

TERM 2- 2015

NEWSLETTER



FROM FLORENCE, CENTRE LEADER

Kia Ora whanau,

Welcome all to Term 2 with 11 weeks, which promises to be as busy as usual, for the autumn months! We are welcoming Milo and his family, starting in New Entrants! We have farewelled Tracy, Rhazes, Benji, Ivy Mei, Alice and Sophie. We wish them all the best for their next adventure!

Keep the calendar with key dates in mind (or on the fridge door) to know what's happening for your child, such as the usual fire drill, Earthquake week, Mother's Day celebration or Photo day. Later in the term, we will celebrate Matariki, the Maori New Year.

We are desperate to get help for gardening and to plant seasonal vegetables or flowers. If you can help, please let us know. We have also heard that some of you are talented musicians and we would love to hear from you too! Last term, the teachers had a series of workshops for their Professional Development, run by Pauline Harter, a Montessori teacher and trainer from Masterton. She is a wonderful musician herself and she taught us enough chords and songs to use with the ukulele! She is also the mastermind behind using the bells again. A lot of changes were put in place after her workshops and it was wonderful to see how the children responded to them. All the teachers felt very inspired and refocused, thanks to the power of team work!

During the holiday, I attended the annual Montessori conference in Tauranga. The topic was about creativity and exploration in the Montessori prepared environment. It was really interesting and built on what Pauline had shared with us. For the next Education Session, I will share some of the gems I learnt. The session will be on Friday 19th of June, from 9 to 10am. I look forward to seeing some of you.

Talking about education, MANZ is organising a series of 2 consecutive workshops: "Supporting children with dyslexia in the Montessori environment", on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th of June, from 6 to 9pm. These workshops are open to parents as well as educators. If you are interested in attending, please let us know since we can enrol you as a MANZ member school. Here is the link to the website for more details. <http://www.montessori.org.nz/professional-events>

We are often asked how parents can help...well, this term, there will be two material making sessions, in the morning. This is a great opportunity to help the teachers (and the children, indirectly) and get to see what we do in the classroom! Keep Friday 15 May and Friday 12 June free, from 9 to 11am.

Finally, a couple of reminders: when your child arrives in the morning, encourage them to go and greet their teachers. The temptation to go straight to the garden is big, but we would like to know who has arrived to preschool. Check the lost property box, as it is due to be cleared soon! Hats are not compulsory any more, but if you wish your child to use one, keep it in their bag. Please make sure that your child is clothed appropriately for the season and wears warm clothes and shoes to go out in the garden. If teachers feel the child is not warm enough, we offer spare clothes from the Preschool, but the child has the option to refuse the extra clothes and will have to stay inside as a consequence. Did you know that there is a folder full of interesting articles for parents, in the foyer? Take time to look at them and ask us if you would like a copy.

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.

Driveway Duty

Please check that you have signed up to do this for term 2. Please remember that 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.

Photos

Class and individual photos will be taken at Preschool on Monday 11th May. Order forms will be in pockets shortly. Just a reminder: we have a photograph/video policy, the main points of which are displayed in the foyer. The aim is to ensure that visual images taken of children and teachers at the Preschool are dealt with in a manner that is lawful, appropriate, and sensitive to those who are in the images.

The main points of the Preschool photograph/video policy are as follows:

- Please feel free to take pictures or video of your child at Preschool.
- Please be sensitive that other families may not want their child photographed or videoed, and that the teachers may not want their picture taken.
- If your photo or video includes another child or a teacher, then please use it for your family's viewing only.
- When posting your photos on social media websites, please be aware that such photos should not include other adults or children unless you have sought the permission of the other adults or the children's parents. Please be aware that many parents choose not to, under any circumstance, allow photographs of their children on social media and, the teachers may not allow this either.

Financial

The Preschool's financial statements for 2014 have been finalised. The statements, which show the Preschool's financial position as at 31st December 2014, are available for all parents to view. A copy is in the office and on the Charities Commission website.

Hazards Register

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.

Fundraising

This term, we continue to offer Entertainment Books. This can be ordered online (check your emails for details) or pop into the Office. \$12 from every book sold goes directly to the Preschool.

The other fundraiser, later this term, is tea towels featuring the children's artwork – this is always popular and a great gift for grandparents, aunts and uncles.

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

Wanted

- A parent who would like to help sort out the library (children and parents), mend and/or cover some books.
- A gardener who likes gardening and who could help with tidying up the garden and planting.

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 RICHARD, PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello everyone,

Welcome to term 2. I hope that you all had fantastic holidays without any irrational breakdowns or tears or boredom any other things like that. I'm sure you all had flawless holidays that went without hitch. Well done.

For those of you who don't know, I am the new president. My name is Richard; again, for those who don't know. Since the AGM in March there have been some personnel changes, of which I am just one. There is still room for more, so please don't hesitate to volunteer.

I have inherited a well-oiled machine from Grant, which I intend to maintain with good oil.

I would like to extend our thanks and best wishes to Tracy who has done fantastic things in the Kowhai PM class. Whilst she will be greatly missed, her departure has given us an opportunity to make some changes that will be great for the school. These changes, as you know, will come fully into effect in term 3 but you will certainly be noticing some changes this term. Please bear with us and excuse any potential teething problems. We welcome any feedback from you.

Enjoy term 2. Or, rather, have your children enjoy term 2.

Thanks
Richard

Current Council Members and Positions:

President – Richard Chapman
Treasurer – Emma Cottier-Mak & Michael Mak
Secretary – Matt
Staff Liaison – Jane Ward-Marshall
General Council Members:
Vice-President – Grant Humm
Enrolments – Marta Karlik-Neale
Communications – Dorothee Vere-Jones
Fundraising - Vidhya Balakrishnan
General - Deja Harrison
General/Website - Kim Eros
Property – vacant
Playgroup Liaison– vacant

Introducing our Families

This term, we are introducing Chloe's family:

Who are the members of your family? Jenny, Richard, Chloe (3) and Lena (8 months).

Why did you choose Montessori @ Otari preschool? We were looking for playgroups in our area when Chloe was younger and found the Montessori Playgroup; things just happened from there.

What's your favourite thing to do in Wellington with kids? We all really get a kick out of complaining about the coffee we get served. Then we like to tell everyone we see how terrible a place Auckland is to live in.

Apart from yourself (of course) - who would you like to think is a role model for your child and why? There is not one particular person who fulfils all the things that I would like my children to aspire to. I make sure that I show them examples of how people observe their environment and try to make things work for them and for others. But if I had to give a name I would say Rodney Dangerfield's character in the film Caddyshack.

Where is your favourite place to go on holiday with your family or where would your dream family holiday be and why? We just had a great holiday over summer going to the

beaches north of Auckland. I loved beach holidays when I was small and I had a great time showing Chloe all the things that I liked to do. I made Chloe like them.

What is one of your favourite books, why would you recommend it to others? "Wulf" by Hamish Clayton. It is the first novel by a new New Zealand writer. It is excellent. One of the best debuts I've ever read.

FROM ELKE, PLAYGROUP SUPERVISOR

Greetings from the Playgroup,

We welcome Eva, Lucielle, Lena and their families into our Montessori Playgroup Community.

Last term I went to a 0- 3 Montessori workshop in Auckland. It was great to meet so many people who are working with the same age group. I came back with lots of ideas and I have learnt heaps. 'The first essential for the child's development is concentration' M.Montessori.

We have a good number of children who are coming to Playgroup for a while now and it is lovely to see how confident and independent they have become. And these little children work with such great concentration once they mastered a skill. Our Playgroup is a place where children have the time and peace to learn.

Every term I change the equipment in our shelves, which includes materials from different areas like sensorial, fine motor skills, gross motor skills and a lot of practical life activities.

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!

Saturday 16th May E-H
Sunday 16th August I-P
Sunday 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.