

Abacus Montessori Preschool

September Newsletter

It has been a very busy month and we would like to say farewell to all those children that who have headed off on their very exciting journey to school. We would also like to welcome our new families and we look forward to getting to know you all. We would also like to welcome Amber who is relieving for us in the preschool and Leanne who will be working every Thursday in the nursery.

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.
- As the days are now getting warmer, please pack a NAMED sun hat for your child.
- Please pack a change of clothes for your child daily.



What's happening in the Under Two's

This month it has been lovely to notice all the children have been very eager to contribute during mat times. The children are very confident to choose magnetic stories from the board and work well as a group by passing pictures around to their peers. The children are great role models for our younger children and for children who have just started at Abacus, who are becoming familiar with the daily routines. Everyone has shown off their abilities by remembering the shape and colour of the month – a yellow triangle. During mat times, a favourite activity everyone enjoys is tracing around his or her own chalk shape of the week on the floor. Our healthy eating focus has been most enjoyable. We all made a large food collage together and were even able to make delicious orange juice with the help of Renee and her juicer. How nice it was to sample this healthy drink at our mealtime.



What's happening in the Over Two's

We have had a very busy month, learning all about colours in our “Under the Rainbow” topic. Children are learning the names of colours in English, Māori and in sign language. The children are also beginning to be able to recognise different shades of the colour spectrum. Through fun experiences such as coloured snow cones and volcanoes in the sand pit where we have experimented with the mixing of different colours, we have created new ones and having a blast while doing so!!!

“Supporting Teachers & Children in a Traumatic Event”

On Wednesday all staff attended a 3 hour workshop “Supporting teachers & children in a traumatic event,” facilitated by Mental Health Education & Resource Centre and University of Otago Department of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. This was a hugely

informative evening and we feel this will contribute to our resources and abilities to deal with the new “Normal” in the Christchurch area post earthquake September 10 & February 11. Should any parents/families/whānau have queries or concerns please feel free to speak with a staff member. Clare.

UP COMING SHAPE/COLOUR/LETTERS OF THE WEEK

Under two's
Green - Triangle
Over two's

19/09
26/09
03/10
10/10
17/10
24/10

u, black, cone,
v, pink, triangle
w, white, pyramid
x, gold, sphere
w, silver, star
z, brown, cylinder

Montessori Corner

SPINDLE BOX

This piece of equipment helps the children to associate separate quantities 1-9 with fixed symbols (numerals). The children are also introduced to zero. Children count out a number of spindles and place them in the corresponding compartments.

Extended Day

It has been great to get back into our extended day classroom. The four year olds have been working hard on their handwriting skills and exploring our new Montessori equipment; the constructive triangles and super imposed.



LUNCHBOXES

Lunchboxes are looking great. Thank you for all your support with this. It is important that our little 'under fives' get the right nutrition to fuel their active day.

It is also important that once babies reach around six to seven months of age and have been successfully introduced to solids, we start offering some 'finger foods'. Giving babies the opportunity to learn about feeding themselves is great for co-ordination, exploration and learning about food and the world. It also strengthens muscles around their mouths therefore encouraging language development.



Healthy Recipe of the Month



Oaty Slice

What you will need

- 1 Egg
- 1/4 cup Oil
- 1/4 cup Brown Sugar
- 1/2 cup Trim Milk
- 1/4 cup Chopped Dates
- 1/4 cup Sultana
- 1 cup Wholemeal Flour
- 1/2 cup Rolled Oats
- 1 tsp Baking Powder
- 1 tsp Cinnamon

Method

1. Lightly grease a flat baking tin 18x28cm.
2. Beat egg, oil, sugar and milk together until smooth.
3. Stir in dates, sultanas, flour, rolled oats, baking powder and cinnamon.
4. Mix together.
5. Spread into tin.
6. Bake at 180C for 40-45minutes or until golden brown and firm to the touch.
7. Let cool and cut into squares

Total time: 1hr 15 mins

Show Day

On Thursday 10 November, all Abacus staff and children will be attending "Show Day." We will be requiring a one to one ratio so each child will require one adult to come. Tickets for children under 5 are free and 1/2 price for adults. Information will be coming our soon about this event.

Calendar of Events List:

12 Wednesday October – Abacus Art Expo.

10 Thursday November – Abacus attending "Show Day."