

NOVA MONTESSORI PRIMARY NEWSLETTER TERM 3, 2017 Kauri (6-9) and Pohutukawa (9-12) Learning Communities

Tena koutou and welcome.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our Nova Montessori School primary children and families. It is always lovely to hear the children's news of their holidays as they tumble through the gate and into the classroom ready to acquaint themselves with their friends, classroom routines and their learning.

Kauri 6 to 9 Learning Community Morning Programme Three-Hour Work Cycle

Three-Hour Work Cycle

In the 6 -9 classroom the children's Work Cycle begins at 8:30am, 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:

- Could the children please bring their **reading folders** in every **Monday**, when they will be offered new reading books and sight words for the week.
- Continuation of the Work Cycle

In our preparations for this term we have been looking at **spelling** and how the children are supported at school and at home.

We have decided to try a new system in which the children will no longer be bringing their spelling books home. **They will keep their spelling books at school.**

However, your child(ren) will continue to bring reading books and sight words home in their reading folders every week.

If you would like to continue your "at home" spelling support and keep up your current routines then please let me know and we can look at how to manage this process, otherwise you might like to continue your own way of supporting spelling at home.

Also, while we are talking about reading folders we would like to put out a little request. If you have any of the school reading books at home, hiding on bookshelves, school bags, reading folders, cupboards etc, then we would love to have them back as they often belong to sets which we use in the classroom as part of our reading curriculum. Thank you 😊

Tuesday Morning:

- **Cosmic Context through Story**



- **Whole Language Focus and Guided Reading Groups**
- Continuation of the Work Cycle

Wednesday:

- **Cooking Groups**

Each Wednesday (morning) a cooking group will be preparing a small snack to offer and share with their community.

- **The Arts Focus: Music and Movement (afternoon)**

*This term we are offering an exploration of singing, movement, dance, rhythm and sound with experienced musician **Wendy Mercer** (1:30-2:30)*

Thursday:

- **Permaculture Gardening** with Magenta (alternate Thursdays)
- **Creative Writing for Author's Chair**
- **Writer's Workshop** with a focus this term on editing, publishing and poetry.

Friday:

- **Gymnastics**

Can all children please bring suitable clothing and footwear for gymnastics every Friday, such as, shorts/leggings/t-shirt **without exposed** zips, buttons and buckles and sneakers/trainers. Sports tops are available for sale from the office at \$30.00 or \$15.00 pre-loved.

Term 3 Cosmic Education - Context and Overview 2017

This term we are continuing our exploration and discovery of the physical Earth. Continuing to build on the understanding of natural phenomena on Earth and how it works.



We will be looking at three very important spheres. The Hydrosphere, Lithosphere and Atmosphere, and how the interaction between these spheres creates the wondrous occurrences we put under the heading of 'weather'.

Going Out and Comings In:

- **Gymnastics @ Christchurch School of Gymnastics**
Every Friday 1:30-3pm
- **'Stan's got a plan' – Tuesday 12th September @ Nova**
- Civil defence programme learning about storms and what to do in an emergency
- **International Day – Date to be confirmed @ Nova**
(Details to be confirmed and Notice to follow)
- **Christchurch City Museum and Art Gallery Outing – Tuesday 26th September @ Christchurch City**
(Details to be confirmed and Notice to follow)

Reporting for 2017 (Kauri 6-9)

- Term 4 – 'Journey of Learning' a new format for our end of year reporting.

Morning Programme

The Three-Hour Work Cycle, (all school days), with a continuation of the work cycle on some afternoons. This enables our children the opportunity to nurture the ability to work and deepen in their learning for uninterrupted long periods of time.

Most days include a time for **Community Gathering**.

Pohutukawa (9-12) Afternoon Programme:

Monday:

- Shared Story
- Spelling and Reading Programme
- **Technicraft** will continue at **Christchurch East School** every Monday afternoon for Y7 and Y8 students.

Tuesday:

- **Choir** practice for our Christchurch School's Choir Festival Performance

We are waiting to have a confirmed date for the performance, which will be mid October (*Date and ticket sales to be confirmed in a notice soon*)

Wednesday:

- The children will be offered **tennis lessons** from Reuben (from Canterbury Tennis). We are hoping that this will be every Wednesday afternoon throughout the term. Reuben will bring all the gear that is required.

Thursday:

- **Permaculture Gardening** with Magenta (alternate Thursdays)
- Literature Circle

Friday:

- **Gymnastics**
Can all children please bring suitable clothing and footwear for gymnastics every Friday, such as, shorts/leggings/t-shirt **without exposed** zips, buttons and buckles and sneakers/trainers. Sports tops are available for sale from the office at \$30.00 per top.
- **The children will also need a top for their choir rehearsals and performance, so it might be a great time to purchase one.**

We will be looking at:

Out of the Ice Age and Early Civilisations

- *End of the last “Ice Age.”*
- *Early Farmers and Farming*
- *First Civilisations and the Fertile Crescent. The Fertile Crescent (also known as the cradle of civilization) is a crescent-shaped region containing the comparatively moist and fertile land of otherwise arid and semi-arid Western Asia, the Nile Valley and Nile Delta.*
- *Early Language and its Emergence and Development*
- *Early Technology*



Maria Montessori observed primary aged (6 to 9 to 12) students, in the most critical period of their development, begin to wonder about the history of the earth and the role of humans in this history. Montessori believed that exploring questions of history would build a strong foundation for these students' intellectual, spiritual and psychological development.

One of the vehicles for imparting Cosmic Education as a context for the children's learning, is through “Story,”

People of all ages love stories, and that stories can inspire, entertain and teach. The stories introduce the students to the universe by stirring their imaginations and initiating their exploration of important questions. These impressionistic stories stimulate Montessori students' desire to discover and learn by giving them an overview of the natural world and its laws, of human ingenuity, and of the interconnectedness of life.

As with any good story, the stories are meant to be exciting, dramatic and somewhat mysterious. Montessori primary students are at the stage when they are already drawn to learn about the world. The Stories spark their imaginations, leading Montessori students to embrace other subjects in the Montessori curriculum where they may find answers to their questions about the world and the place of humans in it.

Some of the purposes of Story:

- *inspire, and teach*
- *enthrall the students and capture their imaginations*
- *initiate students' exploration of important questions*
- *stimulate students' desire to discover and learn*
- *give students an awareness and a context of the natural world and its laws*
- *inspire students to explore history, geography, mathematics, the sciences and language arts*
- *lead students to contemplate the future and instill in students a reverence and gratitude for the people and accomplishments that have gone before.*

Going Out and Comings In:

- **Gymnastics @ Christchurch School of Gymnastics**
Every Friday 1:30-3pm
- There is **no swimming** this term
- **Going to the library** for each child's own research and class reading books
- **Tibetan Sand Mandela** at Halswell Library, date and details to be confirmed in a separate notice
- Children's own organising and going out for their individual research
- **International Day – Date to be confirmed @ Nova**
(Details to be confirmed and Notice to follow)
- **Preparation and planning for Pohutukawa Raincliff Camp 2017**
Date of camp November Monday the 20th to Friday the 24th of October

House Keeping Matters:

*Reporting for 2016 (Kauri 6-9)

Term 4 – ‘Journey of Learning’ a new format for our end of year reporting.

*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.

*We are short of long trousers for our primary children....comfortable and warm for 6 to 9 year olds please. If you have any could you please drop them into the office. Thank you

*On **Saturday the 23rd of September** the NZ Government is holding the General Elections and have asked Nova if we would be happy to be a place where people can do their voting, and we have agreed to this. So if you live close by and are placing a vote come to the “Nova” polling booth to cast it.

Important Dates to Remember for Term 1:

- **Gymnastics @ Christchurch School of Gymnastics**
every Friday 1:30-3pm
- Tuesday 8th August, Thursday – Fire Drill
- Wednesday 9th August – Earthquake Drill
- 4th August – Friday Nova PTA Meeting (school office 2 to 3:pm)
- **11th and Monday the 14th August – Nova Primary School Holidays**
- Tuesday 12th September Stan’s Got a Plan (Kauri)
- **Friday the 15th September – Nova Primary School Holiday**
- Tuesday 26th September Museum and Art Gallery (Kauri)
- Date to be confirmed Tibetan Sand Mandela
- Date to be confirmed International Day
- **29th September, Friday:** Last day of Term 3.
- 16th October Monday – Term 4 commences

Thank you

Ngā Mihi

Nicky, Leah, Letitia, Nanette, Jackie, Magenta and Pauline

