

# TERM 2- 2016

## NEWSLETTER



### FROM FLORENCE, CENTRE LEADER

Kia ora koutou and welcome all to term 2, another 10 weeks full of events! By the time you read that newsletter, we will have already had our class photos and celebrated our wonderful Mums, Grandmas, Aunties, Au-pairs...That's a great start to the term!

We cannot believe how mild the weather has been; I think we did not miss one single day out in the garden in term 1. Sun hats are not required any more but going into winter, children now need appropriate warm clothes to go out. Check your child's bag for extra clothes and a jacket. The weather has to be pretty awful for us not to go out at our preschool! If your child wants to wear gumboots outside, can we ask you to also leave another pair of shoes or slippers for inside. Our garden got some work done during the holiday, with one tree being cut down; its roots were growing under the matting and it was becoming a tripping hazard. We get a lot more light though!

As already mentioned, we will be implementing a sign in-sign out procedure from **MONDAY 9th MAY**. There will be the class lists in the foyer for parents to sign in and out their child, every day. The gate monitor will also become responsible to sign in the child being dropped off; it might take a bit of practice but it is standard practice that we have to follow. Once parents have signed the last weekly attendance sheets, we will not need them anymore; the daily sign in and out will suffice.

Towards the end of June, the Education Review Office (ERO) is coming to visit us! They came in July 2013 and are coming back as part of their 3-year cycle. The council, Nicola and myself will be busy getting everything ready for their visit, which, I hope, will be positive! If you are interested, the previous reports are in the foyer. We will let you know when dates are confirmed.

Our "Big Book" #1 is now finished! We are starting our second one; we try to keep regular entries, to welcome new families, and share lots of events that happen during the day. We really would love to hear your voice and we encourage you to add comments and give us feedback. We also like to hear your voice in your child's portfolio; we always keep a space for you to write a comment. The team have completed a self-review about our recording and planning system, and we strongly feel the importance of the triangular relationship between the teachers, the child and the family. Getting feedback from you is one way of finding out more about your child.

The team will undertake a new series of workshops this term, around effective communication. The 3 workshops will be run after school by Bronwen Olds, who has already run workshops for us about the Treaty of Waitangi in Early childhood. We are hoping to hone our skills to improve our communication as a team, but also with the tamariki and whanau.

I am planning to have our termly parent education session on Tuesday 5th of July (last week of term) Last session was about Montessori from A to Z! If you have a suggestion for a topic, do let me know. Once again, if you have a comment, a suggestion or a question, do not hesitate to talk to one of us! We would like to hear from you!

Have a good week end everyone and make sure you spoil the amazing women in your life, on Sunday!!

Nga mihi nui

Florence

## FROM NICOLA, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

### Attendance Register

#### **PLEASE CHECK YOU HAVE SIGNED ALL WEEKS IN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER IN THE FOYER.**

As we are phasing out this system it would be great to have this completed as soon as possible.

### Nut Free

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

### Fundraising

In 2016, the fundraising money will be used to cover costs that are not funded by the Ministry of Education, with a particular focus on our garden.
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

WANTED: Please let me know if you are able to help organise a movie night fundraiser either this term or next. It would be great to have a team of parents so as to spread the load. They are always very popular and are a great night out.

## Hazards Record

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 or let me or Florence know.

## Photos

Class and individual photos will be taken at Preschool on Thursday 5th 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 2015 have been finalised. The statements, which show the Preschool's financial position as at 31st December 2015, are available for all parents to view. A copy is in the office and on the Charities Commission website.

## FROM RICHARD, PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Autumn is well and truly upon us and it is time to put mulch down on your flowerbeds. Much like the semi-decomposed leaf litter warms your daphne or rhodos to protect them from the winter cold, so too do the teachers apply mulch to our children. This is metaphorical mulch, you understand. They won't be throwing pea straw on the classroom floor hoping that the children will absorb nitrogen from it. No. That would be as ridiculous as this metaphor that seems to have got away from me.

The Council moves into term 2 looking strong. We had an excellent group of volunteers joining at the AGM in February and are already working hard at making sure the new Health

and Safety at Work standards are in place. To that end please remember that from Monday 9th there will be a new sign in system in place. You must sign your child in and out for the day. If you drop your child off at the gate then the gate monitor will have that responsibility.

Finally, as always, you are welcome to come to our Council meetings. We meet on a Monday night at the preschool. The next meetings are:

**Monday 16th May, 7:30pm and Monday 13th June, 7:30pm**

Don't worry about those freesias; they'll ram their heads through that pea straw - but so will oxalis. Just something to think about.

Thanks

Richard Chapman, President

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

President - Richard Chapman  
Treasurer – Rebecca Archer  
Secretary - Sandra Henzschel  
Staff Liaison - Jane Ward-Marshall  
General Council Members:  
General – Rebecca Reedy  
General/Website – Lara Charles  
General/Newsletter - Dorothee Vere-Jones  
Parent Liaison – Kanae Wood & Lara Aldred  
Enrolments – Martin Vere-Jones  
Fundraising - vacant  
Property – Gwyn Bareta  
Playgroup Liaison - vacant

## **Introducing our Families**

This term, we are introducing Thomas' family:

**Who are the members of your family?** Dad - Wei, Ren; Mum - Xue (Michelle), Ding; Jiacheng 珈成, Thomas (almost 5years old); Jiarong 珈融, Michael (18 months).

**Why did you choose Montessori @ Otari preschool?** I quite like the Montessori concept, then I found the Montessori playgroup when Thomas was 1yr old. We enjoyed being there and continued our Montessori journey in preschool.

**What's your favorite thing to do in Wellington with kids?** Te Papa, we can stay there for a day without getting bored. Also the scooter park near Te Papa and Lower Hutt, to make an energetic boy get tired.

**Apart from yourself (of course) - who would you like to think is a role model for your child and why?** No one in particular. We admire all the shining points from everyone, hahaha!

**Where is your favorite place to go on holiday with your family or where would your dream family holiday be and why?** Within New Zealand, it's Taupo and Rotorua. Good driving distance for family with young children, and we can pack everything we need in our car. Fun activities of course! Europe is the overseas destination for us someday, as we spent all our holidays in China. Eager to go somewhere different! Wait and see when Someday comes.

**What is one of your favourite books, why would you recommend it to others?** I do read books but in Chinese. Well, cook books are book too. There is one recipe book sitting on my kitchen bench top, Healthy Lunch Boxes for kids by Amanda Grant. Practical but easy to cook. Wish me luck for my fussy eater Thomas to enjoy it.

## FROM CAMILLA, PLAYGROUP SUPERVISOR

Welcome back!

We have a number of new families joining us at playgroup this term.

Playgroup is a great place to come and begin your journey in a Montessori environment. Our session begins at 9 and runs through to 11.45. During the session we encourage you to support your child in their chosen activities, which include a wide variety of practical life work, food preparation, art activities, puzzles, gross motor activities, and so on. Morning tea is ongoing, so children are able to stop for a snack anytime. Fresh bread usually comes out of the oven around 10.30 which is always popular with the children!

At around 11.15, we tidy up and then spend the last bit of time singing and doing rhymes together before finishing.

If you have just started, please bring a couple of pieces of fruit to each session for the children to prepare - apples, bananas, and oranges are best. Carrots are also handy for juicing. We also ask that each family bring in a packet of your favourite tea or coffee to see us through the term.

Everyone is asked to sign up for two duties per term, which include helping with set up, providing morning tea and light dishes, and laundry duties. We try to keep the laundry duties for parents who have babies and may find it hard to fulfil the other jobs. If any of you

are keen to join our playgroup committee, let me know- we are always looking for new committee members to join the team.

If you have any questions, thoughts, concerns, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to come and have a chat.

Looking forward to getting to know you and your lovely little ones over the next few weeks,

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).**

### 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

Sunday 22nd of May 2016 (letters E-H)

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.

<b>Families whose child's surname begins with the letters:</b>	<b>Date</b>
	<b>9.00am – 12 noon</b>
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 also remember that the gate monitor is responsible **to sign the children being dropped off**. 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

Important message from Clifford, Otari School Principal:

Following consultation with the Montessori Preschool Council and the Otari School Board of Trustees a new policy has been implemented concerning use of the junior school playground.

During morning tea (10:30 – 11:00) and lunch time (12:30 – 1:30) the playground will be available for Otari School children or teacher supervised Montessori preschool children. It will not be available for any other preschool children.

The junior school adventure playground is designed for children aged 5 years to 8 years. Otari School children must have free access to all the climbing frames, slides, flying fox and bars. Sometimes our children can be quite vigorous when they play on this equipment. They need to be able to play freely without risking the safety of very young children.

Sharing the playground with significantly younger children has created unnecessary risk and inhibited the play of older children. Another factor is the considerable number of special

needs students who use this playground.

Please feel free to use the playground at all other times, including after school.

This decision is supported by the Pre School Council and has been ratified by the Otari School Board of Trustees.

Thank you

Clifford Wicks, Principal

### 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.

### House to let in Wilton

3 Bedroom House to let July/August/September 2016

We are going to Europe for three months and want to let our house. The house is warm, sunny, private, fully furnished and set up for young children. We are in zone for Otari and Wadestown Primary School and Wellington Girls' and Boys' College.

Call Doro on 022 163 9669 for more information.