



MONTESSORI MESSENGER

Dear Parents

It's winter holidays already – YAY! Even though school is great fun and lots of wonderful things happen, it will be nice to stay in bed that bit longer on these cold mornings!

Pre-School and Toddler reports are being sent home today (Thursday) – please read the covering letter and enjoy the contents of the reports. Thanks to Rita, Ayesha, Mariam and Zarika for writing / typing and putting them all together.

The primary children don't get reports now – they got their cycle one reports at the beginning of May and will get their cycle two reports at the beginning of September. They will however receive their LIFE skills pack for the third term today. Several parents requested this to get a head start during the holidays.

An update on our building...there is some progress at last. We now know that a building line regulation that wasn't previously looked at too closely is now being fully enforced so we have had to pay an additional amount, allow for the relevant relaxation to be advertised and anticipate in 4 to 6 weeks we should be able to start. It is a lengthy process but having listened to many people's stories, we are actually doing well in terms of time frames. Please holds thumbs, cross fingers and do whatever else you believe might work! We are not going to jinx anything by giving a new moving date but as soon as we can, we will let you know.

Inside this newsletter is information on an amazing initiative for families to recycle for FREE. The details are on the pamphlet. My understanding is they can offer it for free if they get enough people to join the initiative. In the new term, we will join as a school and introduce the children to the idea at school. Please support it and continue the process at home.

We wish you a wonderful winter holiday – keep warm, travel safely if you are lucky enough to be travelling and we will see you all on Monday 24th July ready to go again!

Best wishes

Sam and all of us at PE Montessori

KNYSNA FIRE RELIEF

Again a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our collection of items as well as money. We really made a significant contribution and the Knysna Montessori School has expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude. They will send a formal thanks once things have settled.

A special thanks to Shane Norton for taking our first load through and Ray and Thomas Victor who took our second load through. We really appreciate this enormously as did the school.

Although the fires were tragic and so devastating, it was an opportunity to show our true selves – good, kind, generous and caring.

SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL UPDATE

TODDLER COMMUNITY (MARIAM, JESS, PRISCILLA AND KUDA)

Welcome to David Forbes who has joined our toddler community. The toddlers have been very eager to help their new classmate settle in. We said a sad goodbye to Cristopher Norton – we wish him well in his new school and look forward to welcoming him back soon.

It has been lovely to see the growth and development of the children as it has been a month of assessment and writing reports. It is always a satisfying process to put all of our observations together.

The weather has been extremely windy on some days so we spent time indoors. On days like these we have different indoor activities for the toddlers which they have a choice of doing during that time. The children would partake of the indoor activities for a short while and then would on their own free will wander off to do "work".

In a Montessori environment work means to carry out a purposeful activity which fulfills an inner purpose that brings about satisfaction and gratification and having joy in the process itself. Maria Montessori had said this many years ago and it is so true. It is a wonderful experience to have observed this in our classroom.

The toddler's enjoyed doing their art projects, working on different skills.

We wish Ella, Haley and Liam all the best as they move to the preschool. We will miss them.

We would also like to wish everyone well over the Winter holiday.

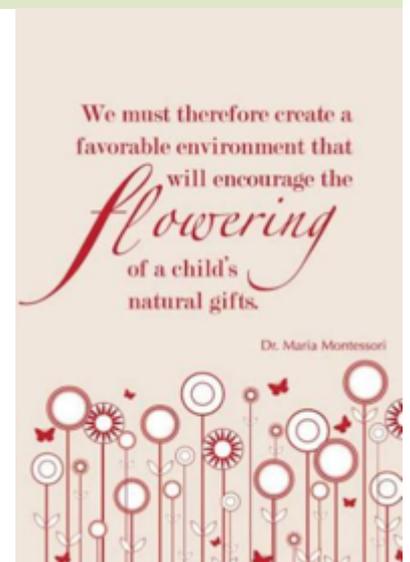
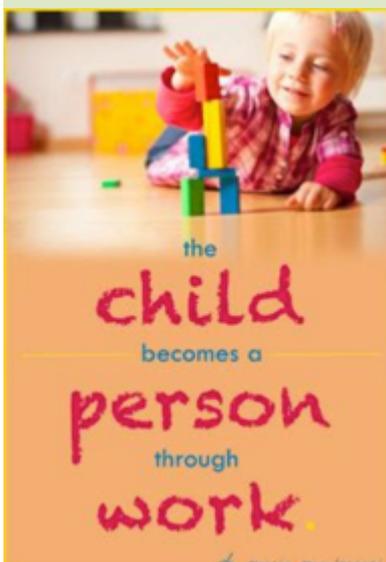
PRE SCHOOL (RITA, MANDY, KERRI, AYESHA, PRINCESS AND JAYME)

This month the directresses in the preschool have been spending a lot of time compiling reports. We have been quite involved in assessing the children's growth and development, as well as putting together our daily observations and records, in order to provide feedback to parents.

We have observed 'World Environment Day' and 'World Oceans Day' in the preschool. These discussions have sparked some interesting conversations among the children. In both classes the children have traced and coloured in a seahorse on World Oceans Day. Anna Potts shared 2 lovely story books about the oceans. It has been wonderful to see how some children who were too shy to share news, are now more open and relaxed to the idea of sharing news with their peers.

The 3 toddlers, Ella, Hayley and Liam have been visiting the preschool classes, during the past few weeks. They are fascinated by all the other children and have been happily exploring the classrooms.

A friendly reminder that toys are not allowed at school. Some children are sneaking them into their bags☺
We wish everyone a warm and safe winter holiday.



SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL UPDATE continued

THE LOWER PRIMARY (Anne L, Sharmell, Claire, Haji and Caroleen)

The devastating fires that affected Knysna and the Knysna Montessori School have reminded us of how empathetic the children are. We heard of children collecting donations from friends, family and neighbours. Some even donated their own pocket money and savings. The generosity was astounding.

The term came to an end with the children finishing a project connected with World Oceans Day. They thoroughly enjoyed painting their ocean backgrounds and drawing, cutting out and pasting their sea creatures. We have some budding artists in the making! Another area where we saw an outpouring of creativity was in the board games that the children made for their LIFE Skills projects. Some of them obviously put in a lot of time, thought and effort into their creation. We hope you continue to play the games and have lots of fun whilst doing so.

THE UPPER PRIMARY (Anne S, Sue, Anna-Karien, Agnes and Keeran)

In the classroom, the upper primary children settled down to a more consistent work routine with five-day weeks ☺. They reflected on environmental issues and backed that up with some real life concern and urgency for the people of Knysna. There is always a silver lining if one looks hard enough and in this situation it was being witness to the real empathy, generosity and camaraderie of community – both the broader and our own.

The board games handed in for LIFE Skills this term have been a real hit with the children and many of them are innovative and informative, a really fun way to learn about books, libraries, authors and related topics. It is also so nice to watch the children sharing their games with each other.

Fathers day was also celebrated at school and we hope that all fathers were spoilt and appreciated on their special day.

We wish all of our families a cosy and relaxing winter holiday and we look forward to seeing you all after our mid-year break.



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