

# TERM 1-2019

## NEWSLETTER



### From Florence, Centre Leader

Kia ora koutou,

Nau mae, haere mai ki te Kohungahunga o Otari!

Our year has started really well, we are enjoying our beautiful garden in this nice summer weather; the tamariki are relaxed and happy to be back, able to go straight into their usual routines...and aren't Preschoolers amazing creatures of habits!! We are welcoming a lot of new children and their families over the next few weeks; both classes will be full, as well as our afternoons now! A warm welcome to our new families and returning ones; we hope your time at Kohungahunga o Otari will be happy and joyful

In 2018, Nina, Mary, Steph and Holly attended the Incredible Years Teachers Programme, supported by the Ministry of Education. It is a great programme that gives useful skills and strategies to kaiako to foster positive discipline and promotes the emotional and social development of the tamariki. During Term 1 and Term 2, Seedeви and I will attend the course, 3 Wednesdays per term (13 February, 13 March and 10 April). Even though teachers have their own class (Mary and Nina in Kowhai; Steph and Holly in Kauri; Seedeви and I in the garden), we all engage with the tamariki at different times, which is why we plan as a team and are aware of any issues of any child at all times. By all attending the IYTP, we have a similar approach and aim to use consistent strategies systematically and holistically.

One key component of the course is to build positive relationships with the children and their whanau. Our Family Picnic on the 15th of February was a great opportunity to build our community spirit, get to know new parents and catch up with familiar faces! We were also very lucky to get support from 3 families for Chinese New year- once again, a big thank you to Michelle, Lily, Mimi and her mother in law; we welcome any input from other cultures and you are always welcome to come and share about your traditions and important celebrations if you wish. If you have any question about your child's learning and experience, about our programme or about the way we do things and why, do not hesitate to talk to one of the kaiako (teachers) or a Council member; if it is important to you, even though you may think it is a small issue, it is important to us too!

Instead of going to the MANZ conference this year, we have decided to attend a Montessori training course, in Masterton, organised by Pauline Harter and Julia (who used to be a

teacher in Kauri) It will be over the first weekend of April(6 and 7); this workshop will have a focus on language, English and te reo, as well as music (singing and ukulele, here we come!) Besides being a good team building opportunity, one of the aims of whole team professional learning development is to learn together and to be consistent in our approach, whenever possible. We generally come back all fired up and excited to present new activities, try new songs and ignite the children's learning with refreshed ideas. We are all looking forward to it!

Our AGM is on the 18th of March; we desperately need new Council members! We are a community Preschool, governed by a council of volunteer parents. Please let us know if you are curious about the roles available or want to step in.

Here is some useful information:

- Our Hat policy is very much on till the end of term 1; make sure your child's hat is labelled, we also have spare hats.
- Bush Walks will continue during Term 1, on Thursday afternoons. Appropriate footwear is required. (no flip flops!)
- Information Evening: Thursday 28 February, for our new families and families on the waiting list (or friends who are interested in finding out more about our Preschool;
- Our Preschool has a wonderful Facebook Page, please share the link with your friends and whanau: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/montessoriotaripreschool/posts/>

Noho ora mai , stay well and good bye

Florence

## FROM ANTONY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT/CHAIR

Kia ora and welcome to Term 1

It was great to see so many turn up for the perfect weather for the annual family picnic last Friday. A big thanks to Nicola for arranging Kelly Sports who were as popular as ever.

A massive shout out too for everyone who was involved in the end of year movie night fundraiser back in November which was super successful. We ran an Auction using Facebook for the first time and it raised a solid \$2,218 - thanks to the many hands that cajoled sponsors to give generously.

As Florence mentioned above, we have an AGM coming up on 18th March and it's really important to see as many of you attend as possible. This is such a great opportunity to be

involved in making a difference to your 100% community/not for profit Montessori Preschool.

Since last term, we've bid farewell to Lara who handled marketing on top of Tammy finishing up as our chief fundraiser. At the upcoming AGM, Fiona will be stepping down as our teacher liaison officer and with my youngest Frank now at the Montessori Primary strand, I will need to step down too.

If you have any questions about what it entails to be a general council member or council officer such as staff liaison or President, please ask Nicola for our contact details.

## Introducing our Families

### **Who are the members of your family**

Louie has a big brother Hugo who is 8 years old and goes to Kelburn Normal School. His Mum is Rebekah and his dog is a bouncy black Labrador called Mabel. Louie is also very close to his Grandparents, Momo, Muktar, Grandma and Grandad.

Very sadly Louie's wonderful Dad, Ashley, passed away 18 months ago, although he is not physically here with us anymore he will always be in our hearts.

### **Why did you choose Montessori @ Otari preschool?**

We chose Montessori for Louie as I actually went to this very Montessori preschool when it was held up at St Michael's church hall in Kelburn (many many years ago). Hugo went to Mana Montessori. Both Hugo and I have such wonderful memories of our time at Montessori. I love the calm environment and how manners and courtesy are reinforced.

### **What's your favourite thing to do in Wellington with the kids?**

I love to take the children to visit the many changing things that go on along Wellington's waterfront. From fireworks to kapa haka, to new and old exhibits at Te Papa.

### **What is one of your favourite books, why would you recommend it to others?**

I wouldn't say this is one of my favourite books, but of the books that I've read recently "Educated" by Tara Westover was certainly a fascinating autobiography. It's also been interesting to find and watch follow up interviews with her.

Below is a very brief summary copied and pasted from google.

An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. Educated : A Memoir is the story of Tara Westover, who started her education formally at the age of 17. This is a tale of survival and struggle.

## From Camilla, Playgroup Supervisor

Playgroup Term 1, 2019

Welcome to Montessori-at-Otari playgroup.

It's lovely to see our returning families again after the long break and also to see how much the children have grown during the holidays. We are also fortunate to welcome some new little babies who are coming along with their older siblings. A special welcome to those families who are just starting their journey of Montessori with us. Playgroup is a great place to come to for a gentle introduction to the Montessori philosophy, and to get some ideas of activities you can do at home. You can also meet lovely parents and enjoy a delicious morning tea! So if you know of anyone who may be interested, please invite them to come and have a visit with us.

We have a number of little ones who are just starting to get up on their own two feet, which is such a joy to observe, and is such a significant milestone in a young child's life. So the buggies, and trolley and bike are proving to be as popular as ever. And going up and down the ramp twenty times and more is one of the best things to do!

On a practical note, please remember to bring a couple of pieces of fruit per session (if your child is eating) so that we can all enjoy the process of food preparation. If you are a coffee/tea drinker, it would be great if you could donate a bag of coffee or packet of tea to see us through the term. And don't forget to sign up for one of the three duties: assisting with set up, providing morning tea for the adults or taking home the laundry to wash (returning it with a block of cheese).

A huge thank you to Sarah who scored us a free mini trampoline.

We also won a new juicer from trade me for \$1.

Many of you have asked for our foolproof bread recipe so here it goes:

*In a container mix one tablespoon of bread makers yeast with a tablespoon of sugar in some warm water (approx half a cup). Cover with a tea towel and set it aside to rise. ( I actually pop it into the oven at 50 degrees to rise quickly)*

*Then mix:*

*3 cups of flour*

*1/2 teaspoon of salt*

*Two tablespoons of oil*

*Add the yeast*

*1 cup of water*

*A small bowl of raisins, or cheese or chocolate chips*

*Grease the baking tray with a little oil. (We use a mini loaf tray)*

*Place the dough into the tray and pop it the over for 30 minutes at 50 degrees to rise.*

*Then turn the oven up to 180 and cook for another 20 minutes until golden.*

*Eat when hot!*

We would love to get our playgroup committee up and running again, so if you are happy to get involved please let me know. It is not an arduous committee, as we just meet once a term over coffee to make some plans. We owe a huge thank you to Sarah who has been holding the title of enrolments officer and has done an amazing job. But alas, Sarah's family are moving to Auckland so we are desperately in need of a new enrolment person. Let Sarah or me know if this sounds like you and we will ease you into the job.

If you have any questions, please ask. I love talking about Montessori and children so don't hold back! I really hope you enjoy the rest of the term.

Love Camilla