

# TERM 4- 2016

## NEWSLETTER



### FROM FLORENCE, CENTRE LEADER

Kia ora whanau and welcome to our last newsletter of 2016. I have two exciting projects that I am very pleased to share with you for our last edition!

In 2014, the Preschool reviewed their vision and we came up with a lofty ideal that encompasses the Montessori idealistic and humanistic values: *Nourishing the human spirit to create a better world*. When ERO visited us, last June, they could see that our philosophy was put into practice, with the tamariki and in our prepared environment...but they could not see it written anywhere and recommended to make it more visible, to everybody. How come we never thought about it before?

First, I asked one of our Mums, Tanya (Eabha's Mum in Kowhai) if she would translate it in te reo. After much consideration, this is what Tanya, helped by her mother, came up with:

Nourishing the human spirit to create a better world

Ka kai atu te mōhiotanga o te tangata  
Ka aohia te wairua  
Kia puta atu ki te ao mārama ara te taiao

(When the individual feeds itself the knowledge  
It is fed into the wairua  
Which then translates into the world  
And benefits the universe)

I think it encapsulates so beautifully what we are trying to achieve in our community; many thanks to Tanya and her Mum for their words of wisdom!

Then, I thought we had to go further: why not have a piece of artwork that would symbolise our unique Preschool? The staff did some work on such a project last year, following a series of workshops about "Living te tiriti in early childhood". We had already identified key symbols and elements we wanted to include but the project lost its momentum and we stalled...until I asked Tanya (who also happens to be a professional artist) to help us out again, which she kindly accepted. It is still early days but we have shared some ideas and we will keep you posted, to get your input. So watch this space!

The second big project is the improvement of our garden. This is the topic of the team review and we have had many discussions already about what our dream garden could look like. We have visited other Montessori preschools and gathered information from experts, such as Robin Christie, the founder of Childspace, who also runs a company that designs 'learning and living outdoor spaces'. We are lucky with what we have (compared to other centres)...but we can do better: we want to provide an outdoor environment that reflects our indoor philosophy, that allows for open-ended activities, exploration and creativity, develop social competence and skills, where children can take risks, be close to nature while also being given opportunities to take time and ponder. We might have to do some trialling before we reach our goal and it might take a couple of years, but it is like our vision: lofty and long term! All our fundraising effort will go towards the garden. The movie night is coming up and I encourage everybody to support this event, in any way they can: this is our biggest fundraising event of the year. Let Nicola know if you want to join the organising committee. We need as many helpers as possible!

Finally, we will be welcoming new children throughout the term, most of them are transitioning from Playgroup. Nau mai, haere mai ki te kura o Montessori@Otari. We will sadly farewell quite a lot of children throughout the term and by the end of the year...it is time for them to move on! Last year, I missed the International Day, but this year, I will be here for the grand finale to 2016. I hope to see you all on the 16th of December for our annual International Day celebration!

Hei kona mai – goodbye for now

Florence

PS: remember a sunhat, with a brim, for your child/ren (caps are not appropriate as they do not protect properly). You can leave a spare one (labelled please) at school, either in your child's bag or in the 'hat basket' that we keep on the deck during the summer months. Let's all be sun smart!

Florence

## FROM RICHARD, PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have five apples. I give 3 of those apples to Florence and I say "Florence, you can do anything you like with these apples". Florence is generous and she shares them with her teaching staff. Nicola pipes up and says "hey Florence, I know I'm not a teacher but I really love apples". Florence tells Nicola that she is very sorry but there are no more apples, Nicola should ask me for some. Florence says this in French but, despite her best efforts to remember what Thierry and his family from Créteil taught her in 3rd form French Nicola is stumped and asks for a translation. After hearing a translation she asks me for an apple.

“I have no apples left,” I say “but I regularly receive apples from the government and they are about to give me some next week. Can you wait?”

Nicola says she supposes she will have to wait but enquires as to how many apples the government will give me.

“That is difficult to work out.” I reply, adding quickly “There is a formula to work it out, though nobody from the government will share it with anyone. I’m sure they will give me enough apples for you to have some. Also, the parents give us apples, but we have to be careful about how we use all our apples. Perhaps you better not have any. Do you mind?”

Poor Nicola. She deserves better. At the very least she deserves an apple. If you are one of the clever ones who can work out how many apples I started off with, then you are our next treasurer. We need you. DON’T LET POOR NICOLA MISS OUT ON AN APPLE JUST BECAUSE WE DON’T HAVE A TREASURER.

If you would like to be our treasurer please let me (richard.guy.chapman@gmail.com) or Nicola know. Thanks

Richard

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

President - Richard Chapman  
Treasurer – vacant  
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

### **FROM CAMILLA, PLAYGROUP SUPERVISOR**

Welcome back to the new term at Montessori Playgroup.

We have a number of new families joining us this term. We hope you enjoy your time with us. Coming to playgroup is a great way for you as parents to start to get to know a little of

the Montessori philosophy and also get some ideas for implementing Montessori at home. Little changes can make huge difference.

When I first came to playgroup with my little son, to be honest, I think I came more for me than him! It's was good for me to go to a space where I could really do things alongside him and not get distracted by other things around me, which is often the case at home. So it was the opportunity for us to share some great times together.

It was also the time for me to make some wonderful connections with other Montessori parents who I would continue to meet with when my son went off to preschool. In fact, we are still great friends today even though our children are now all at different schools.

And of course, there is always coffee and morning tea on the go which can be quite a highlight!

Sometimes it can be strange for parents to come into a Montessori environment which tends to be calmer and quieter than other environments. When little children are fully engaged, they are normally quiet. Have you noticed how you can sometimes be alerted to the whereabouts of your child at home by their silence? And how, after a child has been fully engaged with something they tend to be calm and relaxed. There is a beautiful quote from Maria Montessori who said:



By creating an ordered environment, we are seeking to enable the little child to develop concentration, coordination, independence and self-esteem. These are key aspects of the Montessori environment.

On a practical note, especially if you are new, please bring two pieces of fruit each session for morning tea preparation, and sign up for two duties on the roster.

We are still eagerly looking for parents to help on our committee. Please let me know if you are up for it. Being on our committee is a way for you to become more involved in the playgroup community. Let's have a wonderful term together,

Ka kite ano.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

Kia ora koutou,

We're excited to announce our **annual movie night** has been scheduled for **the evening of Wednesday, 23 November 2016** at the Penthouse Cinema in Brooklyn.

We'll be screening **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them at 8.15pm**. Set in 1920s New York, the screenplay was written by J K Rowling and is a spin off and prequel of the Harry Potter film series. Stars include Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterson, Colin Farrell & Jon Voight.



You can check out the trailer for the film here: <https://youtu.be/18f1uaOtlSO>

## **What you need to do**

### Participate

Fundraising is essential for helping meet the preschools operating costs so we can provide our children with high quality and affordable Montessori education. As this is our major fundraising event for the year, your participation is really important to ensure its success. It will also be a fun night out and a great opportunity to socialise with other parents & caregivers.

### Sell four tickets

We'll be placing four tickets in each child's pocket next week. Each ticket costs \$20. We'd like each family to sell at least four tickets. If you have more takers, please let Nicola in the office know and she can provide you with additional tickets. Please return ticket money to Nicola ASAP in an envelope and write your child's first and last name on it.

### Donate goods & gift vouchers for an on-the-night raffle

This year we're opting for a raffle & spot prizes. We'd love everyone to donate something for the prizes. Think bottles of wine, chocolates, gift vouchers for products or services (if you're a business owner or have friends or family who are), and anything you'd love to win in a raffle yourself. Donated prizes can be given to Nicola for safe keeping, ideally by 1 November 2016.

### Volunteer

At the beginning of November we'll be asking for extra volunteers to help with planning and coordination on the night. We'll send a reminder email out at the time and place a volunteer form in your child's pocket.

## **What now?**

- Watch the trailer and get enthused
- Keep an eye out for your tickets and share the love
- Return your sales money to Nicola ASAP

- Bring in goods & gift vouchers for the raffle and leave them with Nicola
- Stay tuned for further information about this fun night out in the weeks to come

If you have any questions, let Nicola know in the first instance.

Warmly,

The Fundraising Team

---