



Avonhead Montessori Newsletter

January - February 2017

Hello everyone and welcome to the New Year here at Avonhead Montessori Preschool. We hope you had a great break and everybody is relaxed and ready for 2017. We look forward to another year filled with learning, development, milestones and excitement.

Over the holidays we have taken a more relaxed approach to the Montessori curriculum; this is to allow the children some relaxation time, it's hard work learning all the time! As the weeks progress we are slowly transitioning back to our usual routine and the Montessori work cycle will be fully operational again from the start of February. This has been beneficial for teachers as they have had the opportunity to observe children's interests and educational needs; in order to plan and prepare a programme based on these.

We are proud of our Montessori philosophy and are pleased to inform you that all of our teachers are either fully trained or currently in training. This ensures a high level of quality Montessori teaching and learning is taking place. We wish Deanna and Ashleigh all the best as they embark on their first module of their Montessori Journey.

Pukeko Room News:

The children have been engaged in a lot of physical and creative development over the school holidays. This has been a very fun and relaxing period that is going to do wonders for their excitement toward the Montessori curriculum beginning February.

Our school readiness group numbers have rapidly increased. If your child has recently turned 4 and a half they will be beginning school readiness on the 7th of February. We are very excited to start two new curriculum subjects during the program; subjects are cultural studies and performing arts (replacing environment studies and visual arts). We feel these subjects are going to be very beneficial for developing confidence, self-awareness and belonging as well as supporting their preparation for school. The following children begin or remain in school readiness in February: Austin Zhu, Claudia McWha, Crystal Sakamoto, Dylan Blackwell, Jessica Wu, Josephine Chien, Juliet Haigh, Leo Yang, Leon Murray, Mason Hayes-Walford, Maya Hill, Louren Reforma, Orlando Zhu, Sebastian Olar, Taylah Hatcher, Tiffany Du, Titen Mackenzie and Zane Savage. If your child finishes preschool before or during 1:15pm - 2:15pm and you would like to them attend please see Sam about extending their hours.

Upon daily arrival in the classroom, please ensure you encourage your child to place their photo next to their bag, put their morning tea on a plate and use their name tag to identify it belongs to them. If your child is missing their photo or name tag please ask a teacher to get you another one. We carry out this process to further develop independence, pre-language and life skills and to support the Montessori cycle of activity.

We would like to welcome Mason, Abigail, Zechariah, Rui, Mira, Bella, Jonathan, Jenuli and Sharon. We also would like to wish the following children all the best for their journey to

primary school, Sam, Leafaye and Caleb.

Nga Mihi, Pukeko Room Teachers.

Tui Room News:

In the Tui room the children have been taking advantage of the lovely weather and enjoying water play outside. This has led to sensory exploration in the water trough and sand pit. Scientific enquiry has helped them develop working theories about the living and man-made worlds. They have enjoyed exploring the properties of materials and how these can be changed by combining them. For example, sand can be made more malleable by adding water and therefore makes excellent sand pies!

To help children develop their understanding and appreciation of sharing we ask families to bring one piece of fruit each day for the child to place in our fruit bowl. We then share this fruit together at morning and afternoon kai times. We appreciate your continued support with this.

A gentle reminder to name all belongings including lunch boxes (especially anything placed in fridge), drink bottles, milk bottles and comforters.

We have had a few changes to our group as some of our older members have moved on to the pukeko room and we have gained some lovely new families too.

Ka kite ano to Abigail, Rui and Mira who are all transitioning at the moment.

Haere mai to Timaeus, Naomi, Sophia, Marcus, Alexis and Kaia and their whanau; we look forward to getting to know you all.

We would like to congratulate and officially welcome Steph and Ashleigh who have now accepted permanent teaching positions in the Tui room. As a result, we have had the opportunity to rearrange teacher roles placing Ashleigh as the permanent under two's teacher and Steph and Rebecca as permanent over two's teachers.

Thank you, from the Tui Team

Our Learning Environments:

The real work of learning belongs to the individual child, not the teacher and so the Montessori learning community reaches its full potential when the number of adults is kept to the minimum. Parent involvement will be welcomed for specified times and community activities but the Montessori classroom focuses on the children becoming independent, which is possible only when adults are scarce!

Children have a tendency to feel embarrassed or shy around adults and this can really distract their learning. Constant interruptions by adults detract from the child's ability to learn to concentrate and to become absorbed in their chosen activity or work. We ask you to be mindful of this when dropping off and picking up your children, keeping noise levels to a minimum and not spending too much unnecessary time in the classrooms. Naturally, most children have a need for reassurance during drop off times and we welcome this; we encourage you to ask a teacher for support with this process if you need it.

We celebrate our community of learners and consider all children and their families a major part of this. For all pick-ups after 3pm we invite you to use the Pukeko room as a place to meet and gather. You are welcome to use the environment, however, please be aware

that it has been set for the next day's learning so must be left as it was found.

General Housekeeping:

Due to the holidays we have had quite a few forms to be signed. Thank you for your patience and cooperation with completing all this paperwork.

If someone else is collecting your child from preschool please ensure their details are on your enrolment form (ask any teacher to help you with this) and you inform a teacher of this BEFORE pick up. This is a policy to safeguard children from harm and teachers will not let a child leave the premises unless this is adhered to.

Wow, we have been experiencing some really windy days recently! Please ensure you close the classroom doors tightly when entering and leaving the building as the wind has a tendency to blow them open when they are not closed properly.

New Staff:

We are excited to announce some new permanent members to our staff! As you are already aware Deanna is our new teacher in the Pukeko room. Deanna has settled in well and is already a valuable member of our team. She has built some strong relationships with children and families and brings with her some excellent teaching strategies.

Suzanne is also a new Pukeko room teacher. Suzanne has a strong Montessori background and is very knowledgeable in this area so we are excited to have her join us and help build our teaching team even further.

Ashleigh has been a valued member of our team for some time now. She has an excellent caring nature and is a perfect Tui room teacher. We are pleased to announce that she has accepted a permanent contract with us and will continue to work in the Tui room.

Steph has been relieving for us for a while and we are happy to say that she has also accepted a permanent contract as a Tui Room teacher. Steph also has a Montessori background and a passion for teaching infants and toddlers so she will be an excellent addition to the team.

Staff News:

As you are all aware, Cindy is going to have a baby! This is very exciting and we are eagerly anticipating the arrival of her bundle of joy in May! Sam also has an exciting event coming up...her wedding! Sam will be getting married to her partner Blake in March and we wish her all the best for her big day!

Summer is Here:

We love enjoying time outside with the children especially in the warmer weather. It's a great opportunity for exploring the outdoor environment and the natural world. Safety is paramount so we ask you to support us with teaching lifelong sun safe behaviour. You can help us by, dressing your child in light, protective clothing and sending a sunhat daily. Encouraging this behaviour at home will further instil these routines. **Please name all belongings.**

Remember!

Slip – on light long sleeved tops and light pants

Slop – on the sunblock

Slap – on a hat

Wrap – on sunglasses

Hei konā rā from Danielle, Laura, Sam, Suzanne, Cindy, Ashleigh, Steph, Rebecca, Sammi and Deanna.