

NOVA MONTESSORI SCHOOL
PRIMARY NEWSLETTER TERM 2, 2013
Kauri (6-9) and Pohutukawa (9-13) Learning Communities

Welcome to our Term 2 newsletter for the Nova primary learning communities.

We have included two newsletters here; the first is for Kauri and the second is for Pohutukawa.

Newsletter Kauri Learning Community (6-9)

Welcome

A very warm welcome is extended to all our Nova children and families for Term 2, 2013.

We say a special welcome to those children and families who have recently joined Kauri, and to those who will be joining us for the first time within the next few weeks.

At the end of Term 1 we welcomed **Jackson Clulow (6)** who made the journey from the Children's House to primary (Niki's brother) and his parents Simone and Bruce.

We welcome **Israel Mullen (6)** from the Children's House (Reilly's brother) and his parents Rachael and John.

In two weeks time we will welcome **Lily McLeod (6)** and her parents Louise and David to our Learning Community. Lily arrives from the Children's House.

Farewell

Nova is still feeling the ripple effects of 2010 and 2011 quakes and because of them we said goodbye to Indya-Rose and her parents, Sonya and Paul. They have moved to Tauranga to begin a new adventure. We wish them all the very best.

Niki Clulow and **Pooja Panchel** take their leave from the Kauri Room (6 to 9) as they move 15 steps into the 9 to 13 Learning Community. Niki and Pooja have been with us for four wonderful years and we wish them all the very best as they continue their Montessori Journey for the next three to four years in Pohutukawa (9 to 13).

Nova Teachers/Guides/Directresses

During the school holidays all the Nova teachers flew to Wellington to take part in the 3 day annual National Montessori Conference organised by Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand. www.montessori.org.nz.

It was a wonderful time to connect to our fellow Montessori teachers and to take part in some amazing workshops with speakers from around the world. We

examined different aspects of what learning in community means in the context of centres and schools who espouse Montessori's approach to life and learning.

With the excitement and the nourishing from the conference the teachers arrived back at school ready to begin the term with a renewed enthusiasm and commitment to the children and families they serve.

Important Note

For the last two weeks of Term 2 and for the first 3 weeks of term 3, Letitia will be out of the class on study leave in Canada. Letitia has managed to secure two seven-week trainings (over two years) with the prestigious training provider, Toronto Montessori Institute. During this time Julie will be working four days a week in the class with the children and Pauline or Leah on one day of the week.

Kauri 6 to 9 Learning Community Morning Programme

- Three Hour Work Cycle (all school days)

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

As well as a **continuation** of the **work cycle** in some of the afternoon programmes each class offers an opportunity to focus on:

Kauri (6-9) Afternoon Programme

Monday:

- **Spelling** and Whole Language Focus
- **Reading Groups**

Could the children please bring their reading folders and spelling books each Monday, where they will receive new reading books and spelling words for the week.

Tuesday:

- Fortnightly **Art Focus** (relating to "Story.")
- A monthly visit to **New Brighton Library** to gather books for the classroom and the children's personal research projects.

Wednesday:

- **Permaculture Gardening** with Lily White will be offered every second Wednesday. And Creative Writing

Wheelie Wednesday lunchtime is a great opportunity for the children to bring along their scooters, skateboards, roller blades etc. Unfortunately due to safety reasons bikes are not permitted.

Thursday:

- **Quiet Reading / Creative Writing**
- **Singing with Rachael**, (Reilly and Israel's mum) will be guiding and sharing her musical talents with the children through song. ☺

Friday:

- **Kiwisport** (weather permitting). Julie will support the children in a varied **winter sport** programme of small ball skill games, netball and hockey and a selection of Kiwidex Games. Please ensure your child has suitable shoes and clothing for this day.
- **Gymnastics** will continue in Term 3, and in Term 4 a variety of **summer sports** will be offered and a **Jump Rope for Heart Skipping** Programme.

The children's **swimming lessons and a zumba dance programme** continues at Jellie Park for all primary classes on the week of Tuesday, June 4th.

Cosmic Education in Kauri Room (6 to 9)

Throughout last term **the** children were offered story and presentations on:

- **A Story of the Formation of the Universe and Earth**
- **A Story of the Coming of Life**
- **The Animal Kingdom**
- **A Story of the Coming of Language**

This term the children will be learning about:

The Story of Numbers, also called the **History of Mathematics and Geometry**
This lesson begins with the earliest civilizations, which often only had "one", "two", and "more than two" as their numeric system. It continues with a look at different numbering systems throughout the centuries, culminating in the decimal system that we use today.

"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

Reporting for the Year of 2013 (Kauri)

- **Term 2 Parent-Teacher Conferences:**

These will be scheduled throughout the term. A sign up sheet is situated beside the library if you would like a conference with Letitia.

- **Term 3 Discovery Journey:**

The children will invite their parents into the classroom for a journey through their learning. Also a written report will be offered this term.

- **Term 4 Learning Stories:**

The children will be creating their Learning Stories for the year

Newsletter Pohutukawa Learning Community (9 -13)

Welcome

We welcome **Pooja Panchel (9)** and **Niki Clulow** (almost 9), from Kauri Room into Pohutukawa Room this term. Also we welcome back to Nova (in a few weeks time) **Brooke Coburn** (11) and her parents Shona and Rick. Brooke had to leave Nova after the earthquakes as their family home was too damaged to live in. The Coburn family now find themselves back on this side of the town and Brooke is very keen to be coming back to Nova to complete her year 7 and 8.

Morning Programme

- Three Hour Work Cycle (all school days)

Pohutukawa (9-13) Afternoon Programme

Monday:

- **Writer's Workshop** and **Exploring Novels**
- **Choir** with David **O'Beirne**

The children will once again be participating in the **Christchurch School's Choir Festival** (in October) as they learn new songs and rehearse with David each Monday afternoon.

Tuesday:

- **Technicraft** will be held at Christchurch East School every Tuesday afternoon for Y7 and Y8 students. The learning focus for Year 7 will be food technology, electronics and creative design/multi material. Year 8 will focus on biotechnology, creative design/multi material and structural/control.
Critical Thinking Skills will be offered to the children who will not be attending Technicraft.

Wednesday:

- **Permaculture Gardening**, with teacher Lily White, will continue every second Wednesday
- **Language Focus** on journaling and reading comprehension each alternate weeks
- Monthly **library** excursions and or Education Outside the Classroom

Thursday:

- **Art Focus**

Friday:

- **Rock Climbing** at the Roxx

Cycle Safe:

- We would like to offer the Cycle Safe programme on the 29th and the 30th of May (two weeks) through the Christchurch City Council Cycle Safe Programme. It will involve an introduction to the programme, biking skills, road rules and biking on the asphalt and on the road. (Separate notice)

Cosmic Education in Pohutukawa Room:

Cosmic Education provides the **context** for the children's learning while enabling them to have the opportunity for deep inquiry about everything there is in the universe with all the interconnection and relationships.

The Sumerians developed mathematics as a formal area of teaching and learning about 5,000 years ago. They did this at the same time as they developed reading and writing. However, the roots of math go back more than 5,000 years and **this term we will be exploring the history of math.**

"All things are a part of the universe, and are connected with each other to form one whole unity." **Maria Montessori**

Going Out:

Dr Montessori saw a need for the primary aged child to "go out" into the community as part of their learning. Children of this age might think, "I want to understand what I cannot see, and be part of the world I have not experienced."

This term our "**Going-Out**" excursions will be initiated, planned, organized and carried out by the students as planned and at times spontaneous extensions of projects or studies that they are individually pursuing in the class. The children will be supported and guided through this process by Paula. We look forward to having a scheduled event soon.

The students will be experiencing **Nature-Based Learning** in the outdoor environment. We will be using our own school gardens, the estuary, forests and beach to understand and connect to the many facets of living and non-living things. The aim is to see the connection to the natural world and develop a personal and social responsibility to it.

Camp:

- The annual (9 to 13) **camp** will be in Term 4 from Monday, 18th until Friday 22nd November at Raincliff Scout Lodge South Canterbury.

Reporting for the Year of 2013 (Pohutukawa)

- **Term 2 Discovery Journey:**

The children will invite their parents into the classroom for a journey through their learning. The date for this is **Thursday the 4th of July**. (Notice to follow)

- **Term 3 Parent-Teacher Conferences:**

These will be scheduled throughout the term and will be accompanied with a Written Report.

- **Term 4 Learning Stories:**

The children will be creating their Learning Stories for the year in the last three weeks of term.

Nova's Parent and Teacher Evening for Term 1 will be sent out soon.

Nova's **parent and teacher evenings** are an essential part of our "teaching and learning" and the Nova teacher / guides are fully aware that in educating today's children and ourselves as teachers and parents, we are creating the world of tomorrow in the field of "today."

The sharing for the evening is entitled:

The Three -Hour Work Cycle

What Dr Montessori knew through systematic observation and the genius of insight, and what we have practiced worldwide for a century, now finds verification by psychology and neuroscience. Year by year the repository of evidence accumulates, verifying the basis of the "Montessori Method" and detailing neurologically and psychologically why this approach to "learning" works so venerably for children. As well, the evidence confirms the essential value of the uninterrupted three-hour work cycle.

The date for this sharing is on **Monday the 17th of June from 7:pm to 9:pm**
(Notice to follow)

Thank you

Letitia, Paula, Julie and Pauline

Important Dates for Term 2, 2013

- **21st May Tuesday:** Fire Drill
- **22nd May Wednesday:** Earthquake Drill
- **29th Wednesday and 30th Thursday May:** Cycle Safe Pohutukawa only
- **31st May Friday:** Primary school closed / holiday
- **3rd June Monday:** Queens Birthday school closed
- **4th Tuesday to 7th Friday June:** Jellie Park Swim and Zumba
- **14th June Friday:** Children's House Parent / Teacher sharing (afternoon)
- **17th June Monday:** Parent / Teacher Sharing **Three Hour Work Cycle** (evening)

- **21st June Friday:** Shortest Day
Nova Earth Roll Celebration at New Brighton beach by the pier 7:00am
(sunrise 7:31am notice to follow)
- **28th June Friday:** Primary school closed / holiday
- **7th July Thursday:** Discovery Journey Pohutukawa 9 to 13
- **12th July Friday:** Last day of Term /Term 2 holidays July 15th to 26th
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