

Abacus Montessori August Newsletter

On Friday 5 August, we say goodbye to Amanda who after 6 years at Abacus is taking up a new Nursery Role. We thank her for her dedication over the years and wish her all the best. All managerial liaisons will continue via our lovely Manager Leah. We are fortunate to have ex Abacus/Tiggers staff "waiting in the wings" to take up any vacancies that arise. Watch this space!

Upcoming Dates to Remember

10/8 – **Parent Evening** 6pm
"How to look after ourselves and our children during these difficult times" Patrick McEntyre (Ministry of Education Psychologist)

16/8 Special Person
Morning/Afternoon tea.

7/9 Abacus Annual Art Expo
Fundraiser.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Thank you to everyone for your support in making our holiday programmes a success. There were many fantastic pirates, and some rather funky pjs, as well as yummy pizzas, sparkly jewelry and messy experiences.



Song of the month

KINA KINA

*Kina kina
Wheke wheke
Ika ika
Tuna tuna
Pipi pipi
Paua paua
Kai moana e
He!*

LUNCHBOXES

Congratulations to all whānau in regards to your children's lunches. We have noted a huge improvement in the quality of food that is coming to preschool and the children are now able to recognise which foods are most healthy.

The next step in this venture is to exclude pies from the children's hot lunches. Each packet pie contains approximately a golf ball size amount of fat – way too much for little bodies. Of course, we encourage you to prepare homemade pies with your children for a healthier option.

UPCOMING SHAPE/COLOUR/LETTERS OF THE WEEK.

	Under twos	Over twos
1/8	Yellow Triangle	15, o, Red, Hexagon
8/8	Yellow Triangle	16, p, Blue, Heptagon
15/8	Yellow Triangle	17, q, Green, Octagon
22/8	Yellow Triangle	18, r, grey, Nonagon

REMINDERS

- Pick-up times. It is very important that pick-up times be followed. Many parents are arriving late to pick up their children, which can cause problems with our staff/pupil ratios.
- Please remember to name ALL clothing items. This includes hats and shoes.
- Thank you to all for remembering to bring warm jackets and hats, please could these be placed in the appropriate boxes in the classroom each morning and collected each evening.
- The children create many wonderful masterpieces while at Abacus, these can be found daily in the art box (O2 in corridor, U2 in classroom)
- Please remember to place all food that requires heating out of your lunchbox onto the tray provided. This prevents food being forgotten at lunchtime.

What's been happening in the nursery?

Thanks to all the parents who helped contribute towards our holiday programme. This was a most enjoyable week. The children especially enjoyed iced biscuit day, pirate and pjs day. We have been busy discussing with the children about the snow and they have been most excited talking about their own experiences. The children have especially enjoyed exploring our outside environment and also the preschool outside area, with its snow covered beauty. To enable us to plan our topics with the children's interests in mind, we encourage parents/whānau to write on our emergent curriculum sheet, located on our planning board. This could include what interests your child has at the present time, or perhaps what you did on the weekend. We really appreciate your valuable input.

What's been happening in Extended Day?

Extended day has had a break due to the holiday programme. We are looking forward to getting back into it and using our new Montessori equipment.



What's happening in the over 2's classroom?

A huge thank you to all of the families who made such a huge effort dressing up and contributing to our holiday programme. We had a great week full of fun activities and adventures; look out for group learning stories in the preschool corridor.



Get to know Leah.

I moved to Christchurch 3 ½ years ago from Invercargill, where I was sole charge at a rural kindergarten. I am married and have one son, Adam who is 23. My other two babies are Sam and Suzy, a Newfoundland Cross and Labrador Cross. I am enjoying getting to know all the Abacus families.

Montessori Corner

Scissor Skills.

In the art area of the classroom, the children are able to practice many skills. The children use small scissors to cut along lines in waves, corners and circles. Scissor skills help to develop hand eye co-ordination, left – right brain skills, fine motor skills, and muscle co-ordination.



Baby banana pancakes

Ingredients:

- 2 bananas cut into disks
- 1/4 cup whole meal self-raising flour (for dusting)
- 1-cup whole meal self-raising flour
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup milk
- 50g butter, melted

Method:

Dust the bananas in the 1/4 cup of flour to coat.

In a bowl, mix the batter by combining the 1-cup of flour with the egg and milk and sugar and whisking vigorously.

Heat a frying pan and melt a little butter in it.

Dip the banana disks in the batter and fry on each side until golden.



Keep well,

Clare, Pam, Amanda, Leah, Joanna, Anna, Annette, Renee, Sam, Holly, Bex and Kim.