We started our first Parent Toddler sessions this year. They have been well attended with all the parents booking in for next year’s sessions. Two children have graduated to our 3 to 6 class and will be starting in the New Year.

Important dates:

10th December 2015  Concert and last day of term

16th January 2016  Maintenance day

27th January 2016  Teachers’ return to school

28th January 2015  Children return to school

Report from the Chair

Dear Montessori Families,

With the year almost over, I take the opportunity to thank each of you for your contribution to the school throughout the year. The success of the school does truly rely on input from the parent community, and even though school numbers have been lower this year, we have nevertheless had some wonderful involvement from many families.

I would also like to thank the School Council members, comprising Brian Nizette, Caroline McKeown, Louise Lecuna, Anche van Ede and Han Fei Zhang for not only attending and contributing to the monthly meetings, but also for their time in assisting in many activities in the background. Their blend of enthusiasm, humour and intelligence, (not all of them possess all three qualities) have made the meetings both productive and enjoyable.

Phone: 98890400
Email: childrenshousensw@bigpond.com
Our kindergarten programme is an integral part of our school. It not only covers all the academic requirements of the Australian curriculum and the Montessori curriculum, it also aids the transition to big school.

There are many routines and requirements that a child must adhere to at big school, such as putting their hand up to answer a question, asking to go to the bathroom, lining up before class, lining up before moving to another part of the school and transposing work from a whiteboard onto paper. In the 4th term we discuss these requirements with the kindergarten children and practice them.

Another important thing to practice is filling in worksheets. Many schools use worksheets to teach a concept. The whole class works through the sheet together, some children understand what the worksheet is about and some do not.

Here at our school we teach the concept through exposure to concrete materials. Once the concept is fully understood the children may be given a worksheet about the topic to practice ready for big school.

As part of our accreditation with the department of Education we need to keep on file many, many, many copies of lesson plans and examples of children’s work.

When you are making the decision to stay or not to stay for kindergarten, you are most welcome to meet with me and I will show you our kindergarten curriculum and work samples.

Happy holidays
Denise Underwood

HR Report

We welcomed Miss Kassie to our school this term. She will also join us in the first term next year as a maternity stand in for Miss Natalie.

As a child Miss Kassie attended a Montessori Pre-school and more recently she has completed her Montessori assistant course as well as her Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care.

We would like to thank all the teachers for their commitment during this year, enjoy your well deserved break and a we wish you a blessed 2016!
How time flies! Here we are again at the end of the term and also at the end of the year. What a great term and year it has been.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new students Amelia Grati, Marissa Chan and Sam Dimarco who joined us this term, and their families to the school community. Our class has also been getting to know Kassie who is our new assistant. We would like to welcome Kassie to our team.

This term the children have been studying and learning about different things around us. The three year olds took a closer look at things that live in the water. So far this year they have also enjoyed learning more about farm, zoo and Australian bush animals. The four year olds discovered the life cycle of a butterfly. They have in the past year studied the human body – exploring the five senses, the life cycle of the frog and learnt about people in their community. We were lucky to be visited by the Gladesville Fire Department, a local police officer, a nurse (one of our parents Regina Ashdown) and a dentist from the Children’s Dentistry.

The extended day children over the recent months have explored time, the solar system and the different eras of our world. They have also had a busy year learning about land and water forms, Australia, things that grow, the different continents, and numerous science topics and experiments.

In October we celebrated Halloween and those of you dropping off and picking up wouldn’t have been able to miss our decorations, a lot of them made by the children, hung by Miss Chandani on and around the front door. We had another successful guest day. The children really look forward to having their family members with them in their classroom and being able to show them their favourite activities and what they have learnt.

The children continue to follow their individual programs and work with the materials at their own pace. As Christmas beckons they have also been enjoying different art activities, which they have been decorating the classroom with.

The extended day children visited the Australian museum this term for their excursion, which complemented and concluded their study of the planets and the eras on Earth. Thank you to those parents who accompanied Miss Denise and helped to make the excursion happen.

As you know observations and interviews were also
held this term. We hope you enjoyed another chance, more formal than guest day, to watch your child in the preschool environment and gain an insight into the work they do.

The children continue to love cooking up a storm on Thursdays. Lately cooking jam tarts, ‘mouse traps’, muffins and making jelly. They enjoy preparing food for themselves and learning about the ingredients and cooking procedures. These sessions give the children experience in working as a group and at the same time contribute greatly to their concentration, self-esteem and independence.

Each week we have continued music time on Fridays. The children experiment with playing instruments and dancing to rhythms, which has been essential practice for our concert dances and performance. The end of year concert will be held on Thursday, 10th December. We hope to see you there!

The staff would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and the very best for the holidays and the New Year.

Report from Chairperson Continued

To all the staff at the school, a huge THANK YOU. Your care and concern for our children is greatly appreciated and it has been a joy to see our children develop under your tutelage. Hopefully you have a well earned rest over the Christmas break.

Each year, we are sad to see a cohort of children move on from our school. I congratulate Hamish, Eliza, Gabriel, Soniru, James, Thomas, Veeva, Hayden and of course Talia for all their achievements here and wish them all the best in their next school.

On a personal level, I have seen Talia blossom and gain so much confidence during her 3 years at Montessori, and the way the school has helped with her transition to primary school for next year has been beyond expected.

Finally, I know that the children (as well as the parents) have developed strong friendships during their time here and I hope that this can continue well beyond the Children’s House.

Regardless, whether past or present members, you will always remain part of the Children’s House Montessori Family.

Have a Merry Christmas and fantastic New Year.

Regards,
Brad Chan
Chairperson
### JANUARY
- **Sat 16th** Maintenance Day
- **Tues 26th** Australia Day
- **Wed 27th** Teachers resume for term 1
- **Thurs 28th** Students resume for term 1

### FEBRUARY
- **Tues 16th** Council Meeting at school 7.30pm

### MARCH
- **Thurs 10th** Parent Info Evening (Practical life & Sensorial)
- **Sat 12th** Open day
- **Tues 15th** Council Meeting at school 7.30pm
- **Fri 25th** Good Friday
- **Mon 28th** Easter Monday

### APRIL
- **Fri 8th** School concludes for term 1
- **Sat 9th** Maintenance Day
- **Mon 25th** Anzac Day
- **Tues 26th** Teachers resume for term 2
- **Tues 26th** AGM at school 7.00pm
- **Tues 26th** Council Meeting at school 7.30pm
- **Wed 27th** Students resume for term 2

### MAY
- **Thurs 12th** Parent Info Evening (Language & Maths)
- **Tues 17th** Council Meeting at school 7.30pm
- **Fri 27th** Guest Day
  - BBQ Fundraiser TBA

### JUNE
- **Fri 10th** Teacher Professional Development (no school)
- **Mon 13th** Queen’s Birthday Holiday
- **Tues 21st** Council Meeting at school 7.30pm
  - BBQ Fundraiser TBA

### JULY
- **Fri 1st** School concludes for term 2
- **Sat 16th** Maintenance Day
- **Mon 18th** Teachers resume for term 3
- **Tue 19th** Students resume for term 3
- **Tues 19th** Council Meeting at School 7.30pm

### AUGUST
- **Thurs 4th** Parent Information Evening (for Kindergarten)
- **Tues 16th** Council Meeting at school 7.30pm

### SEPTEMBER
- **Fri 2nd** Guest Day
- **Tues 20th** Council Meeting at school 7.30pm
- **Fri 23rd** School concludes for term 3
  - Photos TBA

### OCTOBER
- **Sat 8th** Maintenance Day
- **Mon 10th** Teachers resume for term 4
- **Tues 11th** Students resume for term 4
- **Tues 18th** Council Meeting at school 7.30pm

### NOVEMBER
- **Thurs 3rd** Guest speaker
- **Fri 4th** Teacher Preparation Day (no school)
- **Sat 12th** Orientation Day for new families
- **Tues 15th** Council Meeting at school 7.30pm
- **Sat 19th** Annual Fundraising Event

### DECEMBER
- **Thurs 8th** Last Day of term 4 & End of Year Concert
- **Fri 9th** Teacher Preparation Day (no school)
  - **NB** Student Observations and Parent Teacher Interviews are held during the last half of term 2 and 4
Major Fundraiser 2015

This year we changed the format of our annual fundraiser and held a social event at the school.

We ran a raffle, which raised $4450 and sold 3 beautiful pieces of children’s art for a combined total of $3400.

I would like to thank our sponsors for donating such great prizes.

Thanks again for all your assistance, the teachers and children really appreciate your efforts.