



Newsletter

Haere mai

Friday 27th September

Last day of Term 3

Monday 14th October

Term 4 starts

Coming up in Term 4

- Council meeting 14/10
- Beat Girls 007 Fundraiser 2/11
- Parent/caregiver catch-up 14/11
- Working bee (surnames Q-Z) 17/11
- International Day 18/12
- Last day term 4 18/12
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From Nicola

Civil Defence:

Thank you to everyone who has already helped re-stock our Civil Defence supplies. Look out for the list in the foyer for families to sign up to provide food/other emergency supplies if you haven't done so already. Could we please have all supplies dropped into the preschool by Friday 27th of September.

We have also requested you to update your list of people who are authorised to collect your children. It is important that the preschool be able to contact you during school hours in case of illness or accident. Also only people listed on this form will be able to collect your child

Hazards Register:

The Preschool has a hazards register. This is a living document and is checked regularly by staff and the property officer. Items are added and removed. If you become aware of a potential health and safety hazard please note it on the register in the foyer.

Please check you have signed ALL WEEKS in the Attendance Register

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU:

- are able to be the "Preschool shopper?"
- have an old laptop or desktop computer that we could have to run the class photos in the foyer?
- are able to help organise the cards, calendar and diary fundraiser in term 4?



From the Council

We are still looking for a member to help with **fundraising**. Please talk to Nicola in the office for a job description or further information. Remember, council meets once a month on a Monday evening. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend council meetings.



Kia Ora, Hello everyone,

This term has been a very interesting one. Winter has been warmer and we have been faced with unusual climatic and geological events. So there has been a lot of learning happen for our children and adults alike.

I am sure you are all aware of the super way in which the children handled the real earth quake. We have been doing both the fire and earthquake drills very often this term. It certainly paid off. I hope you will have read the subsequent update sent to all our families after the event.

We have been busy this term with lots of “happenings” in the school. The Barking Dog theatre company visited us; and so did friendly constable Duncan. Because of this we have linked our classroom art and learning to reflect these experiences. Mary did puppets and road sings for art and made a beautiful display with the children. We have planned learning around these experiences so the children may extend the learning in authentic and individual ways. The Primary school also invited us to their Panto. Their feedback was that our children were one of the best audiences they had. It was very affirming to notice that our children were able to concentrate and contribute as

Kowhai morning class

an audience. Those Grace and Courtesy lessons on respect, listening, participation and all that, really pay off and get reflected in situations such as this. Preparation needs doing beforehand, with concrete instructions and modelling. “Saying” is not the same as “doing.” Father’s Day celebration was wonderful. We had a great turnout. Please check you list for other upcoming events.

I will be away from the classroom for the rest of term starting 12th September. I am taking some time off for health reasons and will be back after the Labour week end. During this time Mary and the team will be covering for me. I am so lucky to work with such supportive colleagues and I know that Kowhai morning class is in good hands. There will be no general parent interviews after I leave. However if there is a specific need, Bronwyn and Mary will facilitate meetings nevertheless. My Friday class will be taken by Bronwyn and Pam and the other extension days will be adjusted accordingly too.

So I will end this update of news from Kowhai morning class, wishing you all a good term and pleasant holidays too. When I return spring will truly be here and I look forward to catching up with you all. Kakite Ano and cheerio for now.

Seedevi and Mary



Kia Ora

Over the last few weeks we have said farewell to several children; Jackson Chin, Natasha Stewart Zoe Bryers and Maia McKee. We have welcomed four new children Isla, Hugo, Ethan and Juliette..

At the beginning of August we were visited by Little Dog Barking Theatre Company; everyone enjoyed the performance. We have also had a visit from Constable Duncan, the Police Education Officer. The children dressed up miniature police uniforms, and Duncan talked about road safety and how important it was to know home phone numbers and addresses. The children also had a quick visit to the police car, with the siren and lights going. We practiced our fire drill with a number of children diving under the table; they were still in earthquake mode!

In the classroom, the children are still making



Kauri morning class

books, working with puzzle maps and flags, writing stories, sewing, exploring and constructing with the sensorial materials, discovering exciting mathematical concepts, and having a good time!

Now we are in September: Mahuru: Kua pumahana te whenua, me nga otaota, me nga rakau – the earth has now acquired warmth, and also has the herbage and trees.

Bronwyn, Julia and Florence



Kowhai afternoon class



Kia ora

Well what a busy term this one has turned into... First we had 'The Pond' production and then we had a great visit from Police Constable Duncan, which turned into a very interactive time. P C Duncan talked about many safety issues and my favourite bit was when he asked "What do the Police do" and received the answer "Put people in jail" Please see our 'Child's Voice' display along the corridor.

We enjoyed a lovely Father's Day celebration. It was great that all our dads and some granddads could take the time to join us for this very special occasion. The kiddies looked thrilled as they showed family some of their interests at Montessori, we shared afternoon tea and dads read stories.

In Kowhai Afternoon Class we have been trialing a new Going Home Routine. The kids now have a buddy and they help each other to put on jackets and bags and then walk hand in hand down the

corridor to shake hands with the teacher and be released into the foyer when parent/carer has arrived. We have received such positive feedback from parents and children plus Florence and I have seen many benefits around safety and taking responsibility for own personal belongings, which directly encourages independence of the child. Among other things this Spontaneous Self Review is allowing Florence and I to reflect (once again) on how very capable and trust worthy young children are. Please see the comments from the children on the display board in the corridor outside Kowhai Class...

On the last Thursday of term we are planning a class dinner at one of our kids family restaurants...Florence and I and the kids are really looking forward to getting together as a social group over dinner...it'll be fun... Enjoy a great rest of the term,

Tracy and Florence.



Wednesday Extension Class

Our Wednesday Extension Class has grown and we now have another teacher – Di who is an art teacher. So now we have alternate weeks of baking and art. We have also started going on trips each term. Last term for Matariki we went to Te Papa and also saw the Te Matau a Māui (voyaging canoe), which was down at the harbour. A few weeks ago we went to the Dowse Museum to see the *Pick n' Mix* exhibition which was curated by school children.



The lunch group

Welcome to the new children who have started in the lunch group. Julia started off the term talking about earthquakes and practicing our drills. Volcanoes were also discussed and Julia made a set of parts of the volcano for children to use.

Seedevi carried on from Julia with a theme related to the puppet show, and the difference between something that is real and something imaginary. Seedevi used the analogy of dragons; every culture has dragons, why do they? Usually they are important to the culture; is the importance good or bad?

Over the last week Bronwyn has been using 'drama' to inspire the children to role play, be different animals and also for indirect use of social graces. At the beginning of the group time children had to find their own space and make sure that had enough room for the different activities. Prowling like a big cat, lumbering like an elephant and scurrying like a mouse, all in silence.

Bronwyn, Seedevi, Nina and Julia



Kowhai Wednesday Extension Class Baking Photo

Montessori Philosophy

When we talk about Montessori Philosophy there are a great many words that we can use to describe aspects of Montessori's philosophy. One of Montessori's own definitions says, *"Our educational aim with very young children must be to aid the spontaneous development of the mental, spiritual, and physical personality....."* *The Montessori Method*, Chapter XV

Montessori's Cosmic Plan teaches the child that everything in the universe has a reciprocal relationship and that the child is part of this. The child has a relationship with people, plants animals and the earth. All depend upon each other. In this setting geography operates as a programme for the integration of a child's knowledge. The four year old is a very social child and geography is a way for this child to find out about everything and everyone around him/her. In this day and age with wars being fought in almost all parts of the world we reflect that Montessori's approach to geography was embedded in her desire for world peace. She

wanted to change the way children were taught in order to produce a more peaceful and generous society. Her rationale was that the more we know about each other the less we are inclined to hate and fight. Teaching children about people from other lands helps them to feel like each other. Teaching children about animals helps them feel protective, and knowledge of the land fosters conservation. Geography put places in relation to each other – New Zealand to Europe or in the geography of the classroom the practical life area to the language shelf.

The first material the child will use is the land and water globe giving a visual and tactile impression of the world, then the continent globe which introduces the idea that a physical land mass is divided by internal boundaries as well as seas, and have separate names. The puzzle maps increase in difficulty from the continent map to more detailed maps. Montessori developed these materials to foster a physical understanding of the world. Using geography in the environment enables the teacher to provide for the class in a variety of ways and helps the teacher to make a contribution to the teaching of peace and love of the environment at an age when it is most easily absorbed.

New Entrants

It's good to be sitting here typing this as it means that I am feeling heaps better than this time last term! On that note I would like to say a huge thank you to Mary and Nina for keeping the class running beautifully while I was away.

We have been having quite a busy term so far with a visit from *The Little Dog Barking Theatre Company* who performed a play called *The Pond*. I was really impressed with the way in which the children sat and listened; they all seemed thoroughly transfixed by the performance.

Constable Duncan came to visit a week or two ago. All the teachers were delighted by the children's behaviour and enjoyment of the experience. I think going in the police car was a highlight for all!

As part of our normal class routine we will be focusing on practical life activities as these are the cornerstone of our classroom. Young children are naturally drawn to activities like this that they see in their everyday environment and relish the opportunity to participate in tasks that adults consider to be chores. So, we provide 'real life' materials that are attractive to children and will help them learn how to be contributing members of their community. While engaging in this important work your child will be learning how to control their muscles, concentrate and persevere. In addition, these materials give your child the experience of fully participating in their environment which is great for their self esteem and sense of belonging. These practical life materials include activities such as pouring from jugs, sweeping, folding washing and

preparing food to share for afternoon tea. Next time you are in the classroom feel free to have a look at our shelves and ask any questions. We would be happy to talk about how these activities can work in your home.

At the moment the weather is being very kind to us which means that we are able to engage in water play. At the time of writing we have taken the water trough out of hibernation and the children are thoroughly enjoying exploring it. However, since the weather can very changeable at this time of year, having two changes of clothes (that your child can take off and put on independently), including a warm layer, in your child's bag is a good idea because we will go out in the garden unless it's absolutely pouring down with rain. In addition toilet accidents do happen and it is less stressful for your child if they have their own clean clothes to change into. We don't have much in the way of spare clothes here.

We both would like you and your child to really enjoy your time with us in New Entrants, so if you have any questions or concerns please do talk to us, we are always happy to chat. Have a wonderful rest of the term.

Julia and Mary





The President's report

Hi all,

I'd like to congratulate Bronwyn and her staff for an excellent report from the [Education Review Office](#) (ERO) visit. Here is the link to the [report](#) for the Preschool, the review findings are very positive. The "Key next steps" are things that the Council are actively working on.

Thanks to everyone who gave feedback in the Parent Survey this year. As usual, we had a large number of responses, which is great to see. The survey results are compared with previous year's results to give us an idea of how we are trending in all areas, and we use the results to inform the annual and strategic planning process – making sure that our parent's voice and we investigate and implement opportunities, identified improvements and great ideas.

Cheers,

Grant

Council members

President: Grant Humm

Vice-President: Camilla Browne

Secretary: Barbara Foster

Treasurer: Angela Subritzky

Staff liaison officer: Rachel Scott

Enrolments officer: Vanessa McKee

Property Officer: Mark Haldane

Parent liaison: Alison Kirkpatrick

Newsletter: Kirsten Taylor

Playgroup liaison: Sarah Elliot

General: Jacqui Goodall

**SAVE THE
DATE FOR
THIS NOT TO
BE MISSED,
SHAKEN BUT
NOT STIRRED
NIGHT!**

TICKETS

\$45 .00

Advance bookings:

beatgirls007@gmail.com

**[Click here to check us out
on Facebook](#)**

**BENEFITING
Otari-Wilton
Montessori
Playgroup and
Pre School**



From the Senior Director

Last Term we were visited by ERO who gave us valuable feedback and some very positive comments. As a team we were delighted by their comments. They will revisit us in three years' time. Recently I sent out an email regarding Kanae's resignation from the preschool. Kanae is still on maternity leave, but will not be returning next year. We are very sad that Kanae won't be returning to us, but understanding that her focus for the next few years is her family. Don't forget to sign her card; it is in the office.

So far this term has been quite eventful for us as a staff. We are continuing on our professional development journey with a course on Te Tiri (the Treaty of Waitangi). We are attending this from 4- 6pm once a fortnight for six weeks. Over the last two year the requirements to maintain teacher registration have changed; considerable documentation is required to maintain our registration. We are required to document and provide evidence in all areas of our professional teaching to meet the registered teacher criteria. At present as registered teachers we can be called upon any time to provide evidence that we are meeting these criteria. This is another area of professional development that is on-going.

On Friday August 16 Wellington experienced a 6.6 earthquake. This was in the afternoon when

children were at the preschool. The afternoon teachers of Seedeви, Tracy and Florence managed very well and are to be congratulated on their calm, caring and nurturing manner towards the children. Thank you to the parents who gave us positive feedback regarding this.

Bronwyn



Noticeboard

Term dates 2013

Term 4

Monday 14 October to

Wednesday 18 December

Morning/afternoon tea lists

Please check the lists in the foyer for this term's roster. Every family has to provide food for morning and afternoon teas once or twice a year.

New Entrants' families will be emailed the afternoon tea list

Thank you.

Driveway duty

We have a drop-off system in place to help with the busy morning school run. From 9.55am to 9.15am 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.

Please do not drop your child off before 8:55am as the door into the corridor does not open until 9am. If you do drop off before the doors open, it is at your own risk.

Monitors are to be at the Preschool by 8:50am. Duties include opening the car door, assisting the child to exit the car and **escorting the child into the Preschool foyer.**

Please do not park your car in the driveway and walk in with your child. It is dangerous. Use the gate monitor system instead!

Every parent/caregiver with a child in the morning classes is required to sign up to do monitor duties for three mornings a term even if your child does not yet use the system

Parent interviews

Parent interviews are a time for you to come and talk to a teacher about your child's progress. We ask that you book a date in advance so your child's teacher has time to prepare.

Interviews for children in the morning classes are held at 8.40am until 9am, while interviews for the afternoon class are held 3.20pm-3.40pm.

Booking interviews are easy, just pop into the classroom and arrange a day in the diary with the teacher, or email the preschool.

It is up to you how many parent interviews you attend and this may vary according to your child's needs. Teachers would like to see you at a minimum once a year but some parents come once a term, it is up to you.

Working bees 2013

The dates for this year's upcoming working bees are listed below. Every family is required to take part in one working bee a year. If you are unable to attend your session, please swap with another parent. Working bees normally take place from 9am to 12 noon.

Sunday 17 November Surnames Q-Z also those who have been unable to attend previous working bees

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. If you have any questions, please