



ABACUS MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2010

Well, what a month. It's great to be back to relative normality after the Earthquake. We are glad that everybody is safe and our thoughts go out to those whose homes suffered. Spring is here and sunny summer days are on their way.

OUR SPRING GARDEN.

We are working on a spring garden with the children and need your help.

If you have any spring bulbs that you would like to donate to us please pass them on to Sarah or Amanda. We also welcome any other ideas that we could implement with your children.

SHOW DAY REMINDER

Every year Abacus attends the A&P Show. This year we will be going on Thursday 11th November. Tickets are available to us at a discounted price so make the most of it.

Although it is a preschool day, please remember that all children must be accompanied by a parent or other adult.

SUNSCREEN

As a new term approaches please bring in your tissues and \$5 for sunscreen. A teacher will sign your name off a list when you have done this. With the hotter weather now happening children will not be able to go outside unless they have sunscreen on.

SUN HATS

As the weather is getting warmer we ask that all parents please bring in a named sun hat for their child. Our Abacus policy is "no hat no outside play". At the end of each week parents are to take sun hat home to be washed and brought back ready for the following week.

PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to the parents who responded to our "Parent Questionnaire". This is an annual survey to ensure we are meeting the needs of our children and families. The majority of parents found the survey a good means of communication. Suggestions and new ideas for 'special events' including sleep overs (with parent help), pyjama days etc are all being considered. With a nearly 50/50 return, the Christmas celebration at the end of the year will take the form of a picnic and games with Santa arriving during the morning. The idea of a 'staff member' profile in the monthly newsletter was met with a great response and you shall be reading about us shortly. The Over Twos letter, shape and colour of the week will continue to appear in your newsletter. A copy of the Nursery colour and shape cycle has been added to this newsletter for your information. Annette and Bex have worked together to create a Transition information booklet that will be handed to you when your child begins to transition. We shall continue to enhance our performance and action all of your suggestions. Thank you to those with named sheets who gave us some constructive advice, you will be spoken to personally to address relative issues.

PARENT EVENING

Thanks to all those who attended our hands on information evening on 28th Sep. These evenings are a great chance for you to learn more about the Montessori Curriculum and to have a go with the materials. Keep an eye out for our next information evening, which will be early next year.

CALENDARS

Your child's art work is available for viewing.

Amanda is taking orders and these need to be placed and paid for by OCTOBER 22nd.

Calendars - \$12

Cards, pk 8 - \$12

Diaries - \$15 (see Amanda for a sample)

Montessori Sensorial Equipment quote of the month

The purpose of the sensorial materials is to educate and refine sensory discrimination, for which there is a sensitive period between 3 and 6 years. During that time, whether given special apparatus or not, children will be seen touching, smelling, tasting, looking and listening, often repeating and repeating the experience in order to establish learning and discrimination. The Montessori classroom provides materials for the education of the senses, giving the children the ability to be more aware of their surroundings and to appreciate them more profoundly. "We cannot create observers by saying observe, but by giving them the power and means for this observation." These means are procured through education of the senses. Each piece of apparatus is designed to assist the child in an activity which leads to some specific skill or concept and responds to the inclinations of children for activity, order, sequencing, sorting and matching.

-Binda Goldsbrough

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE PRESCHOOL

The children and staff are busy with our art expo work. A lot of interesting designs are happening with children being very creative and expressive in creativity. Our art expo is on Thursday 28th October and it starts at 6:30pm until 8pm. Entry is a gold coin and you are asked to pay a donation for your child's art work. Remember this is a fundraising event so dig deep. There will also be a raffle for a 'special' one off piece of art work

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Those who bring sunshine in to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.

J.M Barrie 1860-1937

The countdown to Christmas is about to begin...

Clare, Annelies, Amanda, Sarah, Bex, Jaimee, Anna, Annette, Monique. and Lisa.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE NURSERY?

The nursery children have been having a great time exploring lots of different physical activities. Our children that are nearing transition are busy practicing skills such as carrying the trays and using the Montessori materials to help familiarise themselves with the Over Two environment. Our next theme for the children will be "OUR BODY". We will look at our bodies and how they work. We will focus on learning the names of body parts and what they are used for e.g. we use our mouths to eat etc.

CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

It is very important that you let a staff member know if you have a change of personal circumstances that may affect your child. This includes things such as separations, illness, and extended parental absences. These types of occasions affect each child differently; therefore, it helps us to support your child if we are aware of changes. Please feel confident that any information you share with us is treated with the strictest confidentiality.

EXTENDED DAY ART GALLERY OUTING.

Many thanks to parents who took the time to support us on our bus trip to the Public Art Gallery. We noticed many things in the city. There was plenty of underground road works and the odd crack in the buildings, plus many beautiful new sculptures and installations. The children noticed the kinetic sculptures which are usually in the foyer of the Art Gallery were removed due to the earthquake and that this space was temporarily used as the emergency centre for the city.

UPCOMING SHAPE/COLOUR/LETTERS OF THE WEEK.

Under twos	Over twos
4/10 yellow, square	h, 8, rectangle, silver
11/10 green Square	i, 9, trapezoid, white
18/10 Red triangle	j, 10, Rhombus, White
25/10 Blue Triangle	k, 11, Parallelogram, Ruby

