

# TERM 3- 2015

## NEWSLETTER



### FROM FLORENCE, CENTRE LEADER

Kia ora koutou

Welcome back everyone! I hope you had a great break with your family and managed to get some sun or snow, depending on your holiday destination. I visited friends in Ohope, with my children, and enjoyed the beach and the warm weather of the Bay of Plenty!

Our new 'programme' is now up and running and we are very excited that it is finally happening. The team spent a lot of time discussing and developing our common vision. You will see some clear changes while others might be more subtle or evolve over time. Our Tuesday and Thursday afternoons are now almost full at 30, and there is still some space available on Monday and Friday. There is an expectation that around the age of 4, a child will start with 2 afternoons to slowly increase to 4, if not already enrolled in any afternoons; if you are interested, talk to your child's teachers, Nicola or myself. Regular attendance is important in helping the child to develop a sense of belonging and continuity and help her/him to transition smoothly to primary school.

Our deck has been improved thanks to the great work by Steve Davis, our handyman. The right hand side of the deck (by Kauri class) is now closed off. We will use the deck more regularly. We are also keeping the back door closed and children now come and go to the garden from the classroom. It creates a better flow between the classroom, the deck and the garden. Already we can sense that the environment is more peaceful...not so much running in the inviting corridor! We are also reducing the heat loss and limiting cold draught throughout the school.

Can you help with our garden? We are always keen to improve it; Bronwyn has bought some plants to plant with the children but if you know about gardening and would like to help or are able to donate plants, seeds or flowers, please talk to Bronwyn or myself. We are also dreaming of getting flowers; children love arranging real flowers (as part of taking care of our environment) and we have an activity set up for that...but we don't get many real flowers...if you have flowers in your garden or know of a florist that would give us their old flowers, we are interested!

Book Week: Otari school is running another Book Week and they have kindly invited our tamariki to meet Juliette Mclver, author of Mamaduke Duck and the Marmalade Jam. It

will take place in the hall, on Tuesday 28 July, from 9.30 to 10.30. (koha/gold coin donation) Last year, we had the chance to meet Craig Smith, the author of the Wonkey Donkey, which was appreciated by all.

Next Thursday (30 July) we are holding our second Information Evening, from 7.30 to 9pm; it is particularly aimed at new parents or parents whose child is on the waiting list but if you never attended an Information evening, you are more than welcome to attend. If you know people who are interested in Montessori education, let them know and they are also welcome. We will explain how the class operates and why and how we do things the way we do them; there will also be time for Questions and Answers.

On Friday 11 September, we have our Fish'n Chips night, at the Northland Community centre. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and build our community spirit. Put the date in your calendar already!

Finally, the lost property box is in the foyer; please check it thoroughly as items will be given to a charity shop in the new few weeks.

If you have a question or a suggestion, please let us know; if it is important to you, it is important to us too.

Ka kite, Florence

## FROM NICOLA, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

### Attendance Register

**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.**

### Driveway Duty

Please check that you have signed up to do this for term 3. Please remember that every parent/caregiver with a child is required to sign up to do monitor duties for three mornings a term even if your child does not yet use the system.

### Nut Free

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

## Fundraising

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

We are also still taking orders for the calico bags featuring the children's artwork – this is always popular and a great gift for grandparents, aunts and uncles. Order forms are in the foyer.

Later in the term we will also be doing a Scentsy Candle Warmers fundraiser and also be offering Abacus cards, calendars and diaries.

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

The Wilton Montessori Education Trust will run an information evening on brain development presented by Brain Wave Trust on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2015. For more details please check the attached flyer. If you are interested in coming you can contact Vidhya directly by email: [tovidhya@yahoo.com](mailto:tovidhya@yahoo.com).

## 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.

## FROM RICHARD, PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello,

Term three has arrived. It is upon us. I know. You're probably all saying "Where has the year gone?" and "Gosh, things move fast" and possibly "Who is that dreamy new Council President?". However it is probably more likely that you are all thinking "What is the council doing to secure the long term future of the building in which our children attend preschool?" Well, my dear readers, I can tell you that the Council has been working hard. We have managed to arrange a lease that effectively allows us to stay for at least the next three and a half decades. This has been an ongoing concern over the last while which is now nearing its end. Thanks goes to all those involved.

Now, if you read that and thought "Boy that sounds like rewarding work. I wish I could help out in some way; I think I have a lot of skills that I could share" then I have an offer for you. You could join the council. All are welcome, the more the better. It's not all about good

looks and signing leases. Please come along to a meeting and see. We meet once a month with the next meetings in this term coming up on 17/8 and 14/9.

Have an excellent term.

Richard

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

President – Richard Chapman  
Treasurer – Emma Cottier-Mak & Michael Mak  
Secretary – Grant Humm  
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 Edith's family:

**Who are the members of your family?** Geoff, Jane, Edith (very nearly 4) and Lottie (2).

**Why did you choose Montessori @ Otari preschool?** We moved back to New Zealand from Guernsey at the end of 2014. Edith had been attending a Montessori preschool in Guernsey and her older cousins had previously attended Montessori @ Otari. I remembered bringing my nephew all those years ago and etched in my memory was a calm learning environment with a lovely sense of community - my memory had served me correctly and Edith is developing independence, confidence and loving her new pre-school and her new friends.

**What's your favourite thing to do in Wellington with kids?** We love exploring Te Papa, the Wellington waterfront, and the fantastic wildlife and gorgeous surrounds at Zealandia. Oh, and the great multitude of fantastic cafes!

**Apart from yourself (of course) - who would you like to think is a role model for your child and why?** Our main decision to return to New Zealand to live was to be near family again. Our girls have plenty of older cousins, aunties, uncles and grandparents - it is wonderful

to be close to a network of family who are welcoming, hard-working, mindful of contributing to their community, have diverse interests and who happen to be loads of fun to hang out with!

**Where is your favourite place to go on holiday with your family or where would your dream family holiday be and why?** Anywhere near a beach. We had a few family holidays in coastal Brittany and Normandy in France - I guess they might have to move to the 'dream holiday' category now - they used to only be a short ferry ride away!

**What is one of your favourite books, why would you recommend it to others?** Edith and Lottie love "The Paper Dolls" by Julia Donaldson, a story of play, memory and growing up and the book "One World, One Day" by Barbara Kerley - a National Geographic pictorial that explores the differences and similarities in the daily activities of children all over the world .

## FROM ELKE, PLAYGROUP SUPERVISOR

Greetings from the Playgroup!

A very warm welcome to Isla, Kaila, Zelma, Evan, Vivian and their families into our playgroup community.

What a long term 2 it has been. But the children did very well and we only had a few missing due to some winter illness.

The children enjoyed the new set up and the shelves filled with new equipment. One thing I changed a while back is that I have replaced playdough with clay - and it is great to see how confident and happy children are in using it. Playing with clay has great benefits, for example it's therapeutic and has a calming effect on children, it promotes sensory development, shaping and forming clay strengthen their muscles and tendons, and prepares them to hold pencils and scissors later on – it's tactile and visual. Clay – a great sensory learning experience.

Last but not least this will be my last input to the newsletter. As a few of you may know, my family and I are moving back to Germany in October this year. We are moving so that our children can experience the German culture, and we can be closer to that part of my family. I'm very thankful for the last 4 years working as the Playgroup Supervisor. It was a great environment to work in and I have learned so much. For sure I will miss all the lovely children and families from Playgroup. But now it is time to move on. I wish everyone all the best for the future and being part of the Montessori at Otari community is great.

Take care and greetings from Elke Lorenz

## 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 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.

Dates to put in your diary already!

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August H-P  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November Q-Z

### 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 (please note new times!)** 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 8:40am. 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 8:45am 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.

WILTON MONTESSORI EDUCATION TRUST PRESENTS:

# UNRAVELLING THE MYSTERY OF THE ADOLESCENT BRAIN



Adolescence is an important 15 year period starting about 10 years of age through to the mid 20's. This Brainwave Trust presentation explores the brain changes that help adults understand many of the adolescent behaviours.

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**Tuesday**  
**18 August**  
7.00 - 9.00pm

**Northland**  
**Community**  
**Hall**

**\$15.00**

TICKET SALES:  
[brainwavetrust.tickets@gmail.com](mailto:brainwavetrust.tickets@gmail.com)