddle board yoga and archery for adults. There were plenty of restaurants

to choose from all with good choices for children. We went to the crystal clear beach in the morning and had lunch on the beach and then hung out by the lagoon style heated outdoor pool after a nap. I don't think we will be returning as it's such a long journey on the plane, so we will be looking to explore some resorts in either Asia or the Pacifics. Any recommendations welcome!

**What is one of your favourite books, why would you recommend it to others?** Not sure if it's a favourite however, I've been reading Daniel Siegel's books on parenting and particularly, 'no drama discipline' is one I would recommend because it gives a good insight on how the young mind develops and has good examples of ways to deal with the challenges in behaviour.

Thank you Mimi for your contribution.

## FROM CAMILLA, PLAYGROUP SUPERVISOR

Welcome back to the new term.

A special welcome to our new families. Please make yourselves at home. If you are unsure of anything, please sing out and we will show you the way. Please remember to bring two pieces of fruit for morning tea (if your child is at that stage!) and if you are a coffee drinker, don't forget a bag of plunger coffee to keep us going through the term.

The highlight of the holidays for me was attending a talk by Nathan Mikaere-Wallis on brain development, along with staff from the preschool, which was utterly fascinating and very inspiring. If you ever have the chance to hear him, please take it! Hearing his emphasis on the significance of the first 1000 days of a child's life, and the importance of the primary relationship, I felt a deeper sense of appreciation for those of you who are able to take the time to attend playgroup with your child. There is nothing more valuable that we can give our children than time. He explained that research now confirms that there is no such thing as an intelligence gene - instead intelligence is developed through the quality of interactions with our child in the first three years of life. He also stressed the importance of child-lead education, where children are free to move, learn and play.

Some of our oldest children are getting ready to transition over to Montessori at Otari Preschool this term. To support that move, we will again arrange a visit to the preschool playground during the term and weather permitting. It was lovely to have Florence come to visit us and this provides a very warm link between playgroup and preschool.

Juliana Malaeulu, an Early Childhood Advisor from the Ministry of Education, will be coming to visit on Tuesday 15th May as part of our re-certification process. Please feel free to talk with her.

Tilo has gone off to kindy, thank you to Kat (Tilo's mum) for being on the playgroup committee. So Sarah, Carla and I are desperate for some new committee members. Joining the playgroup committee is not challenging time-wise. We tend to meet once a term, during the day, to review matters at playgroup and to make improvements. We would love ♥️☐ to have you on board! We are especially in need of a committee chairperson. Megan has taken on playgroup liaison person on the preschool committee, and Michelle and Sarah are doing a great job on the rosters. Thank you so much.

Our committee meeting for this term will be on Wednesday 9th May at 9.30am at my house. So please come and join us for some morning tea. Let me know if you are keen to come along.

*"If we were to establish a primary principle, it would be to constantly allow the child's participation in our lives. For he cannot learn to act if he does not join in our actions, just as he cannot learn to speak if he does not hear... To extend to the child this hospitality, to allow him to participate in our work, can be difficult, but it costs nothing. Our time is a far more precious gift than material objects..."*

*Maria Montessori*

Let's have a lovely term together.

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](mailto:wcmp@xtra.co.nz).**

## UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Movie Night: Potentially a “movie night” for the children either in-house or at the cinema. Details to follow soon.

Family Photo Session: An opportunity to have a family photo taken at the Preschool on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Details to follow.

Entertainment Books: available at the Preschool... see Nicola.

AlphaBeats: singing and dancing at Preschool with Carrie, on Wednesdays, from 1-1.45. Starting 9<sup>th</sup> May until 27th June, \$60. See Nicola or Krissy if you would like to enrol.

## NOTICEBOARD

### Morning/afternoon Tea Lists

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

### Working Bees

Thanks to all the parents who came to our working bee in March. The garden and classrooms looked amazing for the children. Our third working bee of the year is on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May (E-K). 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 the 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.

### Driveway Duty

We have a drop-off system in place to help with the busy morning school run. From **8:40am to 9:05am** 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. Every parent/caregiver is required to sign up to do three monitor duties a term even if your child does not yet use the system.

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. 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!

**The two car parks at the bottom of the drive way that are reserved for preschool are for the use of pregnant woman and families with young infants only. Please help by keeping these reserved car parks free for their use.**