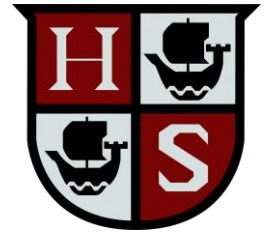




MONTENESSORI @ Howick Primary
individuals - learning - growing - together



Cosmic Focus

This term, we will continue to learn about different cycles in nature of both animate and inanimate things. Our aim is for the children to come gain an understanding of the unchanging, continual and predictable nature of cycles as well as how all living things rely on cycles for survival and the interconnectedness of different cycles (e.g. plant life cycles and the water cycle.)

"A room in which all the children move about usefully, intelligently, and voluntarily, without committing any rough or rude act, would seem to me a classroom very well disciplined indeed."

Maria Montessori

Welcome Back

Kia ora koutou katoa.

Somehow, we have found ourselves at the end of the school year – I'm not entirely sure how it happened so very quickly!

Dawn and I have spent a lot of time over the holidays reflecting on how far the class has come since the beginning of 2016. Not only are the children regularly engaged in purposeful work in class time, we are immensely pleased to see the children in our class taking advantage of many of the opportunities available to them at HPS.

In 2017 in addition to representing the school at various sporting events at Interschool meets, we have seen children from Rooms 7 & 8 participating in Kapa Haka; Mathex and the ePro8 Challenge. We have also had Room 7 students as school leaders in Travel Wise Leaders, Road Patrollers, Librarians, Assembly Technicians and a Student Leader.

As always, we would like to thank you for all your hard work and support over the year. Parents have helped with school events; supervision on school trips; helped mend and clean materials; have offered skills, time, resources and talents to continually enrich our learning programme.

We hope you enjoy the last term of 2017!

Save the Date

Labour Day	Parent Open Morning	Montessori Working Bee	Montessori Open Day	End of Year BBQ
Monday 23rd October	Tuesday 7th November	Thursday 16th November 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Saturday 18th November 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Thursday 30th November 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
School closed today.	Parents are invited to spend the morning in the classroom, working alongside their child.	Please join us to help spruce up our classroom environment and materials, prior to the open day.	A morning to help let the community learn about Montessori @Howick Primary.	Our end of year BBQ to farewell our Year 6 students and celebrate our successes!

Montessori Philosophy Corner

What Does It Mean To Follow The Child – Dawn Young

The mantra “follow the child” is used by many Montessori educators. However, it can be confusing to understand what following the child means when there are different schools of thought. Some people think Montessori is about letting children do exactly what they want whereas others think that if a child has an interest, in say Minecraft, Star Wars or Pokemon, that teachers should find a way to turn that into a learning experience. So, what does following the child really mean?

As a scientist, Montessori spent a considerable amount of time observing children and it was from those observations that she developed her philosophy and programme. What she discovered was that children the world over develop according to certain patterns. Young children have periods in their lives when they are sensitive to certain things such as movement, language, order and so on. Primary school aged children have tendencies towards being more social; having a developing imagination; a fascination with big ideas, and a keen sense of justice. Thus to follow the child means to be aware of these tendencies and to respond to meeting the needs of each plane of development.

This can be achieved by setting up the environment to meet the needs of the child, offering the child opportunities to take advantage of these universal tendencies and providing boundaries to safeguard the development of the whole child. In the primary school classroom this means that the Montessori curriculum engages the interest and imagination of children in the 6-12 age group. It is no coincidence that the things your child may be interested in, such as volcanoes, dinosaurs, the universe or ancient civilizations, are part of the Montessori curriculum! Additionally, the environment is established to encourage more social interaction and group work to appeal to this age group. However, in order to aid the development of the whole child there may need to be boundaries set around the use of computers, excessive socialising or the way class time is spent. If a child has a particular interest, teachers observe and reflect on whether that interest can be encouraged in class or whether the interest is indicating some other need that can be filled in a way that aids the development of the whole child.

To sum up there are basically two ways Montessori educators follow the child. Firstly, by following the universal child. This means understanding what children in general need at each stage of development and striving to meet those needs using the Montessori environment, curriculum, philosophy etc. Secondly, by following the individual child, which includes using observation and conversations, to determine what a particular child may need to aid his/her development. It could mean using the child's interests as a catalyst for learning or redirecting interests for optimal development of the child's personality. Knowing the child is the first step to following the child.

“The child's development follows a path of successive stages of independence, and our knowledge of this must guide us in our behaviour towards him.”

Maria Montessori

Pen Ceremonies



All our Year 4 students have now had their Pen Ceremonies this year! Congratulations to Isabelle, Carmen and Chloe who all had theirs last term, and to Zander who had his on the second day back of this term.



"Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create."

Maria Montessori

New Student



We would like to welcome the Chand whanau to the unit. Shaniya has joined us in Room 8 and we are looking forward to getting to know her parents, Susan & Neil and younger brother Shayaan. Shaniya comes to us from Li'l Champs Preschool in Mission Heights.

Kia ora te whanau!

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.

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.

Physical Education: Year 3-6 students will be practising for Athletics for the first few weeks of term. Please ensure that they have their P.E. gear and proper athletic shoes as often as possible. After that, we will continue with class games that focus on co-operative play and tactics.

Researching and building atoms



Exploring with the Cubing Materials



Reminders

Communication with teachers: *If you need to speak to the teachers regarding your child or their learning, please arrange an appointment before or after school or email us. Please do not use personal mobile numbers. If it is regarding lateness or an absence, please get in touch with the school office. Thanks in advance for your understanding.*

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. If the cloak bay is not unlocked when they arrive, they are to put their bags on the benches outside the classroom, on the court side so they can go and play.**

Food & Drink: The school has a healthy eating policy, so lollies are not to be consumed during the school day. **Please do not send lollies or cakes as a treat to distribute to the class.** 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.

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.

Hats & 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 wish to supply a bottle of sunblock for your child to reapply before going out for lunch or P.E.

Parents

Our open morning will be held on Tuesday 7th November from 9:30 a.m. 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 an extended family member.

This open morning will provide you with an opportunity to see your child at work in their Montessori environment 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 Thursday 30th November from 5 p.m. onwards. We look forward to seeing old friends and greeting the new members of the community.

<i>Term 4 Calendar</i>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Week 1 Oct 15 th – 20 th	First Day of Term 4	Soccer Clinic Taster	ePro8 Technology Challenge	HPS PTA Meeting	PTA Iceblocks	
Week 2 Oct 21 st – 28 th	Labour Day – School Closed		APPA Choir Rehearsal Touch Fun Day		PTA Iceblocks	
Week 3 Oct 29 th – Nov 4 th			Senior School Athletics		PTA Iceblocks	
Week 4 Nov 5 th – 11 th		Parents' Open Morning	Travelwise Celebration Day	Buckland's Beach Yacht Club Sailing (Seniors)	Buckland's Beach Yacht Club Sailing (Seniors) PTA Iceblocks	
Week 5 Nov 12 th – Nov 18 th		Kids for Kids Choir	Interschool Athletics	PTA Bake Sale Montessori Working Bee	PTA Iceblocks	Montessori Open Day (Nov 18 th)
Week 6 Nov 19 th – 25 th		Junior Athletics Day	Student Leader Wellington Trip		PTA Iceblocks	
Week 7 Nov 26 th – Dec 2 nd	Year 5 & 6 Rainbow's End Trip	APPA Choir Rehearsal at Town Hall	Tez away today APPA Festival	2018 Road Patrol Training End of Year BBQ	PTA Iceblocks	
Week 8 Dec 3 rd – 9 th		Y6 Graduates' Lunch	Montessori Planning Day	PTA Family Fun Night	PTA Iceblocks	Howick Santa Parade (Dec 3 rd)
Week 9 Dec 10 th – 16 th		HPS Prizegiving Y6 Graduation		Tez & Dawn away today	Last Day of Term 4 Reports Home Mufti Day	

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 next year.

Email addresses:

t.couper@howickprimary.school.nz (Tesneem Couper)

d.young@howickprimary.school.nz (Dawn Young)

c.jacobs@howickprimary.school.nz (Charlene Jacobs)
