



MONTENESSORI @ Howick Primary
individuals - learning - growing - together



Cosmic Focus

During the first few weeks of Term Four we will be continuing with detailed lessons on the Timeline of Life and focusing on getting necessary assessments done in time for reporting to parents.

Later we will be following up on student interest expressed earlier in the year and will explore a range of different topics, related to the concept change. We will also be looking at how our relationships and roles as kaiako and ākonga have changed over the year.

As always, students will be encouraged to work on projects of personal interest.

Welcome Back!

Kia ora koutou katoa.

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another year! This term, like all the preceding ones, promises to keep us busy. We will be doing assessments, reviewing and consolidating learning as well as participating in a number of fun activities.

The term will be very busy, so to keep you informed we have included a calendar of events at the end of this newsletter to help you keep track of everything.

We would like to thank you for all of your hard work and support in your child's education this year. Parents have supervised on school trips, helped mend and clean materials, and have offered skills, time and talents to enrich our learning programme.

Learning in the Classroom



The Hand Timeline



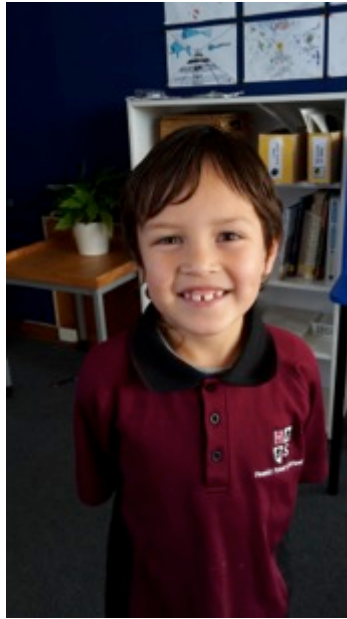
Exploring polygons



Grammar with the farm

Welcome

At the start of this term, we welcomed Brooklyn Allan-Mitchell and his parents Toops and Sascha, as well as his younger brother, Ivan. Brooklyn is in Year 1 and has fitted seamlessly into our classroom. We are looking forward to getting to know Brooklyn and his family over the coming years.



Pen Ceremony

Congratulations to Lachlan and Maria, who both turned nine during the third term. They received a pen from Phil, the Chairperson of the HPMA Trust. It was lovely to have their families there to celebrate this milestone with them.



"No one can be free, unless he is independent."

Maria Montessori

Art Display

Once again, this year the students have been very fortunate to have a parent who is a professional artist come into the classroom to share her skills and passion with them. The students have worked hard on their art and were thrilled to showcase their artwork in an art display in our classrooms.



Learning

Once again we have had a busy term with lots of learning taking place. In math, students have been working a great deal with fractions and decimals at all sorts of different levels and many students have moved over to Geometry to learn about area and perimeter. Recently, some children were even told "A Love Story of Lines." They have also been sharing their knowledge about the Solar System and various famous or influential political figures. We are looking forward to rounding the year off with more great explorations!



Montessori Philosophy Corner – The Second Plane of Development, 6 – 12 Years of Age

Based on her research and observations, Maria Montessori divided human development into six year spans which she called “Planes of Development.” Each plane has specific developmental characteristics associated with it, upon which she based her entire philosophy of education. You will find that you will have encountered many of the behaviours explained here in interactions with your child!

The second plane of development is the plane of childhood. The absorbent mind, so strong from birth to age six, gives way to the conscious mind in the second plane of development. This is when the children move from “*Help me to do it myself*” to “*Help me to **think** for myself.*”

Learning now takes place at a slower, steadier pace. Children in the second plane of development are no longer as drawn to repeating the same activity over, and over unless there is some sort of interesting, exciting change. This is why there are many different materials to show multiplication, for example.

Children from 6 – 12 are now social and now tend to be drawn to others in their environment. Around the age of 6, children begin to become interested in their classmates and are learning how to get along. They start to choose to work with others on projects of mutual interest. By 11 or 12, most students prefer to work with others rather than individually. He/She now has the amazing powers of imagination, abstract thought and reasoning and physical strength.

As they develop, children of this age also expand their social network. They begin to show a genuine interest in others, whether it is within their local community or in a more global sense of awareness. Montessori takes advantage of this sensitive period of cultural awareness by providing a wide range of opportunities for children to explore their culture, and that of others, through the study of history, geography, language arts, and the sciences.

It is also called the “messy age.” It is at this time that children lose their desire for physical order (and become messy!!) and develop a strong moral sense of order. They have a very strong sense of justice and perceived fairness and following the rules becomes very important. I am sure you have all heard, “**But it’s not FAIR!**” Children need good role models at this time, as they are learning about values.

This is the sensitive period for the imagination, for seeing the possibilities in real experiences. This is why the telling of the Great Lessons is so important. These five imaginative stories present a whole vision of knowledge, drawing on material from the various subjects. They are meant to spark the imagination of students, initiating exploration into the curriculum. This Cosmic Education tells how the universe is not a random place or something that “just happened,” but shows how each particle, substance, species, and event has a specific purpose and a contribution to make to the development of others. Dr. Montessori wanted children to understand the amount of gratitude that human beings owe to other parts of the universe and to fully realize that without them and their contributions to the interconnected whole, we could not live.

In the second plane, children will reason about what has become part of their lives through the power of imagination and intelligence. They need to hear stories of greatness and goodness and moral values. The mind of the primary school child concerns itself with building a conscience, that inner sense of what is right and wrong. During this period of growth, they need to know that the adults in their lives love, respect, and understand them.

International Day of Peace



On Wednesday 21st September our classes joined other Montessori schools in New Zealand to sing “Light A Candle for Peace” in recognition of the International Day of Peace. There were 150 000 participants from 65 different countries! New Zealand was the first to start singing, at 11:00 and the song continued around the world, in different time zones for 24 hours, straight. How special to be able to be a part of such a beautiful event!

The children from our classes were also excited to share their learning with their whānau that came to celebrate their learning. Our youngest students showed their parents a dance that had been choreographed by two of our older ākonga, Rosie and Nikita, about seed dispersal.

Some of the older children shared their beautiful poems and reflections about peace.



The wonderful morning was rounded off in our classrooms, with the sharing of their artwork and (most importantly) some kai to celebrate our wonderful community, peace and the children’s hard work.

“Children become like the things they love.”

Maria Montessori

Reminders

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

Hats and sunblock: This term hats are compulsory. Students who do not have a hat will be required to stay under the trees during lunchtime. As the weather gets warmer it is a good idea for your child to apply sunblock before school. You may want to supply a bottle of sunblock for your child to reapply some before going out at lunch or for physical activity.

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. *Children are not to be in class prior to 8:30, as there may not be supervision in the room. Thank you in advance for your co-operation!*

If your child arrives at school after 8:50 a.m. please sign them into the office to obtain a late sticker. This also ensures that they are then marked present on our system. Since our aim is to develop the child's independence, please do not come into the classroom with your child after 8:50 a.m. – we ask the children explain why they were late and it can also be disruptive to lessons or our morning meeting. Thank you.

Uniform: A friendly reminder about the school uniform. Children are to wear plain black or white socks, and girls may also wear plain black or white tights (*not leggings*), as per the HPS uniform policy.

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 2016 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.

Parents

Our open morning will be held on Tuesday 15th November from 9.30 am to 12 noon.

Both parents are welcome to attend for all or part of the above time allotment. If neither parent is available to attend your child may invite an older sibling or extended family member.

This open morning will provide you with an opportunity to see your child at work in the Montessori classroom and for them to share some of their learning with you.

We will send out a reminder closer to the time.

Our end of year Family Barbeque will be on Friday 9th December from 5 p.m. onwards. We look forward to seeing old friends and greeting the new members of our community.

*“Every great cause
is born from
repeated failures and
imperfect
achievements.”*

Maria Montessori

Timetable

Bible: Students have the opportunity to attend Bible classes on **Friday** mornings from 8.50-9.30 am. Montessori students who opt out of Bible classes will remain in the classroom during that time.

Visual Arts & Science: Mo Stewart will be offering Art classes and Kristen Jones will be resuming science classes on a **Friday** afternoon. The students will be swapping groups this term, so if they did art in last term, they will be participating in the science lessons this term and vice versa.

French: Madame Cathy Wright will continue to offer French lessons on **Tuesday** afternoons to all children in small groups in the classroom according to ability level. The other students will have the opportunity to carry on with self-chosen work when they are not in French lessons.

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, cooking, painting pots, packaging seeds, etc.

Library: Students continue to have library on a **Monday** afternoon. Books can also be returned at lunch times and before or after school.

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

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



*"The child is
both a hope
and a promise
for mankind."*

*Maria
Montessori*

<i>Term 4 Calendar</i>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Week 1 Oct 10 th – 16 th ERO Onsite	Term 4 starts		HPMA Trust meeting – 7:30 p.m.	Emergency Lockdown Drill		Sunday: HPS PTA Working Bee
Week 2 Oct 17 th – 23 rd	HPS BOT Meeting	Interschool Touch	Year 5 & 6 APPA Choir Rehearsal HPS PTA Meeting			
Week 3 Oct 24 th – 30 th	Labour Day No School		Year 5 & 6 Bike Training (select students only)	Middle & Senior Athletics Day	Ice Block Friday	
Week 4 Oct 31 st – Nov 6 th		Year 5 & 6 Yachting at BBYC			Ice Block Friday	
Week 5 Nov 7 th – 13 th		PTA Bake Sale	Year 5 & 6 Bike Training HPMA Trust meeting – 7:30 p.m.	Footsteps Dance Demo and Workshop	Ice Block Friday	
Week 6 Nov 14 th – 20 th	Kids for Kids Concert – Vodafone Events Centre HPS BOT Meeting	Parent Morning Interschool Athletics	Interschool Athletics HPS PTA Meeting		Ice Block Friday	
Week 7 Nov 21 st – Nov 27 th		APPA Choir Dress Rehearsal – Town Hall	Year 5 & 6 Bike Training Mufti – Wacky Wednesday APPA Choir Performance – Town Hall – 7 p.m.	Junior Athletics Day	Ice Block Friday	
Week 8 Nov 28 th – Dec 4 th		Year 5 & 6 end of year event			Ice Block Friday	
Week 9 Dec 5 th – 11 th		Montessori Planning Day PTA Bake Sale	HPMA Trust meeting – 7:30 p.m.		Ice Block Friday HPMA Family BBQ	
Week 10 Dec 12 th – Dec 18 th		School Prizegiving 9:30 <i>Montessori Graduates Lunch</i> Year 6 Graduation Party – 5 p.m.		Mufti: Celebrations	Last Day Term 4	