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Newsletter of Tawa Montessori Preschool - term 1, 2019

Kia ora, zdravo, talofa, ni hao, mālō e lelei, hallo, hola, chomreabsuor, sabaidi, bonjour, namaste, kumaste, kia orana, yassas, as-salam 'alaykum, cześć, Kon'nichiwa, and hello to all of our families



News from the Classroom

Welcome back for 2019.

We hope you all had a great holiday break and are looking forward to an exciting year.

Already this term summer has been in full swing with the sun shining bright and temperatures high. To keep the children safe outside can you please remember to apply sunscreen prior to preschool to all skin areas that may be exposed to the sun; all full day children will have additional sunscreen applied by the teachers after lunch too.

The other important elements of sun safety are a good wide brimmed hat

and suitable clothing to keep out the sun and remain as cool as possible. Please take time to check hats and gumboots still fit - if you have been buying bigger size shoes at home you will likely need to buy bigger gumboots now too.

Upcoming Activities

This term sees a number of class and parent activities including Fairtrade Friday, an offsite excursion (likely to be Big Air Gym) and a Parent Evening presented by Julia.

Upcoming Dates

February 6 Closed for Waitangi Day

February 22 Fair-trade Friday Afternoon Tea from 3.40pm-4.30pm

March TBC Parent Evening seminar - topic TBC

March TBC Offsite excursion - venue TBC

April 5 Fair-trade Friday Afternoon Tea from 3.40pm-4.30pm

April 12 End of Term 1

Apr 15-26 Fees charged only on days attended (pro rata)

April 29 Start of Term 2

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Julia likes to co-ordinate two meetings per year with parents to discuss how your child is going and to review and plan student learning plans. Sometimes this is difficult as many parents do not do a drop off and/or pick up. If you have not had a meeting for a while please don't hesitate to contact Julia to secure a time. The meetings are conducted on

Tuesday afternoons at 3.45pm or 4pm.

Teachers news

In term 3 we spent time reviewing our delivery of the Montessori curriculum for the entire facility. We were very happy with the review which has enabled us to draw on the positives and work on a few other areas. We decided to have Helen spend more time outdoors to plan, create and implement a refreshed outdoor programme and this began in mid term 4. Results have been fantastic with the teaching team all enjoying the programme and the students happily engaged in their activities.

This term we are finalising our major review on our Cultural practices. The data we collected showed we are willing, able and trying to embrace our families cultures and that because we have a diverse classroom we have a great opportunity to better embrace cultural basics such as language, mythology, activities and events. Later this term we will be approaching our families to help with understanding their heritage and culture so we can introduce it into our day to day programmes.

Leanne starts her Aperfield Montessori diploma this term. Obtaining a Montessori diploma in New Zealand has been very difficult until recently and when the opportunity came for Leanne to study under the new and improved system she jumped at the chance. She is now able to balance work, family and study to enable completion of the diploma by the end of this year.

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Family Night



We had a lovely evening in December enjoying a shared meal and celebrating the end of our 2018 year. It was great to have such a large turnout and to see so many of the parents that can't make it in during the week. The food was spectacular, the company even better and the entertainment by the children was marvellous. Special thanks to the teachers and Tracey from Tracey Odell Dance for the time spent on the songs and dances that the students performed. We have a beautiful class of children who have really taken to the arts components in the programme and we will continue to deliver a strong arts programme throughout 2019.

New students and graduates

Christoff and Aditi

We have had the pleasure and privilege of being a part your journey the past two years and we hope school is going well and look forward to hearing about your new adventures when we next meet.

Sophia - Claudia and Andrew

Samrat - Sharada and Sam

Sophie - Jolyn and Jun

Mika - Elena and Alex

Elaine - Lily and Zichuan

A warm welcome to you all. The two or three years will go by so fast so please enjoy your time with us as you absorb all the wonderful information and skills available to you at the preschool

A message from Julia

Welcome back to the start of 2019 at Tawa Montessori Preschool. It's been lovely to see the children arriving back happy and confident to start the year ahead.

We will be welcoming a number of new children to our community this term, so over the coming weeks, we will be focusing on Grace and Courtesy and settling into our routines.

We have already welcomed two new friends on visits last week, and as they spent a couple of hours with us familiarising themselves with our preschool, I was reminded of the concept of **'tuakana-teina'** - the relationship between an older person and a younger one. As the new children arrived, a number of children who have been with us for eighteen months or more, without prompting, volunteered and took on the role of tuakana, and became great role models to our visitors.

"Can I show them this", "I'll show her how to role a mat", "This is where your tray goes"

What a lovely welcome for these children, to have an older child

pass on their knowledge and skills so happily.

The Montessori environment is set up perfectly for this relationship. The mixed age group allows for this to happen. As well as older children (tuakana) mentoring in this role, we also see younger children (teina) passing on skills to their older peers.

This relationship between tuakana-teina allows for social and academic skills and knowledge to be passed on without the involvement of the teacher in the environment. It gives all children the chance to learn new things and meet new people. We know that all our new friends this term will quickly settle and grow in confidence and independence thanks to the special tuakana-teina relationship that exists in our preschool environment.

"The main thing is that the groups should contain different ages, because it has great influence on the cultural development of the child. This is obtained by the relations of the children among themselves. You cannot imagine how well a young child learns from an older child; how patiently the older child is with the difficulties of the younger."

- Maria Montessori *"The child, Society and the World"*

