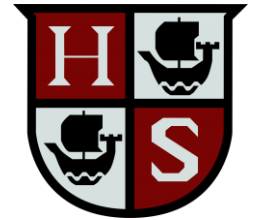




MONTENESSORI @ Howick Primary
individuals - learning - growing - together



New Students

We would like to welcome Nathan Tan to the unit this term. Nathan comes to us from Children's Corner in Howick; his older sister, Chloe has been with us since 2014. We are looking forward to having Nathan as part of our community.

We would also like to welcome Leon Henare and his whanau to our classes. Leon comes to us from Glendowie Montessori Preschool and has joined our Year 2 group of students. We are excited to get to know Leon and his whanau over the coming years.



Cosmic Focus

This term we will finish working on the concept of change and move on to learning about relationships. We will endeavour to deliver the Great Lessons over this term to further provide a framework for our cultural lessons.

"What the hand does, the mind remembers."

Maria Montessori

Welcome

Kia ora and welcome back to school! Hopefully, you and your whanau had a lovely and relaxing holiday, in spite of some wild weather!

You may notice there are less photos than usual in this newsletter! Please check out our [blog](#), where we often post updates, photos and link the Weekly and Term Newsletters as well. We are hoping that children will start publishing work on there soon too!

"To let the child do as he likes when he has not yet developed any powers of control is to betray the idea of freedom."

Maria Montessori

Save the Date

Teacher Only Day

Friday 1st June

School closed for Teacher Only Day.

Queen's Birthday

Monday 4th June

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

Jamie Rue Parent Information Evening

Wednesday 27th June

This is a parent information evening you won't want to miss! Book your sitter now – see note below for more info about Jamie!

HPMA Fundraiser at Vin Alto

Friday 6th July

This is a wonderful opportunity to try Vin Alto's Italian style wine the way they are intended, with delicious food in a lovely cosy ambience. Further details to follow.

Montessori Philosophy Corner

Handling Conflict in a Montessori Environment

By Dawn Young

"I have no one to play with!", "So and so isn't my friend anymore!", "So and So was mean to me today!" Primary school parents and teachers are not strangers to these laments. Montessori classrooms have their fair share of these complaints and many parents may wonder why this is the case when Montessori education is supposed to promote a culture of peace.

Why the issues?

Children in the Second Plane of Development are developing their social identity, working out what is fair and just and navigating the world of relationships and the complications these bring. Montessori classrooms may appear to have more "issues" than mainstream classrooms for a number of reasons.

- Montessori students have a lot more freedom to choose who to work with, sit with, go to morning tea with, work on a project with, play with etc.
- The dynamic of the multi-age classroom offers different levels of maturity and self-management skills.
- Potentially fewer children who are the same age or gender as your child which may limit the pool of friends to choose from.
- There may be siblings from the same family in the classroom, which adds its own unique dynamic.

All of the above reasons for potential conflict are precisely why many parents choose Montessori as an education philosophy for their child. It gives children an opportunity to learn and grow from handling conflict in a positive way. So, how is conflict managed in Montessori classrooms and how can you help at home?

In the Classroom

In the classroom, we are looking for more than just a "bandaid" fix to a conflict. It is not enough just to issue a consequence to or discipline the apparent culprit. It is important to figure out what is going on, why it may be going on, what the children need, how the environment may be contributing to the conflict, whether it is a passing phase or something deeper, etc. All of this takes time. Ongoing **observation** is one of the key tools we use to determine the answers to these questions. We take time out to observe the dynamics of the classroom, make notes and discuss our findings with each other as teachers. Another thing we do is spend a lot of time giving lessons in the **three R's** - that is **Relationships, Respect and Resilience**. This is often done through our **Grace & Courtesy** lessons (also known as PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning) which are done regularly each week or on an as needed basis. Weekly **class meetings** offer opportunities for children to talk about classroom issues and brainstorm ways to solve these. Students are given lessons in how to talk to each other using 'I' messages when at the **Peace Table** in the classroom. We also try to **role model** appropriate ways of handling conflict in our dealings with other adults and with the children. At the heart of our practice is building a **peaceful community** so we look for opportunities for children to express gratitude, appreciation and acts of kindness during our circle times. Children are listened to with empathy, given strategies for coping with conflict and offered insights into how other students may be feeling.

In the Home

It can be really hard when your child is upset or hurt and can be frustrating when the problem seems to persist longer than a day or two. So, how can you help your child at home?

- It is important to listen to your child and acknowledge his/her feelings (e.g. You must have felt really lonely when you had no one to play with).
- Offer your child strategies to cope with different situations (e.g. ignore, use an 'I' message such as "I felt left out when you didn't invite me to play with you", tell an adult).
- If the problem is ongoing or you believe the situation is serious, such as your child believes he/she is being bullied, please contact the teachers to discuss the issue.
- Please feel free to share any pertinent information regarding homelife with the teachers e.g. illness, sleep issues, death in the family, sibling rivalry, relationship strain, etc. This information may offer insights into your child's behaviour at school.

Yes, dealing with classroom dynamics can be tricky and may take some time to resolve but rest assured that as teachers we are committed to building a peaceful Montessori community. This involves helping your child to navigate relationships, show respect for themselves, others and the environment, and build resilience. Skills that will last a lifetime!

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).

Tissues & colds: It's that wonderful time of the year where noses run freely and sneezes shoot out at 160 km/hr! If you haven't done so already, could you please send in a box or two of tissues. It is also a good time to review coughing and sneezing into the crook of your arm and how to blow your nose (particularly with younger children). You are welcome to send a small bottle of hand sanitizer for your child to keep in their bag. Please remember to label the bottle with your child's name!

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.

Parents

We are very excited about our Parent Information for Term 2! The Trust and Teachers from Montessori@Howick Primary and Eastern Suburbs Montessori have been working together over the past two years, to bring [Jamie Rue](#) to New Zealand from the United States.

Jamie was a keynote speaker at the MANZ Conference in 2014 and has extensive Montessori experience as a teacher and a trainer of Montessori teachers.

The date for the Information Evening is **Wednesday 27th June** and will be held at **Glendowie Primary School**. We sincerely hope that every family will take up the opportunity to attend Jamie's talk – it is sure to be inspiring and useful, so book your babysitters in now!

Details about the topic of the evening and other arrangements will be coming closer to the time. Please keep your eyes peeled for these emails and notices.



Reminders - continued

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/>

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 inform the class teachers 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, baking 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.

<i>Term 2 Calendar</i>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Week 1 April 30 th – May 6 th	First Day of Term 1	Science Morning	Montessori BOT Meeting	PTA Bee Mufti Getwise Financial Literacy	David Kinane onsite	HPS Working Bee (Sat & Sun) Open Day (Sun)
Week 2 May 7 th – 13 th Road Safety Week	Slow Down Around Schools	Soccer Fun Day @McLeans Primary	Tez Offsite for a Meeting	Walking School Bus Launch Montessori 15 Year Anniversary	Junior Playground Grand Opening	Mother's Day (Sun)
Week 3 May 14 th – 20 th		Pt View Soccer Field Day David Kinane onsite Tez away (medical)	Spangle the Storyteller in R 7 & 8			
Week 4 May 21 st – May 27 th	Mufti Culture Day (TBC)			PTA Bake Sale		
Week 5 May 28 th – June 3 rd Samoan Language Week		David Kinane onsite Netball Fun Day			Teacher Only Day – School Closed	
Week 6 June 4 th – June 10 th	Queen's Birthday – School Closed		Montessori BOT Meeting & AGM	Grandparents' Day		
Week 7 June 11 th – 17 th Tez Away		David Kinane onsite				
Week 8 June 18 th – 24 th Tez Away Matariki Week				David Kinane onsite		
Week 9 June 25 th – July 1 st		David Kinane onsite	Jamie Rue Parent Information Evening	Jamie Rue onsite (working with teachers) PTA Disco	Jamie Rue onsite (working with teachers) Teachers' evening Workshop	
Week 10 July 2 nd – July 8 th		David Kinane Onsite	Montessori Planning Day 3 Way Conferences	3 Way Conferences	WSB Milo Morning Last Day T2 Montessori Fundraiser at Vin Alto	Tez & Dawn at MANZ conference