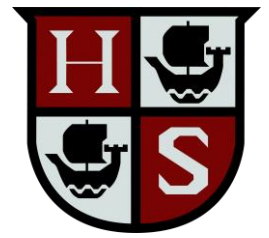




## New Students

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



### Cosmic Focus

We are continuing to work on aligning the HPS concepts to the Montessori Curriculum. We have been offering lessons focused on Movement and later in the term we will learning about Connection (with the environment, animals, others etc.)

*"Let us give the child a vision of the whole universe... the universe is an important reality, and an answer to all questions. We shall walk together on this path of life; for all things are a part of the universe, and are connected with each other to form one whole unity." Maria Montessori*

### Welcome

Welcome back to Term 2! We hope that you and your families managed to brave some of the wild weather and had a restful and rejuvenating break.

In the holidays, your kaiako were fortunate enough to attend the MANZ conference in Wellington. We always enjoy reconnecting with old friends and colleagues and came away with some fresh ideas and have already started implementing them in the classroom.

One of the keynote speakers presented information about how Montessori learning benefits and engages the brain – which tied in beautifully with the subject of our Philosophy Corner this term.



## Save the Date

### Mother's Day Shared Lunch

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

Please join us from 11:30 onwards for our Mother's Day Presentations and a Shared Lunch.

### Curriculum Evening

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Please join us from 5:00 - 7:30 to learn how we meet NZ Curriculum objectives within our Montessori Classrooms.

### Teacher Only Day

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

School closed for Teacher Only Day

### Queen's Birthday

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

School closed for Queen's Birthday – enjoy the extra-long weekend!

## New Students



We would like to welcome Aaron, his sister Lulu and his parents Wendy & Tom. Aaron joins us from Casa Montessori in West Auckland.

We would also like to welcome Ewan, his brother Ethan and his parents, Sarah and Thibaud. Ewan joins us from Li'l Champs Montessori Preschool in Mission Heights.

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## Montessori Philosophy Corner

### ***The Search of Discovery – Tesneem Couper***

When adults encounter the Montessori math curriculum, materials and lessons for the first time the general response is "That's so cool! I wish I had learnt Math like that!"

What makes Montessori math SO fantastic? Is it that the materials are beautiful? Is it that abstract concepts and ideas are made tangible, visual and concrete? Is it that it is fun and engaging, while being challenging as well? Is it that the student has the opportunity to discover and teach themselves? The short answer is yes, to all of the questions. But did you realise that by putting your child in a Montessori classroom and having them experience Math the "Montessori way" it is actually helping them build a bigger, stronger, more engaged brain?

Recent brain research has further validated a great deal of Dr. Montessori's work concerning the brain and its development. One of the most often quoted (and important) sayings by Dr. Montessori was:

*The hands are the instruments of man's intelligence.*

This may seem as though it is just a quote explaining the importance of using and manipulating the materials, because they are an aid to learning – but they are so much more than that.

When a child manipulates the materials to find the answers to a question (e.g.  $7 + 8$ ), they are actively engaging all parts of their brain as opposed to just solving a question by learning and memorising the algorithm  $7 + 8 = 15$ , which only engages one part of the brain.

*This is why we always introduce new Math lessons using the materials, even if the child is able to do the work abstractly; just because they can it doesn't mean that it is best.*

It is hard to resist the temptation to just tell children how to work out the answers to questions (e.g. multiplication, percentages etc.) When we tell children the pattern/formulae/trick, it doesn't have nearly as many benefits for their brain and most importantly, it robs them of that singular, perfect moment in which they have made the discovery themselves and they get that spark in their eye and exclaim "Guess what I figured out!" This, for me, is one of the best parts of my day.

## 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 will remain in the classroom during that time. If your child is new to the school please sign the attached note if you prefer your child not to attend Bible classes.

**Visual Arts:** Mo Stewart will be offering Art classes this term, with Charlene Jacobs' support, on a **Friday** afternoon. Students will all participate in Art classes for the term.

**French:** Madame Cathy Wright will continue to offer French lessons on **Tuesday** afternoons to all children in small groups in the classroom (half hour sessions each).

**Gardening:** Michelle (Rosie's mum) will continue to come in on **Friday** mornings to do gardening with the children. If the weather is inclement, children will do other activities related to gardening such as scrapbooking, painting pots, packaging seeds, etc.

**Library:** We will continue to have library on Monday afternoons from 1:30 – 2:15. Books may also be returned to the library before and after school.

**Music:** Christina Bevan will continue to take the children for music lessons. The **Year 3 & 4** students will attend on **Tuesdays** (1 x 45 min session) and **Year 5 & 6** on **Thursdays** (1 x 45 min session) and the **Year 1 & 2** students will attend on **Tuesdays** (1 x ½ hour session).

**Singing:** Students will join the rest of the school for singing.

## Parents

Our Parent Information evening will be held next week in Rooms 7 & 8.

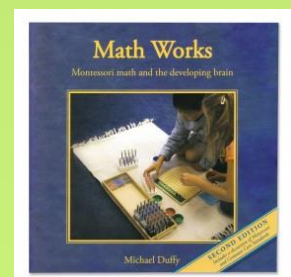
We will look at the New Zealand Curriculum and how we meet the objectives within our Montessori Classrooms.

The date & time for this evening is **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of May** from **5:00-6:30**. Children are welcome to attend, but will not be supervised if they are outdoors, so we ask that they join us in class or stay on the court, within sight.

Michael Duffy was one of the keynote speakers at the recent MANZ Conference in Wellington.

We now have a copy in our parent library of his book *Math Works: Montessori Math and the Developing Brain*, which is available to borrow.

Michael Duffy offers a more thorough explanation of how Montessori Math benefits the child's developing brain and answers many of the questions you may have about our Math Curriculum.



## Reminders

**Stationery:** Stationery packs can be ordered from Office Max (see HPS website). Please avoid sending fancy stationery to school as this can be distracting and cause issues.

**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. For safety reasons, students are expected to wait for the teachers on the courts, not by the doors near the carpark.

**Food & Drink:** The school has a healthy eating policy so lollies are not to be consumed during the school day. 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/>

**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 fill in the 2017 yellow 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 phoning the school on 534 6082. You can also let your child's teacher know via email.

**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.

**Adventure Playgrounds:** A friendly reminder that these will be out of bounds for all children (including preschoolers) before school in Terms 2 and 3 due to the bars and platforms being unsafe when wet with dew or overnight rain. Please support the teachers by reminding children that they cannot use the playgrounds before school.

**Tree Climbing:** There will be no tree climbing before school, at morning tea, lunchtime or after school in Terms 2 or 3. The branches stay quite slippery during the day.

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*“An adult can assist  
in shaping the  
environment, but it  
is the child that  
perfects his own  
being.”*

*Maria Montessori*

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*“Montessori is an  
education for  
independence  
preparing not just  
for school, but for  
life.”*

*Maria Montessori*



<i>Term 2 Calendar</i>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Week 1 May 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	First Day of Term 2		Montessori Trust AGM 7 p.m.	Retro Theme Mufti		
Week 2 May 8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>						Mother's Day
Week 3 May 15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day Event 10:30 – 12:30		Curriculum Evening			
Week 4 May 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>		PTA Bake Sale		Grandparents' Day		
Week 5 May 29 <sup>th</sup> – June 2 <sup>nd</sup>					No School – Teacher Only Day	
Week 6 June 5 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	No School – Queen's Birthday		Mufti Culture Day			
Week 7 June 12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>			Montessori Trust Meeting (TBC)			
Week 8 June 19 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>		PTA Bake Sale				
Week 9 June 26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>						
Week 10 July 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>			Montessori Planning Day  Montessori Trust Meeting	PTA School Disco	Last Day of Term 2	

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

**Please circle one of the following:**

- My child is/is not able to participate in short walks in the area.
- 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)

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