

Nova Montessori School Newsletter
Kauri (6 to 9) & Pohutukawa (9 to 13)
Primary Learning Communities
Term 3, 2011

Welcome back to the children and families of Nova Montessori School. We hope that you had a very happy winter holiday (in the snow), and we are excited and are looking forward to the new school term ahead.

NEW STUDENTS

At the beginning of the term, **Kauri Room** welcomes from Nova Children's House Tshei Tsering (6) and Tenzi Tsering (6), and a very big welcome back from the USA, Jordan Moliken (7) and Dylan Moliken (8).

Pohutukawa Room welcomes from Kauri Room, Liam Nugent (9).

COSMIC EDUCATION

To do well, it is necessary to aim at giving the primary age child an idea of all fields of study, not in precise detail, but an impression. The idea is to sow the seeds of knowledge at this age, when a sort of sensitive period for the imagination exists.

Maria Montessori

Throughout this term **Kauri Room** children will be learning about The Secret Life of Plants, Photosynthesis and Humans and Plants.

The children in **Pohutukawa Room** will explore the Fundamental Needs of Humans connected to the study of Ancient Civilizations, such as The Sumerians, Egypt, Persia, Greece and the Roman Empire.

Three-Hour Work Cycle (Monday to Friday)

In the 6 to 13 classrooms, the children's Three Hour Work Cycle begins at 8:30 AM, when school starts for the day.

Please see a wonderful link to the Montessori Association of New Zealand website for:

What are the essential elements of the Montessori 6-12 learning environment?

<http://www.montessori.org.nz/montessori-learning-environment-6-12>

Also enjoy this 5 minute You Tube video of a Montessori parent's perspective of the core contrast between Montessori and conventional schools.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcgN0IEh5IA>

As well as a continuation of the **work cycle**, the afternoon programmes in both classes offer an opportunity to focus on:

Monday:

Kauri

- Spelling and Whole Language focus

Pohutukawa

- Spelling
- Literature – the children will each choose a book to read independently and report on written and orally
- Chapter book read (Northern Lights)

Tuesday:

Kauri

- Reading Groups and a monthly visit to New Brighton Library to gather books for the classroom
- Permaculture gardening will be offered every second Tuesday throughout the year, alongside a continuation of the work cycle.

Pohutukawa

- Technicraft (which used to be known as Manual Training) will be held at Christchurch East School every Tuesday afternoon for Y7 and Y8 students. The learning focus will be metalwork and food technology.
- Permaculture gardening, with teacher Lily White, will continue every second Tuesday, with literature studies on the alternate weeks for all the rest of the children.
- Weekly current events quiz

Wednesday:

Kauri

- Kiwisports – This term there will be a focus on **Skipping**, games and skills, which will end in a Skipping Challenge.

Pohutukawa

- Choir (Lisa Tui)– The Christchurch Schools’ Music Festival preparations are going ahead this term with the choir practice Wednesday afternoons and a massed rehearsal at Queenspark School on Thursday, 15th September with other school choirs. The **performance** will be on **Thursday, 27th October** at the **CBS Arena**. Tickets will be on sale this term from Nova.

Shalini, Lucy and Olivia auditioned for “Special Groups” performing at the Music Festival. Shalini was chosen for the Senior Choir, Lucy for the Junior Choir and Olivia for the Orchestra. We congratulate these students and wish them a wonderful experience in this event.

- Yoga lessons are offered by Yogi Alexander (mother of Nakai, Koa and Kikko) to interested children every Wednesday afternoon after choir finishes at 2:PM.

Thursday:

Kauri

- Performing Arts in preparation for our performance in Term 4

Pohutukawa

- A rotation of research and also sports games

The children will go **ice-skating** at Alpine Ice on Thursday, 25th August. If you are available to pick up a group of children at 2:30pm or if you want to pick up your child directly from the rink, please let one of the teachers know.

Friday:

Kauri

- Gymnastics (1 to 2pm) – Please ensure children have their sports uniform every Friday
- Buddy Reading Programme and a story

Pohutukawa

- Physical Education in Pohutukawa Room this term will include the children participating in a **climbing** programme at the Roxx in Byron Street Friday afternoons.

All primary children will receive swimming lessons during **Swim Week** from 5th – 9th September.

Camp – During Term 3, the 9 to 13 year old students will prepare for their annual camp held in South Canterbury at a beautiful spot called Raincliff. The camp will be in Term 4 (**14th–18th November**). The children will form four cooking groups, and each group will choose and prepare a camp dish. To support the cooking programme, your child will be asked to bring some of the ingredients on their group's cooking day. We will also have camp meetings and create activities and timetables together.

The parent helpers this year will be **Grant Rosoman, Roydon Gibbs, Daniel Strong** and **Penny Arthur**. Leah and Cornelia will both be attending the camp this year.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

This colourful and happy annual event will be held on Thursday the 6th of October.
(Notice to follow)

REPORTING

Our formal reporting for this term will be **Parent/Teacher Conferences** and a **written report**. The sign up sheets for these conferences are on the noticeboard beside the library. We welcome and encourage all families to participate in these conferences.

ZONING

As many parents will be aware, Nova is in the Orange Zone, which means geotechnical engineers are still assessing the land in our area. Their report will determine whether Nova is, either in the Green or the Red Zone.

The Nova Trust is very sensitive and fully aware of what the alternatives may mean for our school and families, and will be meeting over the next week to look at the questions, which surround possible designations. To the Trust's knowledge there is a 15 August deadline CERA has for evaluating everything Orange, and until Tonkin Taylor and the Crown decide what Orange means for the school we wait, along with thousands of others.

Once the report is out the Trust will arrange for an open meeting for our parent community to further explore the possibilities of what we, as a school can do in the event of being designated Red. If the school were to be determined Red, it would seem most likely that some time would be available to plan and organise a shift.

The Trust will keep parents informed during this process and provide updates as new information emerges.

The Nova Trust would like to thank you for your patience during this time as we move closer to what will determine Nova's future in this location.

Nova Montessori Primary School Dates for 2011

Term Dates 2011

Term 3	Monday, 1st August – Friday, 7th October	(10 weeks)
Term 4	Tuesday, 25th October – Friday, 16th December	(8 weeks)

Public Statutory Holidays

Term 4	Labour Day – Monday, 24th October Canterbury Show Day – Friday, 11th November
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School Holidays/Teacher Only Days for NOVA PRIMARY SCHOOL

The primary classrooms will be closed on the following days:

Term 3	Friday, 26 th August Friday, 23 rd September Monday, 26 th September
Term 4	Thursday, 10 th November

Last day of Term 4 – Friday, 16th December

First day of Term 1, 2012 – Tuesday, 7th February

Swimming Week

Term 3	Monday, 5th September – Friday, 9th September
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All swim lessons will be held at Jellie Park (1:00 to 1:30 PM)

Friday Gymnastics

Term 3 August 5, 12, 19, September 2, 9, 16, 30 (1: to 2:PM)

Up-Coming Events:

Term 4: Monday, 14th – Friday, 18th November, **Camp** (9 to 13)
Friday 9th December, **Sleepover** (6 to 9)

We are looking forward to another wonderful term at Nova Montessori School.

Pauline, Nicky, Cornelia, Leah, Julie and Lily