



MONTESSORI MESSENGER

Dear Parents

It's been a few weeks now since we have been fully back in the swing of things, with 5 day school weeks...and it has been really nice to have that rhythm and routine back. It feels like you can actually get stuff done!

That doesn't quite seem to be the case at the Municipality where our plans still await final approval. We are being patient and trusting that all things happen for a reason...one thing we know is that our new building WILL happen; it's just a matter of when. We will keep you posted.

Thank you for the positive reception to our Parents Network idea. We are hoping everyone will get into the whole idea and that over time, it will have the desired effect of creating community among ourselves.

One parent has questioned why no advertising and it is simply to be sure that our focus remains on building connections together as parents, not business owners. Parents may however advertise in our school newsletter – each parent is entitled to one free half-page advert in the newsletter once a term. We do require that the businesses advertised do not contradict our school's values and ethos (as per our advertising and endorsement policy which is in your parents handbook).

Please read inside the newsletter about our position on Vaccinations and Immunizations at school as there has been widespread panic (fortunately not within our school) on the Department of Health's public statements that they will be vaccinating all children in every school for measles, regardless of whether or not they have already had this done. (To offer relief before you read our position – that won't be happening at our school!). Lots of inspirational and beautiful things are being posted regularly on our FaceBook page - Please remember to like and follow us via the following link: <https://m.facebook.com/PEMontessori>

“Our task is to educate their (our students) whole being so they can face the future. We may not see the future, but they will and our job is to help them make something of it.” This was said by one of my favourite people, Sir Ken Robinson, who speaks and writes so eloquently about the real role of education and creativity. We are so fortunate to work each day to fulfill this task of aiding human development.

Best wishes

Sam

#HEALTH TIP FOR COMPUTER USERS (or OVER-USERS)

Are you someone, like me, who gets into a work “zone” and ends up sitting in front of your computer for hours – without getting up, stretching, giving your eyes a break? In other words, doing all the things you shouldn't and that are bad for your health! One of our dads (Alastair Potts) uses an app called WORK RAVE which shuts down his computer at set intervals for a short period of time, forcing him to move and avoid repetitive strain injuries! It is a free download. Not available for Mac but there are other alternatives to explore for Mac users (like me). Definitely worth checking out☺

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Those families intending to stay in our school for 2018 need to do nothing further about re-enrollment as our contract is an indefinite one, until it is formally cancelled by either party.

For those families planning NOT to return in 2018, please remember that you are required to submit written notice of cancellation by the end of THIS TERM (i.e. 30th June 2017). This is required in terms of your Agreement of Tuition and Enrollment. Late submission of notice does carry a penalty in terms of this agreement.

VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATIONS AT SCHOOL

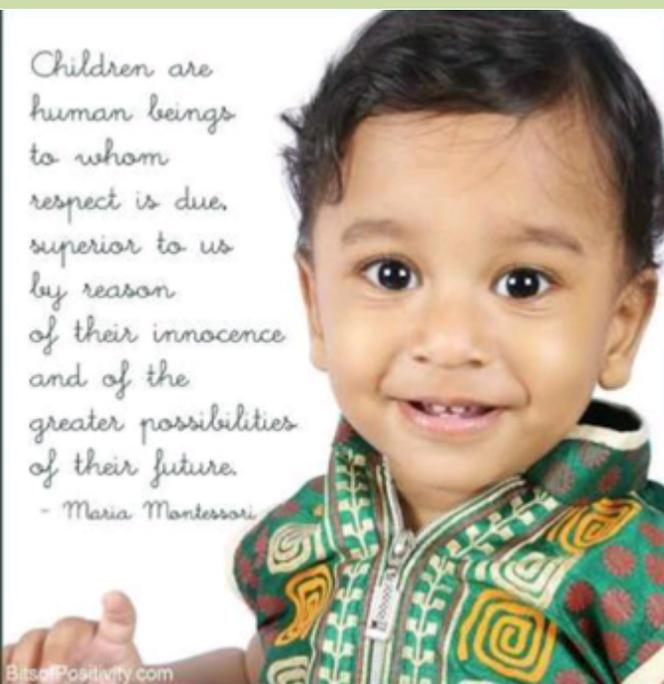
We are in the process of developing a specific policy on this due to the increased pressure from the Department of Health on schools to allow vaccines and immunizations to be administered at school. It is our policy that we do not allow for this to take place at school. This includes the measles vaccine and the HPV vaccine being administered to girls from grade four upwards, among all others.

It is our firm position that matters such as this are the SOLE responsibility of parents. It is up to you to decide if your child will have these immunizations/vaccines and then arrange for these to happen privately or at the local clinic.

In addition to this, we do not want the children to associate school with these experiences (i.e. having injections at school).

WINTER UNIFORM ORDERS

We do have stock of fleece and tracksuit tops at 2016 prices. Order forms are available on d6 Communicator. The primary children are required to comply with our Dress Code so please ensure they have the correct uniform.



Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.
- Maria Montessori

“Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by *experiences* in the *environment*.”

– Dr. Maria Montessori

SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL UPDATE

TODDLER COMMUNITY (MARIAM, JESS, PRISCILLA AND KUDA)

We have been having a good, busy term.

Winter is around the corner so there's been a start of runny noses and coughs. We would like to ask parents to please let us know if your child had a bad night or has been given medication, so that we are aware of it and we can be more accommodating to your child.

We made a Mother's Day card which the toddlers were very proud of giving to their mums. We made a timeline of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The toddler's traced circles and practised their cutting and pasting skills.

Over the following few weeks we will be doing art projects that are related to The Brave Little Owl, The Bad Tempered Ladybird and The Rainbow Fish. The children will make something special for Father's Day and for Eid as well. Eid is a celebration that Muslims around the world celebrate.

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

On returning from the workshop by Dr Michael Dorer, one of our pre-schoolers Jayden from Ayesha's class asked, "how was the workshop and if there were any cars there?" 😊

The children have been very enthusiastic about drawing pictures of the 'Gruffalo', which is our theme for the concert. These pictures have been displayed in the classroom. They are very proud of their pictures and are often heard discussing them.

The Hungry Caterpillar art activity enabled the children to develop many skills such as tracing, cutting, gluing as well as the order and names of the days of the week.

For the month of June our art projects will be related to the following books:

The Brave Little Owl

The Bad Tempered Ladybird

The Rainbow Fish

We will also be making something special for Father's Day as well as Eid-ul-Fitr. Eid will give the children some insight into the celebration that marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan that is observed by Muslim people around the globe.

you know you've
grown up when a nap
is no longer a
punishment but a
reward. Shel's NCGiggles



'The bad news
is TIME flies.
The good news
is you're the pilot.'

SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL UPDATE continued

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

Now that all the holidays are behind us the children are settling down to the routine of work. We have been concentrating on the formats for LIFE Skills this term and have started creating Timelines in our group cultural sessions. We are looking forward to celebrating World Environment Day and World Ocean Day in June and of course the highlight of the month will be Father's Day. So, we have much activity happening in the classroom this term. 😊 We would like to remind parents to please notify the school if their child is sick and absent, especially on test days. It will help us to plan make up tests accordingly. As you know we only arrange for make-up tests in the event of absenteeism due to illness.

We often have funny moments in the classroom and would like to share one with you that happened in class recently. The children are required to complete a summary at the end of their cultural projects. One of them was asking for help with their "submarine". This caused great confusion until we realised it was actually their summary 😊

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

Following our very successful World Book Day dress-up celebration the children continue to explore the world of books and everything that it includes. We are enjoying expanding our own general knowledge as we assess their LIFE Skills projects which have been of a very high standard.

We thoroughly enjoyed our family picnic day, it was a welcome chance to relax and socialise. The children were also inspired to make those beautiful Mother's Day boxes and we hope that the mothers were all spoilt.

We still have World Oceans Day and World Environment Day to learn about this term. World Oceans Day reminds us of the major role oceans have in everyday life, the impact of human actions on the oceans, which includes the serious impact of plastic pollution, and to develop awareness and appreciation for the beauty, wealth and promise of the ocean.

The theme for this year's World Environment Day, or Eco Day, is "Go Wild for Life". Celebrated on the 5th of June, the focus this year is on the illegal trade in wildlife. The children will be doing various language and craft activities around these two days.

We would like to congratulate Muhammad Abdullah on being selected to represent us at the South African Archery Nationals competition in Johannesburg recently. Muhammad Abdullah earned third place and came home with a bronze medal. Well done Muhammad Abdullah.

Just a reminder to ensure that your child has a warm top in their bags as the weather is changeable at the moment. On that note, please see that clothes are marked and that they comply with our uniform rules (applies to lower and upper primary).

Did you know our school has only 3 essential rules
(otherwise known as Life Lessons):

1. Act with Kindness
2. Take Responsibility for yourself and your actions
3. Show Respect at all times

Imagine if the world operated on just these three rules?

Montessori Environments (<http://ami-global.org/montessori/montessori-environments>)

Beauty, Order, Accessibility

Walk into a Montessori classroom, anywhere in the world, in any suburb of any city and you will invariably see happy and busy children working purposefully. The classroom itself will typically be beautiful and enticing. Great care has been taken to create a learning environment that will reinforce the child's independence and natural urge toward self-development. This is achieved in three ways: beauty, order and accessibility. The Montessori materials are beautifully handcrafted and are displayed on low open shelves. Each piece of material has a specific purpose and is presented to the children in a manner that will enable them to direct their own learning.

Montessori Materials

The Montessori materials are tools to stimulate the child into logical thought and discovery. They are provocative, enticing and simple. Each piece of material presents one concept or idea at a time and has what is known as a "control of error". If the child has done something incorrectly it will be self-evident. The geometric shape, for example, won't fit the hole; the water will spill on the table or the last label will not match the last picture. Being able to see his or her own mistake allows the child to work independently.

Community / Three-Year Age Spans within each class

The Montessori classroom is not merely a place for individual learning. It is a vibrant community of children, where the child learns to interact socially in a variety of ways. The three-year age range enables older children to teach the younger and learn much themselves from the experience while the younger children are inspired to more advanced work through observing the older ones. With such a variety of levels in the classroom, each child can work at his or her own pace, unhindered by competition and encouraged by co-operation. Children attend daily and for a three-year cycle. The exception to the three-year age span within each class is the toddler community which is 18 months to 3 years old.

The Parents Network Contact People (class representatives):

Co-ordinator: Claire Kivedo

Toddler Community: Lindiwe Mangisa and Warda Ackerdien

Pre-School (Rita's Class): Gwen Wolela and Sharifa Ortell

Pre-School (Ayesha's Class): Claire Carneiro and Nadia Wesso-Rule

Lower Primary (Anne's Class): Jill Fabbri and Saadiya Peer

Lower Primary (Sharmell's Class): Wimbai Mendu and Yolande Lalla

Upper Primary (Anne's Class): Lindy-Ann Steyn and Greta Williams

Upper Primary (Sue's Class): Thandi Rayi and Farahnaz Ahmed