



The Children's House Montessori School

The Kindergarten children went to the aquarium this term by bus.

Miss Renae and Miss Louise accompanied them.



Term 1 2020

DEAR MONTESSORI FAMILIES

And so has begun 2020 – a year that has started like no other, with the impact of the catastrophic Australian bushfires felt far and wide coupled with the rising threat of COVID-19.

As the COVID-19 situation sends ripples around Australia and across the world, I wanted to provide our community and families with an update about the precautionary measures we are taking as a school.

The health and wellbeing of our staff, the children and our families is our priority. The school currently has no related cases of COVID-19, and we continue operating our school, and educating our children.

We are applying the latest advice in the Australian Government Department of Health fact sheets for Coronavirus including the guidelines for employers and continue to monitor the NSW Department of Education website for updates.

As the situation develops, the school will keep you updated on our approach to the situation.

On a lighter note I warmly welcome all the new families and hope you have been made to feel close and

connected to the school since commencing.

There are many initiatives that we will see at the school over this year of which timings of these will be finalized once we have weathered the impacts of COVID-19.

Based on the current situation the council has resolved not to increase fees this year. Additionally, we may look at further measures once we are through the uncertainty and we understand the full ramifications.

Please also make sure you read the emails Denise is sending. If you have any further questions you can also contact the School or the council.

In the meantime, thank you for continuing to focus on supporting each other, and please take care.

Regards,

Andrew Hansen

Chairperson (Darcy's Dad)

CLASS REPORT

This year the term has gotten off to a busy start with us welcoming a number of new students into the classroom. We extend a warm welcome to Scarlett Aman, Flynn Malong, Joshua Markham, Ian Cheung, Alicia Zhang and Elijah Namoa along with their families. They are settling in well and learning the classroom routines.

To start the year off the three year olds have been focusing on learning about farm animals. They have enjoyed listening to stories about horses, ducks, cows and pigs and then made their own animal of each to take home. These craft activities have given them the opportunity to practise their fine motor skills incorporated when using pencils and scissors.



The four year olds are learning about the human body. They are exploring the five senses, gaining some understanding of each one. They have had

opportunities to experience the senses through learning baskets set up on the shelves in the classroom, each one highlighting a different sense.



The extended day children have also been busy studying a range of different subjects across the curriculum. They have been working on a land and water forms book. They continue to gain knowledge about many landforms such as islands, lakes, bays, capes, gulfs and peninsulas. They have made their own landforms with clay.



The class has also started a world book. They learn about a country each week following the alphabet. With this study, the children learn about each country's language, currency, its

population, neighbouring countries, the climate, places of interest and the significance of their flag.

In the area of creative arts, they have been studying famous artists. They have created their own pieces of art inspired by Claude Monet, Ken Done (which you can see inside the main doors of the preschool) and Margaret Preston who was a famous still life painter. For their own still life painting, the children arranged cut flowers into a vase to paint.



The science focus topics for the extended day children this term are colours and magnets. They have learnt about primary, secondary and neutral colours. They have conducted many experiments involving mixing different colour combinations and by adding white to discover the results. The children used magnets to discover which things were magnetic and which of those were magnetic conductors.

A key part of extended day is getting the chance to go on excursions. Just recently, the children went on a trip to the Sydney Aquarium as part of their study about things that live in the water. They were very excited and looked forward to their outing together. They were able to see sharks, manta rays, dugongs being fed, seahorses, jellyfish and many different species of fish.



They went on a boat ride to see the penguins, which replicated the cold waters and environment of Antarctica. Luckily, they all had a jacket to put on to keep them warm. The children also had the opportunity to touch starfish, sea urchins and shark eggs at the touch pool. It was a very exciting and enjoyable day.

The class continues to enjoy cooking on Mondays. For the new additions to our classroom, it is a chance to experience and learn to sieve flour, beat eggs and roll out dough. As a result of the cooking sessions, the

students experience how to work collaboratively as part of a team. They learn about the ingredients that go into the cooking and how to follow a recipe.

Throughout the term, we have been highlighting and learning different cultural occasions such as Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day and St Patrick's Day. These celebrations give the children the opportunity to share their culture and learn more about different commemorative days.



With Easter, approaching the students will have the chance to engage with different Easter themed art and craft activities. The students will be decorating their own hats, which they will wear for the Easter hat parade that will take place during our end of term picnic. We hope you can join us for this special event within the school grounds on the last day.

As this first term of the year draws to an end, the staff would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and of course a very happy Easter!



We look forward to seeing you all on your return at the beginning of term two.

Kindergarten Information Evening

On Thursday 21st May

As you may be aware we are accredited to have kindergarten age children at our school.

We have a ratio of 1 teacher per 7 students which is quite different from the ratio of 1 teacher to 28 students at main stream schools.

The students do from 12pm to 2.30pm over and above the morning class. These hours are at no extra cost as the school and Department of Education subsidize these hours.

Please come and see the extensive program they achieve during these hours.

Any family is welcome whether you are attending kindergarten next year or the year after.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Information and advice regarding COVID-19 is continually changing, and the Department of Health is providing daily updates on the latest medical advice and official reports. This includes a listing of those countries for which exclusions apply for returning travelers. We recommend that you regularly refer to this [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) health alert page](#) to ensure you are up to date.

I can assure you our school will comply with any directions or instructions in accordance with NSW Health advice and the Department of Education.

Consistent with current guidelines and practices, students and staff who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve. If any student becomes unwell while at school, the school will implement appropriate infection control measures and follow the advice from NSW Health.

If a school student or staff member is identified as a COVID-19 case, the local NSW Health public health unit will provide information to the school about the appropriate response, including identification of contacts and advice to the school community.

Please email the school if your child is going to be away, and please explain why as we need to keep accurate records of absences.

Fundraising

This year we hope to raise \$10,000 to go towards the sunshade on the front deck and to replace some of our wooden maps that have been with us for a long time.

We have held 2 BBQ's and raised \$2900 so far this year. A big thank you to Joe and Laura for organising the BBQ's and to the parents who assisted.

We are still on the lookout for 1 more council member to take the fundraising coordinators position. If you are interested, please contact Denise for a job description.

Parent Toddler

Our **Parent Toddler** sessions are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9.30 am to 11.30 am.

These sessions are great for new parents to the school to meet the teachers and talk to parents who already have a child attending the 3 to 6 class.

If you have a child approaching 18 months it would be a good idea to come and book a place for Term 2 2020.



Contact the Principal at childrenshousensw@gmail.com