

TERM 2-2019

NEWSLETTER



From Florence, Centre Leader

Kia ora koutou,

Nau mae, haere mae ki te Kohungahunga o Otari!

First of all, my apologies for sending our second newsletter so late in the term. With ERO coming, then postponing, then finally being here, as well as saying good bye to Holly, while looking for the next best ideal replacement...it has been even busier than usual!! ERO has now been and gone and we should get their unconfirmed report in 4 weeks' time. We will share it with you in due course but already some very positive comments were shared, with useful recommendation for improvement and growth. And as announced earlier, we will welcome Gill Lamb to our team on Monday 17 June, to be the new kaiako in Kauri ruma.

Last term the kaiako were engaged in significant Professional Development. We all attended a Montessori training course in Masterton, organised by Pauline Harter and Julia (who used to be a teacher in Kauri). This workshop had a focus on language, English and te reo, as well as music. Some of us also attended a workshop run by MANZ, about supporting children with learning and challenging behaviours. ERO highlighted that the Preschool does incredible mahi (work) to support tamariki who need extra support. We were pleased to hear our efforts being acknowledged but we also know it is about ongoing learning and working together with the whanau. Seedeви and I are well underway with the Incredible Years Teachers Programme and we can see some of the strategies are paying off. Once we have finished (last session will be in the 26th of June), the whole team will be trained so that we can then aim to embed this programme consistently across the Preschool and among the kaiako.

From Friday 31st of May, we will welcome Nilu to our Kohungahunga. Here is a little more about her:

“Kia ora! My name is Nilu, I am an Intern Educational Psychologist in my final year of training through Victoria University. In the past, I have worked as a behaviour support therapist, a special education teacher, a teacher-aide in a special school and have been fortunate to have worked alongside many wonderful educators and contribute positively to student learning. Currently I am placed at Wellington RTLB Cluster (Resource Teacher-Learning and Behaviour) where I work 4 days a week

supporting teaching and learning practices in schools. I am very excited to start my placement here at Otari Preschool every Friday and looking forward to seeing you all.”

Nilu will come every Friday from 8am to 3.30pm, until the end of November. I am very pleased to share our environment with Nilu and benefit from her knowledge and expertise and I hope she enjoys sharing our special place with us.

Our next Council meeting is on Monday 17 June; all welcome! We are so fortunate to have great Council members who represent the diversity of our community. If you wish to contribute and be involved, please let them know. Their names and photos are displayed on the foyer!

Here is some useful information:

- Bush Walks will continue during Term 2, on Thursday afternoons. Appropriate footwear is required.
- We also keep our mara (garden) open as much as possible but as winter is coming, make sure your tamaiti has warm clothes to go outside (we recommend to leave a pair of gumboots and rain jacket at Preschool)
- IYTP: Seedeви and Florence on course: Wednesday 5 June and Wednesday 26 June
- Working Bee: Sunday 9 June
- Open Day: Saturday 15 June
- Wednesday 19 June - we will have a Pyjamas day at preschool! Your child is invited to come in their pyjamas if they wish for the morning!
- Education Session with whanau: Friday 28 June 9-10.30am (Topic to be confirmed, but if you would like to talk about a specific topic, please let me know)
- Our Preschool has a wonderful Facebook Page, please share the link with your friends and whanau: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/montessoriotaripreschool/posts/>

Finally, I will be heading off to California on the 2nd of July to meet up with my own whanau. I am really looking forward to be with my parents, my 2 sisters and their family! (and enjoying a bit of sun!!) I will be back on the first Wednesday of Term 3 (24/07)

Noho ora mai , stay well and good bye

Florence

From Sarah, Pre-school Treasurer

The reason I'm writing to everyone is so that I can ask we all do our bit to support our Community's fundraising efforts. As Treasurer I have the benefit of really understanding the financial drivers for our preschool. We aim to only just (& I mean just), cover our costs and make no profit. This is a nerve wracking challenge at times and fundraising is a means to help cushion us a little.

To provide some perspective, in the past 10 years we have only received a 1.6% increase in our Ministry of Education funding. The past 2 years we have run at a loss and this year I am aiming for us to just break even.

We've got some really great auction items for our upcoming Facebook Silent Auction. So please support in any way you can- whether it be by obtaining sponsors (we're still accepting donations) or making bids or encouraging friends and family to bid too! We're also selling Entertainment Books. Every bit helps.

Thank you for your continued support.

On another financial note, a key financial health check for our preschool is also our enrolments and I'm pleased to say we're nearly at full enrolments. So if you know of any friends or family who want to enrol their children I urge you to advise them to act soon, before our wait list is started up again.

From Mimi, Pre-school Fundraising

GET READY for another Facebook Silent Auction!!!!

Next month, starting 12 June, we'll start our annual silent Facebook auction. We've already received some generous donations from some amazing local businesses (more information to come soon). Get ready to make bids and let your friends & family know this is a great way to support our incredible preschool.

We've made a conscious decision this term to ask every family to support in whatever way they can, whether it be through obtaining items to auction, making bids and promoting the auction to friends and family. So there is no \$50 opt out option, instead we ask you support this fundraiser as much as possible.

If you know of any local business who are community spirited minded and would like the publicity too, please feel free to ask them for donations or have them contact us. A number of businesses last year received new customers and continued support through their generosity.

Please remember to 'like' our Facebook page ('Montessori at Otari Preschool') and ask friends & family to do the same if you have not already done so.

From Richard, Council President

Kia ora whanau.

Last term we resolved the health and safety issues with our fantastic garden learning area. This was done with the wonderful help of Silke and Simon donating time to build the safety extensions and getting materials at cost. The school is indebted to them for that wonderful gesture. Thanks to everyone else who also helped with that project. During the upcoming school holidays we will also be getting our roof repaired so any leaks will be a thing of the past.

Last term we sadly said goodbye to our wonderful teacher Holly. She was a great asset to the school and we will miss her but she has the drive and impetus to go on to bigger things. We wish her the best.

This is my last few weeks being president of the council as my daughter will be moving on to the Montessori Primary School. She is absolutely ready for the world and for primary school thanks to the preschool. I want to express my thanks and gratitude to the council for the help and support they have given me and the school over the last few years. The school (and parents in particular), should be very grateful for the commitment the council gives to the school. I would like to thank both Florence and Nicola for the huge amount of support they have given me. They both put in an extraordinary amount of work into the school behind the scenes. The next time you see them please thank them again.

We have an absolutely wonderful school, with a brilliant community backing it up and I will miss it immensely. The president's position will be vacant after I leave and I would dearly like someone from the community to step up for this. Even if you don't think this role is for you, just join the council. I should also point out that if the key position of President is not filled, the constitution states the school will need to shut down! I don't think any of the parents, staff or children want this to happen so please, please seriously think about how you can help.

I wish the school all the best. I will miss you all immensely. Kia Kaha.

From Camilla, Playgroup Supervisor

Playgroup Term 2, 2019

A warm welcome to all the new families who have joined us at playgroup this term.

We are currently updating our earthquake kit so there is a list of items on the table which need to be replaced. Please sign up to donate something to the kit. Also, please remember to sign in when you arrive, as this is important to do for our funding. We hope your time with us will be happy and fulfilling. We have a number of our older children heading off to preschool in the near future. Thank you for being with us and we wish you all the best for a happy and smooth transition.

Please feel to ask any questions. Don't hold back with your worries or frustrations. I remember when I attended playgroup as a parent with my energetic two-year-old, having the realisation one day, that I didn't go to playgroup only for my son... I was going to playgroup for me. At that time, one of the parents shared their perspective with me with regard to children sleeping at night which was something I was battling with. Their words encouraged me to change my perspective and as a result my whole experience as a sleep deprived parent began to change.

A wise person once said to me, there is nothing more praiseworthy or challenging than raising a human being from scratch. Each child is unique, and unfortunately none of them come with an instruction manual. Moreover, we arrive as parents with our own experiences and values, our own family culture, all of which effects how we see things.

Montessori placed huge emphasis on three things in her philosophy of the education of the young child. She saw the child, the environment and the adult as the key components, and then challenged the adult to be the keeper and protector of the environment and the child. She was a master of observation. All her methodology came from her observation of the child. She even went so far as to say that the adult's role is not to teach but to observe. If something is not working for a child, just observe. Try to watch what is really happening, and then look at the environment, and see what needs to be done. At the end of her life, Montessori said with great frustration, as she outstretched her hand, "Stop looking at my finger! Look at where I am pointing! Look at the child."

I hope during your time with us at playgroup, you will be comfortable to sit back and watch, to really observe and delight in the wonder of your child, who is brimming with boundless potential.

Let's enjoy the rest of the term together.