

# TERM 4- 2015

## NEWSLETTER



### FROM FLORENCE, CENTRE LEADER

Kia ora whanau,

I cannot believe this is our 4<sup>th</sup> and last newsletter for 2015! We finish on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, with our International Day, from 9 to 12pm. You and the children are welcome to come dressed in your traditional costume and bring food to share. I will not be here for the end of year festivities as I am going back to France for the holidays, leaving on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December, which I'm rather excited about!!! But I will be back for the reopening of the preschool, on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2016!

Let's hope the nice weather finally comes and stays so we can enjoy the garden as much as possible! Hopefully all the nasty germs, colds and flu viruses have gone, but if your child is unwell, make sure you keep him/her at home until they are fully recovered.

We have a 'no hat, no play policy, even on a cloudy day', in Term 4 and Term 1 and we really encourage the tamariki to be sun safe and take responsibility. Please help them be independent by leaving a spare, named hat in their bag or on their hook.

As part of a self-review cycle, the team has been working on improving our daily recording and planning system. This is our 'internal' system to follow the child's interest and learning. We also wanted to share some of the wonderful things that happen regularly in our classrooms with you but we were not sure how to do it. Bronwyn visited her granddaughter's day care in Melbourne, earlier in the year, and came back with a brilliant idea to adapt to our own preschool. It is called "the Big Book": it is a large book where teachers record different events, with photos and comments... We are going to trial this "Big Book" for Term 4 and see how it goes. It will be placed in the foyer for everybody to read. Let us know how you find the book and share any feedback to improve it.

Another way to share what's happening within our walls with you is our next information evening. Our aim is to show you in action what the children do during their session and explain a bit more about the philosophy behind the method. More information will follow but already book the date: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

Next Monday is our Council meeting... we are in desperate need of a secretary since Grant left. Please consider joining your amazing Council: meetings are always fun and very

informative! Talking about amazing people, a huge thank you goes to Lara and Kim for updating our website, with beautiful photos! You must go and check it out at [www.otaripreschool.school.nz](http://www.otaripreschool.school.nz)

We have farewelled the Humm-Lorenz gang and sadly had to let Elke and Grant go onto their next adventure! We welcome Camilla as our new playgroup supervisor; Camilla has been involved with the Otari community for years and we are fortunate she is part of our team again! Congratulations to Nina, who successfully passed her Montessori exams and now holds a Montessori Certificate. What an achievement! By early next year, she will have completed all her studies and will receive a full Montessori Diploma, from MCI.

Finally, we have our last education session on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November, from 9.15 to 10.15am. If there is a particular topic you would like to talk about, let me know. We could even get a speaker/parent/expert talk to us? Any good ideas are welcome!

Once again, thanks for your ongoing support, energy and commitment to making our preschool such a special place!

Nga mihi maioha- thank you with much appreciation,

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 4 (three mornings a term even if your child does not yet use the system).

### **Christmas Trees Needed**

We need 2 Christmas trees to be delivered to the classrooms at the beginning of December. Please let me know if you are able to do this.

### **Civil Defence Supplies**

Civil defence supplies are now due and also the 2015 authority to collect form.

## Full Days

Let me know if you would like to pick up full day(s) as we have a few days available for term 4 and are now planning for term 1 2016 also.

## Annual Parent Survey

The annual parent survey begins online on Friday 13th November. Please support this as it is a chance for parents to provide constructive feedback as the Preschool strives to continually improve.

## Fundraising

We are still taking orders for the calico bags featuring the children's artwork – they make a great Christmas gift for grandparents, aunts and uncles. Order forms are in the office.

Later in the term we will once again be doing a Scentsy Candle Warmers fundraiser. We are also offering a second round of Abacus cards, calendars and diaries (see me by Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October if you wish to place an order).

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

## Nut Free

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

## FROM RICHARD, PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome one and all. The cherry blossoms have bloomed and with them they have brought the promise of a beautiful summer. For most of you that means an exciting summer of cricket ahead. For the rest of you, though in the minority, it will mean watching your child progress in the summer term.

Picture if you will a beautiful array of buildings nestled on the edge of an equally beautiful and well maintained botanical garden dedicated solely to New Zealand native plants. Inside these buildings are an even more beautiful array of people; children, we shall call them. These children are being led by passionate, expert adults; teachers. But, dear parent, who leads these teachers? For the most part they lead themselves with the help of Ministry of Education guidelines and their own Head Teacher. What, though, would happen if they needed something that they could not provide for themselves? Or perhaps something that the aforementioned children needed that fell outside the bailiwick of a teacher? Who will step in then? Who will make the decisions? Who will think of the children?

We will. Us. The parents. That is what makes our preschool great. (Apart from the teachers and the children; who probably deserve equal if not more kudos). The parent run Council is an important part in the running of the school. The beauty of it revolves around many heads finding different solutions to different problems. The Council needs you. Thankfully, by virtue of the fact that you are a parent and have the capacity to think and talk, you are not only eligible to be on the Council but you would be welcomed.

Come and share your expertise. Come and help your beautiful children. If you are interested then please don't hesitate to email me: [richard.guy.chapman@gmail.com](mailto:richard.guy.chapman@gmail.com) or Nicola. Or you can even simply turn up to a meeting. We meet once a month on a Monday evening at the school. The next meetings are:

Monday Oct 19th, 7:30pm

Monday Nov 16th, 7:30pm

Monday Dec 14th, 7:30pm

That is all.

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

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

## **Introducing our Families**

This term, we are introducing Jemima's family:

**Who are the members of your family?** Thomas, Kim and Jemima (4 years old or as Mima would say 4 and quarter). Plus Harvey and Maude, the cats.

**Why did you choose Montessori @ Otari preschool?** We started off with the playgroup after being strongly influenced by watching the Montessori Madness video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcgN0IEh5IA>). Then we visited the pre-school and really liked the feel of the classrooms and the way they flowed onto the deck and the garden.

**What's your favorite thing to do in Wellington with kids?** Taking a picnic to Makara and exploring the rock pools. There's always something interesting to see there.

**Apart from yourself (of course) - who would you like to think is a role model for your child and why?** Dr Jane Goodall – an interesting and strong woman who found her passion in life and has followed it wholeheartedly to make a difference in the world.

**Where is your favourite place to go on holiday with your family or where would your dream family holiday be and why?** Our dream holiday would be 6 to 12 months in South America. Longer visits give you a chance to 'sink into' a place, maybe even sending Jemima to a local school.

**What is one of your favourite books, why would you recommend it to others?** The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps by Jeanette Winters. It's a picture book that is a miniature biography of Jane's early life, her fascination with all animals and her time with the chimps. (<http://www.bookdepository.com/Watcher-Jeanette-Winter/9780375867743>)

## **FROM CAMILLA, PLAYGROUP SUPERVISOR**

How lovely it is to find myself journeying back into the warmth and calm of playgroup. I am very much looking forward to reconnecting with those of you I know from the past and also meeting new families. I am a graduate of playgroup (as a parent and teacher) and also a graduate of Montessori Preschool (as a student, parent and teacher). I have the Montessori philosophy in my bones and blood.

As I sat and observed playgroup at the end of last term, I was again filled with the wonder of the miracle that is the child. It is so deeply inspiring to see our littlest people striving to master new skills and to be independent. I saw a small boy march across the room and bang a stool down on the floor. No one said a word. He walked away. And a few seconds later turned back, picked up the stool again and with the utmost care, and in silence, he gently put the chair back down again. He knew what he needed to do to make things right.

I am excited about the term ahead. Please feel free to come and talk to me about anything. Please remind me of the routines of playgroup until I am up to speed. Thanks to Elke's

dedication and effort, she has handed me a well-oiled machine. I will do my best to be a good caretaker of our special playgroup.

Let's have a wonderful term together.

### 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

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.

Last working bee for this year: 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 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.

## Open Day

The preschool runs the second Open Day for this year on Saturday 31th of October from 10am -12noon. Please invite your friends, family or neighbors who might be interested in coming along. It's a great opportunity to experience the Montessori environment, meet the teachers and learn about our program for children from 0-3 years and 3-6 years.