



Eastern Suburbs Montessori Primary School Charitable Trust,
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Term 1

3 February – 15 April 2016

Primary News

Welcome!



Welcome to our new students and their families to our school:

Alyan ,
Aliyah, Liam , Oliver, Dylan ,
Sophie , Gemma and Liam.

DATES TO REMEMBER

ESMPS Trust Meeting
18 February 7.30pm

Working Bee
Sunday 21 Feb, 2-4pm

We will have access to the swimming pool if people want to bring children. A volunteer supervisor would be appreciated for the pool. Another reminder notice about this will be sent out closer to the time

Montessori Karaka Bay Trip
22nd February

The Montessori classes will be walking there and back to Karaka Bay. New students and their families are welcomed with a Powhiri to our community down at Karaka Bay.

Montessori PTA Meeting
25th February

We would like to extend a big welcome to our new families and look forward to seeing you all at the first meeting of the year.

OPEN DAY
Sunday 6st March 2.00-4.00pm

Our annual Open Day will be held on Sunday 6th March from 2-4pm. If you know of anyone who is thinking about enrolling their children in Montessori education, please let them know. They are most welcome to attend! If your child would like to participate please email the ESMPS office.

EASTER WEEKEND – school closed
Friday 25 March – 29 March

AUCKLAND MONTESSORI PICNIC
20 March – details to follow

Year 5-8 SENIOR CLASS CAMP
MOTUTAPU 30 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2016

Senior class camp will be from Wednesday 30th March –Friday 1st April. Please note camp starts the day after the Easter Holiday. We will be going to Motutapu Island.

Montessori PTA Meeting - AGM
7 April

Meet the Teacher / Parent Information Evening,
Wednesday 17 February
R28 & 20 5.30-6.00pm
R27 6.10-6.40 (camp meeting to follow)

This is an opportunity to find out how your child's classroom runs. It would be of great value for as many parents as possible to attend, to learn first hand about the expectations of each class.

Parents of Year 4 students are welcome to attend the presentation in Room 27. Many parents are curious about what they can expect when their children move into the 9-12 classroom particularly in the intermediate years.

Senior Class Camp Meeting
Wednesday 17 February 6.50-7.30pm

Following the Meet the Teacher evening there will be a Camp meeting to share further information about the upcoming 2 night/3 day trip to Motutapu Island. All information and necessary forms will be sent home with parents who attend this meeting or the next day with your child

Hats are Compulsory Term 1 and Term 4

All children need to wear a named school sunhat. School hats are compulsory in Term 1 and Term 4 and children are expected to wear them whenever they are outside. In the event your child does not have their hat they will be asked to sit under the shady trees near the court during the morning intervals and lunch breaks.

Term Contributions

Reminder that all term contributions are due two weeks prior to the beginning of each term unless paying by automatic payment. The first automatic payment is due on the 20th of February to account number : **010262 0012685 01**

The Senior Class Trip contribution of \$250 is also to be paid into our account : **010262 0012685 01**

Swimming Sports

7 March - Year 2 at GP School 11-2.30
8 March - Year 3/4 at GP School 11-3pm
11 March - Year 5/6 at Sacred Heart Pool 9.30-1.30
14 March - Year 7/8 at Sacred Heart Pool 9.30-12.30

Message from Rose

Welcome Back.

It is always a thrill to see so many of you at our Afternoon Tea prior to school starting - excited and raring to go

New Beginnings is what is in store for our Montessori community this year!. This refers to new teachers, new classes, new routines, new ways of doing things. The vision document presented in 2013 for the years 2013 - 2016 will continue to be a driving force for the review and changes that occur over the year. This review will drive the next vision document for 2017 - 2020.

The four pillars of our vision are: Students, Teachers, Community and Communication.

Students:

This year your children will engage in what is called 'iTime'. This is another word for individual inquiry. The Senior Class are going to commit Week 3 to pursuing interests of their own. All regular lessons will be suspended to allow students to find out more about themselves and the learning they commit to when following an interest or passion. The Junior Classes will also have the opportunity to have an 'iTime' week throughout the year.

Teachers:

As our teachers further engage with Professional Development in 21st Century Learning, our students - your children, will continue to develop skills that will enhance their learning in all areas of the curriculum - collaboration, self-regulation, knowledge construction, real-world problem-solving and innovation, ICT for learning and skillful communication. Education is in an exciting phase of development that supports and enhances the Montessori Education you have chosen for your child.

I am privileged this year to be attending a 'Future Schools' Conference in Sydney with the Glendowie Management Team early in March. Prior to this I will be visiting a Montessori School in Melbourne as well as visiting other Public / Private Schools with the Management Team to observe how other schools are integrating and using 21st Century Learning.

Our teachers have the opportunity to attend Montessori Workshops on Geometry & Literacy in May as well as the annual MANZ Conference in July.

Community:

Our Montessori School will be hosting an Auckland Montessori Primary Picnic on Sunday 20th March from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Each year there have been two or three events that bring the Montessori Community together. In the past there has always been one picnic and a Parent Information Evening with an International Speaker. Many of you have attended these evenings with Jamie Rue and last year with Alison Awes. This year there will be Carla Foster, an AMI Director of Training with many years experience teaching children.

Communication:

We are always trying to improve in this area focusing on giving notice of upcoming events and trips. With the use of the new 'Wrap It Up' system being used for payment of trips and the School App, we're hoping this helps in this area. Sometimes the 'last minute' notifications can't be helped but we do endeavour to give as much notice as possible.

This year is cause for celebration as Eastern Suburbs Montessori reaches its 20 year milestone in July - what an accomplishment! A small committee will be established to help work on celebrations. If you are interested please let Michelle know. Ideas are welcome for how we could celebrate this milestone as a community. We intend to collate a Yearbook (towards the end of the year) to celebrate this birthday. Other events will be planned for our community and dates will be shared as soon as they can be confirmed.



Ngā mihi o te tau hou (Greetings for the New Year)
Rose Phillips

Introducing our New Teachers

We welcome Anita Gokal to Room 28. She has recently moved from Wellington having taught at Wa Ora Montessori for nearly two years. Before that, she lived in the USA for 14 years. Anita is originally from Pakistan and has been a teacher all her life! Her interest in Montessori emerged during her curriculum studies at the University of North Texas during her graduate program and Anita has devoted herself to the cause of unlocking the potential in the children. She moves to Auckland with her husband Mehdi and their two children Alishan who will be attending the University of Otago this year and Aliyan who is in Room 20, Year 4.



We welcome Oliver Bellett to Room 27. Originally from the deep south but more recently from Christchurch. Oliver and his wife Sarah, moved North after the 2011 earthquakes and they now reside, on the North Shore with their two daughters, Holly (10) and Hannah (8). Oliver brings with him a passion for music having playing in a band during the 90's. He has interests in History and Geography, and has travelled to Europe to explore some of the famous archaeological treasures there.



Montessori Resource Teacher

This year I will be focussing on supporting our youngest children who have joined us from our contributing preschools to settle into our classroom routines comfortably. The children who start in our environment bring different understandings of their world. My goal is to ensure that our new additions to both junior classes continue with their learning journey smoothly.



Last year we introduced a literacy programme to help them gain new skills in understanding how one cluster of letters has many different sounds. They learn to distinguish between beginning, middle and end sounds which help them immensely when reading. As they increase their knowledge, they are able to comprehend how the English language is used. I will also support both Hiranthi and Anita giving a variety of lessons to students from both classes during the middle block. On Friday morning I will be in Room 27 for the first block.

I will also continue to teach the Units of Inquiry to a year group in the afternoons.

Saskia

Junior Units of Inquiry

At the Meet the Teacher evening, there will be a year overview handed out that will give an indication of what Unit of Inquiries the children will be inquiring into over the year.

Year 2

To start with the Year 1 and 2 group will be working with Hiranthi and will be inquiring into the importance of relationships, rights and values under the theme 'How We organise Ourselves'. The children will discuss what a community is, why it needs rules and routines and what happens when these rules are broken.

Year 3 & 4

The year 3 and 4 children will start in two different groups for the first unit of inquiry. Both year levels will be inquiring around the theme 'Where we are in place and time'. The Year 3 students will start this term with Saskia exploring how we all have a history. As part of this unit, they will learn to understand the importance of valuing their own personal line of history by discovering where they fit into their family tree.

The Year 4's will work with Anita and be learning how people value places for different reasons which can lead to their preservation. Anita will also work with the Year 4's on establishing the use of individual email addresses and student blog pages.

Room 20



Welcome to term 1! The children have come back with wonderful experiences and exciting stories about their holidays.

This term, Room 20 is happy to welcome Oliver, Gemma, Dylan, Aliyah, Alyan and Liam to our class. They have already made many friends and are settling into the classroom routines.

In Room 20 the students write personal reflections of the day and record them in their journals either before lunchtime or at the end of the day. We share a virtue at the beginning of each week and remind ourselves about that particular attribute throughout the week. We started the term with the virtue 'Respect' and will be discussing this virtue as we begin to discuss our classroom treaty for the year. We will be signing it when we walk down to Karaka Bay on the 22nd of February.

In our class the children belong to one of three groups that are responsible for keeping our environment clean and tidy. One member of that group will be responsible to take the laundry home on Friday to be washed and brought back on Monday. Students are welcome to bring in and share news items that have been discussed at home. The class has a 'News and Views' book that articles can be pasted in.

Our class meetings are conducted by the older children and take place every three weeks. Robbie the Hippo and Floppy the dog (our class stuffed animals) continue to have many exciting adventures with the children during weekends and holidays and shares his diary with the class every week. Each child will have the opportunity of taking him home on a Friday to return to school on the Monday.

Hiranthi

Room 28



Kia Ora Parents,

Our first week in Room 28 has been an enormous one! I must thank you all for the lovely messages and the notes that were sent to welcome me. As for the class, I must say that I am very excited to have such a diverse group of children to work with! I am looking forward to having a great rest of the year filled with joy and exploration!

We have enjoyed our first great story – The Story of the Universe. This story precedes all the imaginative work that the children encounter over their primary years and helps prepare the reasoning mind to ask questions and inquire into the how's and what's of our cultural curriculum.

One of the things I find most beautiful about the Montessori environment is that it allows freedom for the children to follow their interests. Children choose their work from different areas each day and I have been able to give a number of lessons from different areas of the curriculum. Children in the class have already started to explore big concepts in Maths such as multiplying a nine digit number by a unit multiplier and finding the value of squares and their relationship to one another. Some love exploring the shapes of the geometry solids while others enjoy creating their own stories.

Journals will remain the primary mode of communication between the teacher and home. Please continue to send the messages as the need arises.

You will be receiving a Laundry Roster to include your laundry duty for the first 2 terms. If you are unable to do laundry on your week. Please arranged with someone on the list to swap. Laundry week includes your child's participation. They should be encouraged to help with the process of laundry e.g. Press the buttons, folding towels, ironing (if necessary).

Looking forward to working with you all.
Anita Gokal

6-9 Class Notices

Birthday Policy

The birthday celebrations in the Montessori Junior Hub will be celebrated as close to the child's birthday as possible. The set times for this celebration will be either 12.15pm or 2.45pm depending on the daily schedule. You are invited to attend this celebration with your child and to avoid disappointment, we ask that you liaise with the classroom teacher at least one week before your child's actual birthday. In keeping with our healthy food procedure, a fruit or vegetable platter is the only acceptable food choice for this celebration. Please do not feel obliged to provide this.

Book Bags

Our book bags made by past Year 4 students have lasted well and the tradition continues. We ask that you help to ensure that your child takes care of their book bag. They are washable and are used to bring their journal and reading books/logs to school each day.

Journals

The children reflect on the activities during the work cycle and the work record helps them to become more aware of the work choices they make as they work towards independence. This also becomes a communication book between the parent and teacher. Please remember to check for notices or messages in the journal that comes home every day. Please take the notice out of the journal and initial the journal every day, that helps the teacher know that you have seen them. The children often write daily reflections and sharing these with someone at home can be a starting point to discuss the events of the day.

Mandarin

There will be a 20 minute session for both classes on Wednesdays.

News

Students are encouraged to bring items related to their Unit of Inquiry for sharing. We ask that toys not be brought in to share at these times.

Reading Books

Children are expected to read every day. Those children on the colour wheel up to purple should be taking a book home to share with you each day. Please record the book your child has read each night in the reading log notebook and return both book and reading log daily in the book bag. Reading to your child and having them read regularly is a beneficial experience so please try to share the reading of books you have at home as often as possible. The children who are past purple are still expected to read daily and may read chapter books from home. We want reading to be an enjoyable experience for your child and for them to experience success at reading. Please be vigilant about returning any Glendowie Primary School books sent home in book bags.

Swimming

All children are expected to take part in the class swimming lessons as part of the Health and Physical Well Being Curriculum. We will have two sessions per week this year during Term 1. Children will need to bring a note from home if there is a reason they are unable to swim, or a medical certificate if it is a continuing occurrence, writing in the journal regarding this is fine. Our swimming times are: Year 1/2's Wednesday and Friday at 2.30pm, Yr 3/4's Tuesday at 12.00noon and , Friday at 10.00am.

Timelines

This special book starts when a child enters our school. Photos of their childhood are requested and new photos are added on a students' birthday. For new students, you will be sent information to have one started for you. These booklets are presented to the child at their Year 4 Leaving Ceremony at the end of the year.

9-12 Class Notices



Welcome back everyone!

We hope you had a restful holiday and are just as excited as we are to embark on new adventures and learning in 2016. We have already been working hard preparing the physical and academic environments but also discussing and planning new activities and learning opportunities that we will put into action this year. There were some changes awaiting the children on their return. We have begun the year with the Montessori Great Lesson on the Story of the Universe. This was used to ignite a sense of wonder and incite curiosity in our students. These will help set the scene for our Units of Inquiry and culture work over the year as well as spark interest in personal inquiries for the upcoming iTime in week 3. Students will be encouraged and guided to pursue personal inquiries into subjects and areas that interest and inspire them.

Classroom routines are being established. Journals play an important role in planning and recording work as well as providing a means of communication between school and home. Please check and sign journals daily. Children are expected to plan and complete a balanced selection of work along with any follow-up work assigned. The purpose of follow-up work is to practice and consolidate skills learned. At home, children should continue to read at least thirty minutes daily. Please remember that quality stationery is provided at school, therefore students should keep their own special stationery at home to prevent it getting lost, broken or becoming a distraction.

This term we will also engage in community building activities that are centred around peace. A class treaty is being constructed before we officially sign it at Karaka Bay on Monday 22nd February. We will resume our Masterchef programme when we are settled into our routines.

Birthday Celebration

As teachers of the Senior Class, we have discussed at length how birthday's will be celebrated in the classroom. This has resulted in slight changes to the way they have been conducted previously. These special occasions will be celebrated in a similar way within our class community but parents will not be invited to attend them. Your child is welcome to provide a fruit platter but it is not an expectation.

Chinese / Mandarin

These lessons will be held as a whole class as this is the first year it is being taught in the school. Our time slot is at 2pm on Wednesdays. Please note the Year 7/8s are at swimming at this time so will join another class until swimming ends later in the term.

Swimming

Year 5/6 continue to have swimming lessons in the school pool on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9.00am; Year 7/8 attend swimming lessons at Sacred Heart on Wednesday afternoons. Please ensure that your child has their swimming gear as swimming is part of the curriculum

Technology

Technology is on a Tuesday afternoon for Year 7 and Friday morning for Year 8. Your child should have the necessary stationery listed on the notice sent home last week ready to start this week. They must wear closed in shoes to attend Technology at Selwyn College on these days.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a special welcome to our parents. If you have not already, please feel free to stop by the classroom so we may introduce ourselves. It is important that any issues or concerns are brought to our attention promptly. Please email the Montessori Office or write a note in the journal to schedule an appointment.

We look forward to the new year filled with exciting learning and fulfilling experiences.

Units of Inquiry

2016 will be a year of transition for our units of inquiry. We are changing the order of our units of inquiry and this will result in some students having already done some of them. When this occurs the year levels will be split and a different Unit of Inquiry or iTime will be utilised for the group of students involved. This will be explained in detail at the Meet the Teacher evening where you will get an overview of what unit of inquires will be covered for each year level.

Elena & Oliver

General Reminders

Absences

If your child/children are away from school, we request that you phone the school on **575 7374** and leave a message, preferably before 8.30am on the day of absence. If your child is to be away for an extended holiday, or special event, please could we have written notification beforehand.

Before / After School

Children are asked to wait on the court if they arrive before 8.30am. When the bell rings at 8.30am the children must walk sensibly to their classroom and unpack their belongings. At the end of the day please meet your children either on the upper court or at the seating near the top field. If you have a Year 1 /2 child you are welcome to meet them at their class. It is school policy that students go straight home unless accompanied by their parent.

Forgotten Items

If you are dropping off something for your child, please leave it at the main office and they will ensure your child receives it. Please try to keep these to a minimum so as not to disturb the classes work pattern.

Independence

Please help your child develop independence by encouraging them to be responsible for remembering their lunch, journal, book bag and swimming bags.

Lunches and Water Bottles

Our school encourages children to eat healthy lunches and to drink water. It is very important children bring a named drink bottle with water in it. No juice is allowed in the classrooms and sweets / lollies are not to come to school please.

At Glendowie School we recognise there are a number of students with food allergies, some of which have serious implications. We do not allow children to bring any food to school to share with others including birthday treats such as cakes. If there is food cooked or shared at school as part of the learning programme, class teachers will advise parents as to any action they may need to take around food allergies.

Meetings & Appointments

On Monday and Thursday afternoons the teachers are involved in staff meetings. In the mornings teachers are also busy with their class preparations and the children before school. If you wish to see a class teacher or make an appointment, you are most welcome to email the Montessori office or write in their journal, but please bear in mind their meeting commitments. Please do not contact teachers on their personal home or mobile unless specifically asked by the teacher.

Named Clothing

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of NAMING all articles of clothing, this includes socks, lunchboxes, goggles, togs and towels. We have items of clothing left at school every day and it makes it easier to return to the owner if items are named. Please note that socks should be navy blue or black – no other colour should be on them

Punctuality

Children are asked to wait on the court if they arrive before 8:30am. When the bell rings at 8:30am the children must walk sensibly to their classroom and unpack their belongings. Students are expected to be in the classroom by 8.55am. It helps them have time to think about their day and what they need to accomplish. Our lessons start at 9:00 am so students need to be ready to start by then. Please ensure your child arrives on time as this assists them in getting ready for the day of learning. If your child is late they must go to the office to collect a late pass.

Sports Uniform

Please remember Sports Uniform is compulsory for Year 3 and up. The Sports Uniform is required for all terms. One of the first uses of it will be at Swimming Sports so please ensure your child has one by then. Children can also change into their Sports Uniform at lunch time to play on the school field.

Wrap It Up System

This year Glendowie School are implementing a new system for collecting money for school trips using an online banking website. Please refer to the school newsletter for information about how to use the Wrap it up system to give permission and pay for school trips. Montessori students are listed under "Montessori" (not included in their actual Year Level).

TERM 1, 2016

	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<i>Week 1 Feb</i>	1 AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY	2	3	4	5
<i>Week 2</i>	8 WAITANGI DAY <i>School closed</i>	9	10	11	12
<i>Week 3</i>	15	16	17 <i>Parent Information Evening R28 & R20 5.30-6pm R27 6.10-6.40 6.50 -7.30pm Camp meeting</i>	18 <i>Trust Meeting</i>	19 <i>ESMPS PTA Beach Party 3.30pm</i>
<i>Week 4 Sunday 21 February 2-4pm Working Bee</i>	22 <i>Yr 4 Marae Trip 9-11.45 Karaka Bay Montessori Trip 1-3.00pm</i>	23	24	25 <i>Yr 3 Highwic House Trip ESMPS PTA Meeting 7.30pm</i>	26
<i>Week 5</i>	29	1	2	3	4
<i>Week 6 Sunday 6 March OPEN DAY 2-4PM</i>	7 <i>Swimming Sports Yr 1/2 11-2.30</i>	8 <i>Swimming Sports Yr 3/4 11-3.00</i>	9	10	11 <i>Swimming Sports Yr 5/6 9.30-1.30 Sacred Heart</i>
<i>Week 7 12 March Glendowie PA Overnight Camp & Welcome Back Picnic</i>	14 <i>Swimming Sports Yr 7/8 9.30-12.30 Sacred Heart</i>	15	16	17	18
<i>Week 8 Sunday 20 March Auckland Montessori Picnic</i>	21	22	23	24	25 GOOD FRIDAY <i>School Closed</i>
<i>Week 9 April</i>	28 EASTER MONDAY <i>School Closed</i>	29 EASTER TUESDAY <i>School Closed</i>	30 <i>Senior Class Camp</i>	31 <i>Senior Class Camp</i>	1 <i>Senior Class Camp</i>
<i>Week 10</i>	4	5	6	7 <i>ESMPS PTA Meeting AGM</i>	8
<i>Week 11</i>	11	12	13	14	15 <i>Last Day of Term 1</i>