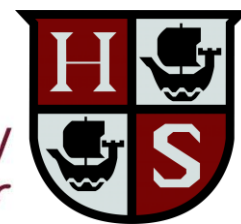




**MONTENESSORI** @ Howick Primary  
individuals - learning - growing - together



### Cosmic Focus

This term we will be focussing on change and looking at the different changes that can take place in nature and over time. We have started off with the First Great Lesson to frame up the lessons we will be offering around change in the different curriculum areas.

### Camp

Just a reminder that the Senior School Camp for this year is to be during the last week of Term 1, from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at CBM Camp Raglan, in Raglan.

### Welcome

Kia ora and welcome back to school! We hope you had a restful holiday and made the most of the beautiful weather we had.

We have already done the Coming of the Universe Story, and we are looking forward to completing all the Great Stories this term (we hope!)

The year has started off beautifully and everything seemed to fall seamlessly into place. The children have enjoyed meeting up with their friends once again, and it genuinely seems like we are much further along in the year than the start of term one.

Here's to another great year at Montessori @Howick Primary!

## Save the Date

### Meet the Teacher & School Picnic

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

Find out what is new in the classroom, while joining the families at HPS for a fun evening.

### 3-Way Conferences

**13<sup>th</sup> March & 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Student, teacher and parent meet to discuss learning and set goals for the upcoming year

### PTA International Food Festival

**22<sup>nd</sup> March**

Join the HPS community for an evening of food from different cultures.

### Easter Break

**30<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

A reminder that school is closed from Friday – Tuesday for Easter Weekend.

## New Students

We would like to welcome Chase Mason to the unit this term. Chase's older brother, Zander has been with us since 2014. We are looking forward to having Chase as part of our community.

We would also like to welcome another student and his whanau to our classes. He has joined our Year 2 group of students. This is their second year in New Zealand. We are excited to get to know him and his whanau and to learn more about their homeland, Belgium.

Regan Lincoln has also joined our classroom, in the Year 4 group. We are pleased to welcome Regan and his parents, Kate and Adam to the Montessori community and getting to know them better.



## Teachers' Timetable

Our timetable remains the same for 2018. Dawn will continue with Room 8, and Tesneem with Room 7.

Tesneem will be in class for the full day on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, plus a half day on Thursday.

Dawn will be in class for a half day on Monday and Thursday, and two full days on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Charlene will be teaching on Thursday afternoons and Friday, all day.

## Year 6 Graduating Students

Four Year Six students graduated at the end of 2017. We said goodbye to Jackson Holloway, Rosie Ireland, Nikita Hokianga and Vanessa Bu. We were pleased to see our students' achievements and accomplishments recognised at HPS Prizegiving as well. This group of graduates and their parents have been very active members of the Montessori Community at HPS over a number of years. We wish our graduates and their families all the very best for the future and can't wait to hear about their new adventures.



## Montessori Philosophy Corner

*I have been asked to be a regular contributor to the Montessori Voices magazine. Below is a snippet of my article in the upcoming issue.*

### **The Second Plane Child – Tesneem Couper**

To understand a Montessori Primary classroom, you first need to know what the overall goal of Montessori Education is and the characteristics of the child in the Second Plane of Development.

The goal of Montessori education is "the development of a complete human being, oriented to the environment, and adapted to his or her time, place and culture" (Lillard, p. 3) As I stated above, for a child to have a sense and *understanding* of their place and role in this world is really what Montessori education is all about. It seeks to educate children to be peaceful global citizens who contribute positively to society. What really resonates with me about teaching in a Primary classroom, is that Montessori education fosters growth from dependence to independence through to interdependence.

There are three elements that are requirements for both Preschool and Primary Montessori Classrooms – the prepared environment, the prepared adult and freedom with responsibility. (Lillard, p. 21)

The differences between a Primary and Preschool class is how these elements are set out and fulfilled that best suits the child's development. From the ages of 0 – 6, children are in the phase which Maria Montessori called "The Absorbent Mind." They take *everything* in – so parents are finding out that they really need to watch what they say around their child in the 0 – 6 age group, because the things you say are parroted right back at you, with the exact same tone (which I found out recently, with my five year old).

In terms of Montessori development, each plane is considered a kind of rebirth. The second plane child (6-12) is generally considered the birth of the social personality of the child. The younger child is more solitary and still in the phase where they are the centre of their universe. As the children get older, they become more aware of others' perceptions, opinions and relationships. The philosophy of a Primary classroom revolves around their social personality. The children are offered lessons in small groups (very rarely individually, unless they request or need it) and they often choose to work collaboratively on projects, inquiry or even just making questions up together or for each other. Their non-stop chatter is more than just chatter – it is a need. It is the child developing his skills of negotiation and figuring out where they fit in the social order of their community. As in preschool, children are in mixed year groups. This allows older children to be role models and to peer teach, which not only can solidify concepts for some children, but also fulfils some of the need to be in the company of their friends.

This is also when you find that the child starts to move away from his family and puts a lot of effort into developing relationships outside of the home. No longer are his parents the primary source of information, comfort and contact, he is now turning towards his friends to start making meaningful relationships and connections.

*Be sure to read the rest in the next Montessori Voices magazine!*

## Reminders

**Stationery:** Stationery packs can be ordered from Office Max (see HPS website). Please ensure your child has enough stationery to start off the school year – if you are unsure what we have on hand for your child, feel free to pop in and check. Also, please avoid sending fancy stationery to school as this can cause issues and remember to label each item. (Yes, every single pencil).

**Sun Protection:** Hats are compulsory this term. If your child does not have a hat they will be required to sit under the trees at lunchtime. It may be a good idea for students to apply sunscreen before school and to bring a small bottle of sunscreen to reapply at lunchtime. There is also some sunblock in class for the children to use.

**Punctuality:** School starts at 8.50 a.m. and all students are expected to be in the classroom by then. The classroom is open from 8.30 a.m. Please note, the children are not to be in the classroom prior to 8.30, as the teachers need time to prepare for the day.

**Laundry:** Each week a different child will be assigned the responsibility of taking the Montessori laundry home on a Friday and returning it clean and folded on the following Monday.

**Medical:** The office staff administers all medicines. Please drop off any medications at the office and let teachers know so that we can remind students to go to the office when needed. Please see Mrs. Smith in the office to fill in a new medical form if your child's medical status has changed.

**Absences:** If your child is going to be absent from school please inform the office by using the school app, phoning the school on 534 6082 or sending an email to your child's teacher or to Mrs. Smith in the office.

**Communication with teachers:** The best way to contact teachers is via email, which is usually checked before school and during breaks. Please copy in all three teachers to ensure a timely response. You can also send a note with your child. If you need to schedule a meeting please contact the teacher concerned to make an appointment. Please try to avoid lengthy conversations about your child before and after school as teachers have other commitments.

**Walks in the area:** At times we may leave the school for short walks in the area. Please sign the attached EOTC form at the end of this newsletter if you agree to allow your child to participate in these walks.

## Parents

Parent information evenings are planned for each term. This term the information evening will be the Meet the Teacher evening and School Picnic on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February. This will give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about classroom routines and structure.

We are planning an information evening in Term Two, so if you would like any clarification on Montessori philosophy or theory, please do fill out the form at the end of the newsletter and return it to the teachers.

*"Children  
become like  
the things  
they love."*

*Maria  
Montessori*



## Reminders – continued

**Digital Citizenship:** ALL students must return an updated, signed Digital Citizenship form if they wish to **use** or **view** any devices in the classroom.

**BYOD:** If your child is in Year 4, 5 or 6 and you wish for them to bring their own device to school, please fill in and return the BYOD form. Keeping with Montessori philosophy, we would prefer that devices are used mainly at home, but they may be used in class to support children with their learning or research. We do have limits for screen time in class.

**R7 Journals:** The students in Room 7 keep track of their daily work in their journals/diaries. This is to help with responsibility and accountability. It is expected that the children will show their parent their journal each day to be initialed and to serve as a 'jumping off point' for conversations about the school day. There may also be relevant notices, or notes from the teacher in the journal. Please support your child in getting into the habit of showing it to an adult each day, and bringing it to and from school. Thank you!

**Food & Drink:** The school has a healthy eating policy so lollies are not to be consumed during the school day. **This includes treats for holidays and birthdays. Please do not send in chocolates/lollies for your child to hand out during the school day. While we appreciate the gesture and the treat, we would rather avoid disappointed and upset children, so please do not send them in. You are welcome to send fresh fruit, veggies, or any other healthy snacks to share. Thanks in advance for your co-operation.** Water is preferable over sweetened drinks. Milk is also offered to students at lunchtime. School lunches can be ordered online/text for Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from <http://www.ezlunch.co.nz/>

**Activity Fees:** The school is reverting to an activity fee for 2018. The activity fee covers class events such as trips, guest speakers, shows, and the end of year graduation (for the Year 6 students). You may wish to pay the entire activity fee upfront when the school year begins or you have the option to pay in instalments at the start of each term.

The fees are as follows:

- Years 0 – 3 - \$45
- Years 4 & 5 - \$60
- Year 6 - \$80

Once you have been invoiced, please make a payment of \$35 for the Athletics and Reading Eggs classroom programmes (**Y 1 – 3**) or \$20 for the Athletics classroom programme (**Y 4 – 6**) by the end of March. Please note that there may be separate payments for any choir, sports and optional trips as not all children participate in these events.

Please use the Kindo payment system to make these payments throughout the year. Go to [www.ezlunch.co.nz](http://www.ezlunch.co.nz) and use the email address you receive school emails from, to login and access your account. This system enables you to pay anytime, anywhere and is very user friendly.

## Timetable

**Bible:** Students have the opportunity to attend Bible classes on **Friday** mornings from 8.50-9.30 am (pending confirmation of Bible Teachers). Montessori students who opt out of Bible classes remain in the classroom during that time. Please sign the attached note if you prefer your child **not** to attend Bible classes.

**Visual Arts:** Mo Stewart is offering Art classes this term with Tez's support, on a **Monday** afternoon. Students will all participate in Art classes for the term.

**French:** Madame Cathy Wright will continue to offer French lessons on **Wednesday** afternoons to all children in small groups in the classroom. The other students may participate in a rotation of other French activities and games during that time or carry on with their class work.

**Gardening:** We are happy to welcome Andrew Kleine (Brianna's dad) as our resident Gardener. Gardening will continue to be on **Friday** mornings. If the weather is inclement, children will do other activities related to gardening such as scrapbooking, painting pots, packaging seeds, etc.

**Library:** We have library on Tuesday afternoons from 2:15 – 3:00. Books may also be returned to the library before and after school.

**Music:** Christina Bevan is continuing to take the children for music lessons. The **Year 3 & 4** students go on **Tuesdays** (1 x 45 min session) and **Year 5 & 6** also on **Tuesday** (1 x 45 min session) and the **Year 1 & 2** students go on **Wednesday** (1 x ½ hour session).

**Singing:** Students join the rest of the school for singing on alternate Thursdays. Year 1 – 3 students are at 2:00 p.m. and Year 4 – 6 students are at 2:30 p.m.

**Swimming:** Students have a swimming session at school on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays**. Please ensure that your child has named togs, swimming cap, towel and goggles (optional) on required days. Please send a note if your child is not allowed to swim as swimming is part of the school curriculum. Students wearing band-aids will not be able to swim as band-aids can come off and may affect the filtration system. (Lloyd Elsmore swimming will be in Term 3 this year.)



**Name of Child:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle one of the following:**

- I have/have not filled in the EOTC form (attached)
- I have/have not filled in and discussed the Digital Citizenship form with my child (attached)
- My child will/will not be attending Bible in school on Fridays.

**Parent Name:**

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact details:**

Primary Contact Name:

Home:

Work:

Cellphone:

Email Address:

**Parent Information Evenings:**

**If you have any questions about Montessori Philosophy, please write them below, so we can include them in our Parent Information Evenings this year.**

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**Email addresses:**

[t.couper@howickprimary.school.nz](mailto:t.couper@howickprimary.school.nz) (Tesneem Couper)

[d.young@howickprimary.school.nz](mailto:d.young@howickprimary.school.nz) (Dawn Young)

[c.jacobs@howickprimary.school.nz](mailto:c.jacobs@howickprimary.school.nz) (Charlene Jacobs)

<i>Term 1 Calendar</i>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Week 1 Jan 29 <sup>th</sup> – Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Auckland Anniversary Day	First Day of Term 1				
Week 2 Feb 4 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>		Waitangi Day	Montessori BOT Meeting		Ice Block Friday	
Week 3 Feb 12 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>				Meet the Teacher and PTA BBQ	Ice Block Friday	
Week 4 Feb 19 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>					Ice Block Friday	
Week 5 Feb 26 <sup>th</sup> – Mar 4 <sup>th</sup>				.	Ice Block Friday	
Week 6 Mar 5 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>			Montessori BOT Meeting		Ice Block Friday	
Week 7 Mar 12 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>		3 Way Conferences		3 Way Conferences	Ice Block Friday	
Week 8 Mar 19 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>				PTA International Food Festival	Ice Block Friday	
Week 9 Mar 26 <sup>th</sup> – Apr 1 <sup>st</sup>			.		Good Friday	
Week 10 Apr 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Monday	Easter Tuesday	Montessori BOT Meeting			
Week 11 Apr 9 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 & 6 Camp	Year 5 & 6 Camp	Year 5 & 6 Camp		Last Day of Term 1	