

NOVA MONTESSORI PRIMARY NEWSLETTER TERM 2, 2015

Kauri (6-9) and Pohutukawa (9-13) Learning Communities

A very warm welcome is extended to all our Nova Montessori School primary children and families for Term 2, 2015. We hope that you have all enjoyed a happy and relaxing school holiday, all be it a little on the cold side.

We say a special welcome to those children and families who have recently joined our Nova Montessori School Community.

We welcome our six new families into the Children's House and Primary School

Please take a moment to say hello to our new families and make them feel welcome. 😊

Kauri 6 to 9 Learning Community Morning Programme

Three-Hour Work Cycle

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

As well as a **continuation** of the **work cycle** on some afternoons, each class focus will be:

Kauri (6-9) Afternoon Programme

Monday:

- **Spelling** and Whole Language Focus and **Reading Groups**
- Could the children please bring their reading folders and spelling books each Monday, when they will be offered new reading books and spelling words for the week.
- **Shared Story Read Aloud**

Tuesday:

- **Art Focus**, The children will continue working with clay this term and they will also begin a focus on weaving.

Wednesday:

- **Buddy Reading**
- **Singing with Paula**

" In Kauri, we (6 to 9) will be learning new songs, singing some old favourites, using percussion and rhythm instruments and incorporating movement with most of our songs. "

- **Wheelie Wednesday lunchtime** is a great opportunity for the children to bring along their scooters, skateboards, roller blades and helmets.

Thursday:

- **Creative Writing** for **Author's Chair**, and **Research Focus**
- **Permaculture Gardening**

We have a new gardening teacher, Magenta, who will be working with the children in the gardens every Thursday afternoon. We say goodbye and thank you to Lily, who has been with Nova for many years. Lily is now working fulltime and is unable to continue with us.

Friday:

- **Gymnastics** has begun at the Christchurch School of Gymnastics (Term 2 and 3) as of Friday 24th April. And every other Friday afternoon, except swim week.
- Gymnastics is offered to all primary children and the Children's House 5 year old children.
- The bus will collect the children and teachers from Nova at 1:30 and the gym session will be from 1:45 to 2:45 returning to Nova by 3:pm
- Nova sports tops (variety of sizes) available from the school office at a cost of \$35.00. These tops are of an excellent quality, comfortable, smart and a great way to see our Nova children on the gym floor. When children have a sport top they put on the gym/sport persona.

Swim Programme:

The children's **swimming lessons and free-time swim** continues at **Jellie Park** for all primary classes on the week of:

- Monday the 11th to Friday the 15th May.
The children will travel by bus, leaving Nova at 12:10 with a lesson from 12:45 to 1:45 and a free swim time until 1:50. They will travel back to Nova by bus at 2:10PM.

Cosmic Education in Kauri Room (6 to 9)

This term we will be looking at:

Aotearoa/New Zealand - The Land and the People New Zealand and its Physical Geography

Early Maori and their Migration from Polynesia (Following on from our study of early humans in Term 1)

"Today those things that occupy us in the field of education; are the interests of humanity at large and of civilization. Before such great forces we can recognize only one country—the entire world." □ Maria Montessori

At six years old there is a great transformation in the child, like a new birth. The child wants to explore society and the world, to learn what is right and wrong, to think about meaningful roles in society. She wants to know how everything came to be, the history of the universe, the world, humans and why they behave the way they do. He asks the BIG questions and wants answers. These children explore manners (and bad manners!); they are interested in religion and what it means to people in different cultures. It is the time to use the mind to explore all areas of knowledge, to begin to conduct research, and to develop creative ways of processing, exploring, and expressing this knowledge.

Going Out:

- **Searching the Shoreline**, New Brighton Beach
Thursday 30th March: In the morning Kauri Class will be part of a CCC Education Outside the Classroom programme.
- **Land and Water Formations** (Physical Geography) The children and teachers will respond to the weather for this morning or afternoon outing. If it is a sunny warm day then we will go to the beach! Last term we set aside two dates for this and we had to postpone, so we felt it "best," that we respond to the day.
- **Canterbury Museum, Ancient People New Land:**
Tuesday 2nd June.
- **Sculpting with Clay:** Lesson at school with a focus on animals.
This is offered by the **Christchurch Art Gallery**, 30th March.
- **Science Alive:** Mind Ball Friday 8th May
- **Christchurch Symphony Orchestra Concert for Primary Students** June 3rd, leaving Nova at 9:10 to St Margarets, leaving at 11:am back to Nova.

Reporting for 2015 (Kauri)

- Term 2 Parent Teacher Conferences (from week 9)
- Term 3 Discovery Journey
- Term 4 Learning Stories and Written Reports

Newsletter Pohutukawa Learning Community (9 -13)

Morning Programme

- **Three Hour Work Cycle** (all school days) with a continuation of the work cycle on some afternoons.

Pohutukawa (9-13) Afternoon Programmes

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Afternoon Programmes

- **Language:** Read Aloud, story writing, monthly library excursions, & literature response
- **Cultural Studies:** Individual research that follows the child's own interests
- **Science and Technology:** Relating to context and on a small group or individual level
- **Visual Art:** Opportunities for individual exploration and lessons
- **Music Theory:** Tone Bars, Composing, writing & playing of music, singing and dance, which, is also incorporated into the children's work cycle.
- **Sports Focus:** A variety of winter sport offerings soccer netball etc and Gymnastics and Trampoline

Thursday: Permaculture Gardening, with Magenta, our new permaculture gardening teacher.

Botany: Individual exploration and lessons.

Friday: Technicraft (Friday afternoon for Y7 and Y8 students) will continue at Christchurch East School and **Gymnastics** and **Trampolining** for all other Pohutukawa children.

Cosmic Education in Pohutukawa Room

Continuation of Bridges:

In term one we learned all about beam, truss, suspension and cable-stayed bridges and the geometry that works best for each.

We learned about reasons bridges fail and viewed pictures and clips of bridge catastrophes.

We also viewed some amazing modern examples that use hybrids of many types of designs. The students had opportunities to experiment with making examples of all of these types of bridges. We used wooden blocks, Kinex, and cardboard to make different beam bridges and then made them stronger by adding box girders. We also made truss bridges out of newspaper and we were very surprised about how strong they were!

We also made suspension bridges using chairs from our classroom and tested their strength and wind resistance.

This term we will continue with our bridge studies by exploring moving bridges and continue to create our own using popsicle sticks. The bridge exploration will finish off with a tour of local bridges with an engineer!

Going Out

- **Science Alive:** Mind Ball Friday 8th
- **Christchurch Symphony Orchestra Concert for Primary Students**
Wednesday June 3rd, leaving Nova at 9:10AM by bus to St Margarets, leaving at 11:am & back to Nova.
- Continuing with our **Bridge Studies**, there will be a tour of our local bridges **with an engineer!**
- **Estuary Exploration** and continued studies of the wetlands and birdlife, with a little orienteering as well.

Reporting for the Year of 2015 (Pohutukawa)

- **Parent Conferences** Term 2 (week 9)
- **Discovery Journey** Term 3
- **Learning Stories** will be created during the last week of each term and will be offered as a complete story at the end of the school year, a long with a written report.

Teachers and Professional Learning Term 2, 2015

Paula and Letitia will be attending:

[Principles of the Prepared Environment: How the Prepared Environment Supports Cosmic Education, Wellington, June 2015](#)

This workshop will explore the details of the psychological and physical prepared environment for the elementary (6-12) child.

In addition to the theoretical aspects of Cosmic Education and the characteristics of the child, teachers will also address how to encourage and inspire meaningful work including how to generate interest, inspire follow up work, and increase the variety of work in the 6-12 classroom without using imposed assignments or teacher directed activities.□□

Teachers will be provided with practical advice on the organization and maintenance of their classroom as well as working with parents, administrators, and staff.

Teachers will come away refreshed and their spirits energized. They will have ideas for improving their work while remaining calm and focused on the essential priorities of a Montessori classroom. This workshop is suitable for primary teachers in Montessori 6-12 classes.

House Keeping Matters:

If you have changed your postal address, email, landline or mobile number, please let the office know.

Observations are welcomed in the primary classes and in the Children's House. If you would like to observe in your child's class on any morning, please contact the office.

Montessori Book Club Reading in the school office, every Friday morning, coffee, baguette and the opportunity to read and study Dr Montessori's own writings 9 to 10am. All parents welcome.

Ngā Mihi

Letitia, Julie, Nanette, Paula, & Pauline

"Education between the ages of six to twelve is not a direct continuation of that which has gone before, though it is built upon that basis. Psychologically there is a decided change in personality, and we recognize that nature has made this a period for the acquisition of culture, just as the former was for the absorption of the environment."

Dr Montessori

(To Educate the Human Potential, p. 3)

Dates to Remember:

- 27th April Monday – Anzac Day – school closed
- 29th April Wednesday – Fire drill
- Thursday 30th March – Searching the Shoreline Brighton Beach (weather dependent)
- 1st May Friday – PTA meeting (Nova Office) 2 to 3:PM
- Monday the 11th to Friday the 15th May: Swimming at Jellie Park

- 17th May Sunday – Nova Market Day
- 24th May Sunday – Rain off day for Market Day

- 29th June Friday- **Primary** School Holiday

- 1st June Monday – Queen’s Birthday – school closed

- 2nd June Tuesday-Canterbury Museum

- 13th June Saturday – Parent Teacher Information Morning (Children’s House)

- 16th June Tuesday – School Photos

- 3rd July – Last day of Primary School Term 2

- Monday 20th July - Term 3 commences