

NORTHSIDE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

# CHRONICLE

*summer*

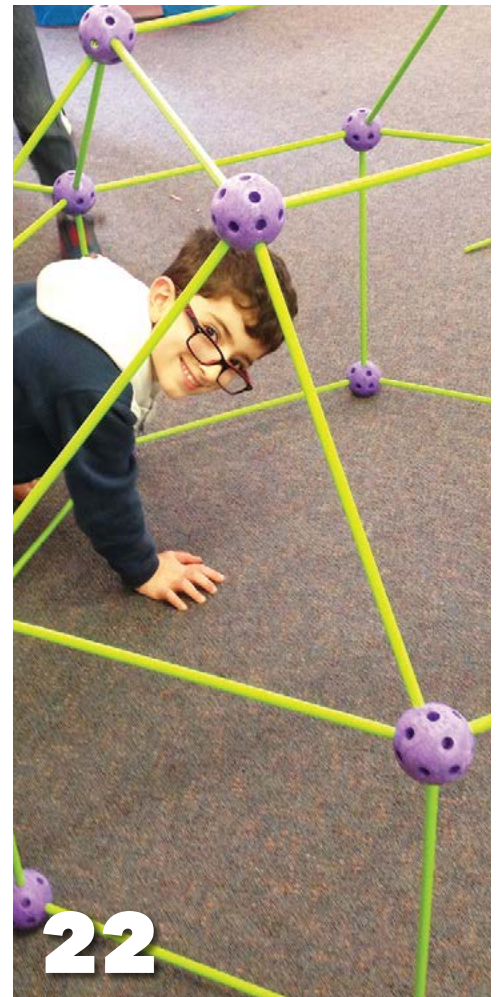
*parenting*

THE  
MONTESSORI  
WAY

7 Key Phrases  
Montessori  
Educators Use -  
and why you should  
use them too!

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SPRING 2017 **NORTHSIDE CHRONICLE**



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NORTHSIDE CHRONICLE  
SUMMER 2017

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# from the acting principal

## SEE HOW WE HAVE GROWN!!

*The children have made great gains this year, both physical, mentally and emotionally and their readiness to progress to the next year is becoming evident.*

by Fiona Walker



As the end of the year rapidly approaches, it is a time to pause and reflect on the year that has been. It has been one of great change at Northside and Stepping Stones, but also a year of incredible growth. The children have made great gains this year, both physical, mentally and emotionally and their readiness to progress to the next year is becoming evident.

There have been so many wonderful moments for me this year. Seeing the joy of children as they do something for the first time is always special. I have seen children conquer a fear and seen the determination on a young face as they try to work through a complex task. The "aha" moment when a child finally understands the steps involved is a moment to be treasured by both the child and those around them. It has been a pleasure to witness some of these moments for the children and to see that this joy is shared by their classmates and educators alike. For me the kindness that the children show to each other and the way the older child willingly assists a younger classmate is a special part of our Montessori school.

When speaking to the Pre-Primary children about some of their highlights this year, there were many common themes. Many children spoke of making new friends and spending time together playing. Others spoke of specific achievements within the classroom; the joys of learning to read and write and mastering clock work. But most of all, they spoke of feeling part of a class and expressed a true sense of belonging. This sentiment was echoed throughout the years and speaks to the sense of community that can be found within the school.

I would like to express my thanks to all our staff at both Northside and Stepping Stones, whether teaching or administrative. The staff have worked tirelessly this year to ensure that the children have the

For me the kindness that the children show to each other and the way the older child willingly assists a younger classmate is a special part of our Montessori school.

We look forward to welcoming our new Principal, Adam Scotney, to the school. Adam brings a wealth of educational experience to the role and his commitment to learning more about Montessori methodology has been evident through all the training he has already undertaken.

best opportunities we can offer. Their dedication and passion for teaching and for Montessori is evident in all they do. I would also like to thank all our parent volunteers who have given of their time this year. Your contribution to the school is vital and much appreciated.

And so our thoughts begin to turn to 2018. We look forward to welcoming our new Principal, Adam Scotney, to the school. Adam brings a wealth of educational experience to the role and his commitment to learning more about Montessori methodology has been evident through all the training he has already undertaken. The school will also be celebrating its 40th birthday in 2018. Planning is already underway for special events next year. We welcome contact from any alumni of the school and hope they can be involved in our celebrations. Any members of our school community interested in contributing to the planning of these events is encouraged to contact the office.

I would like to wish the school community a wonderful festive season. May it be a special time with your families and a chance to rest and relax with loved ones.

Fiona Walker  
Acting Principal





# board corner

## WE NEED YOU!

*Are you passionate about Montessori?  
Are you looking for a way to get more involved,  
and have more of an influence over the School's  
strategic direction?*

...it provides the opportunity for you to make a meaningful long-term contribution to the school. We on the Board are tasked with ensuring the continued success and longevity of the school for future generations, in accordance with our Mission to provide an exemplary environment and Montessori education.

**T**he Board of the Northside Montessori Society always welcomes new members.

Usually, we accept nominations from prospective Directors for election at the AGM in April. However, currently, we have 2 CASUAL VACANCIES we would love to fill.

We are particularly looking for community members with skills/background in law, accounting, or marketing – but if that's not you, never fear. The only real requirements are an enthusiasm to get involved and a willingness to put agendas aside and make decisions in the best interest of the whole school.

Board members may either be members of the society (if you have a child at the school you are a member) or 'independent'. We welcome independent members, so if you know someone who is not a school parent but who you think might be interested in joining our Board, please ask them to contact us to discuss.

## WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

The Board meets on average once a month, in the evening, during school terms, with occasional extra meetings if required. There is some pre-reading to do to prepare. At the meetings, we discuss and make decisions as required on the school's financials, and matters of strategic importance.

Our primary responsibility is to appoint the Principal, and all operational matters are then delegated to the Principal. Other Board responsibilities are to set the strategic direction and budget for the coming year, and to oversee financial management, risk, compliance and other strategic matters.

There are formal Governance training requirements, an average of 4 hours' per year - the School will provide opportunities to ensure you meet these requirements. If this is your first Board appointment you may want to undertake additional training initially; this will also be supported.

If you join a subcommittee there will be extra meetings of that group. These meetings are not as frequent, and we will discuss requirements with you before you commit to anything.

We often ask for volunteers to take on an additional task, project or role, however these are usually not too onerous.

...currently,  
we have 2 casual  
vacancies we  
would love  
to fill.

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Being a director on the Board of NMS is personally rewarding. We are a collegiate, collaborative and supportive group.

As with any directorship, being on the Board could be great for your professional development. There is the opportunity to learn new skills, through being across everything that's involved in running our school, including financials, marketing, governance, risk, compliance and legal matters.

Best of all, it provides the opportunity for you to make a meaningful long-term contribution to the school. We on the Board are tasked with ensuring the continued success and longevity of the school for future generations, in accordance with our Mission to provide an exemplary environment and Montessori education.

Oh, and as an added bonus, Board membership will fulfil your family's support hours commitment for the period of time you are on the Board!

If you'd like to share your energy, skill sets and talents with us, please get in contact. You can approach any of the current Board members (listed below), send an email to [chair@northsidemontessori.nsw.edu.au](mailto:chair@northsidemontessori.nsw.edu.au), or leave a message for us with the Office, and one of us will call you back.

We look forward to welcoming you!

The Board

- **Sharon Bowman** (mum of Isabel, PM, and Amelia, PJ)
- **Sam Baker** (mum of Ella, PM, and Georgie, PJ)
- **Vince Scappatura** (dad of Leo, Brolga, and Luca, IC room at Stepping Stones)
- **Alejandro Sanchez** (dad of Natalia and Nicolas, PJ, and Sebastian, Brolga)
- **Mal Hebblewhite** (dad of Isabella, PM, and Alessandra, Rosella)
- **Chandan Kaur** (mum of Oshin, PJ)
- **Stuart Parker** (dad of Andie, PM)

# infant & toddler

## PROGRAMS

*As we get ready to part for our much-needed school holiday, I challenge you all to practise 'The Pause'.*

by Megan Nguyen  
(Infant & Toddler Directress)

It is always hard to believe when the last term of the year arrives and here it is. This is one term when I particularly do a lot of reflection about our toddler environment and what changes or modifications I might want to make for the space. Montessori education is never stagnant but fluid. In order to make the Prepared Environment work, one must always take the information from the power of observation and utilise it to best follow the child.

Parenting a toddler is often a challenging gig. I get it. I have had three of them, all two years apart I might add.

### IN OUR TODDLER PARENT PROGRAM

there is always an abundant amount of information observed. Brain development occurs more rapidly in these first three years than any other time in life. Changes are seen in the child's development mostly by observation. So what are we looking for exactly you might ask? This is a common question from parents who have infants and toddlers and a very important one. As a Directress, I simply follow Dr. Montessori's advice: "Look to the child." This is where the answers always lie; not in books or through Google. Each child is so unique and different. We all know by now there will never be a parenting manual on the market specifically for your child. There can only be one author to that book and that is your child. We as parents are lucky to be able to have the opportunity to co-author that book, but it could never be written without truly seeing and listening to our child's needs and desires.





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## LIFE HAPPENS

The thing with your toddler's manual is that it is often all over the place. One day he loves bananas, the next day he hates them. Last week he was conquering the slippery dip and today he is petrified of it. Life happens. Experiences happen. The chapters get rewritten all the time! There are great moments as a parent where you feel so inspired by this book that you just can't put it down and others when you wonder when the chapter is ever going to end. Parenting a toddler is often a challenging gig. I get it. I have had three of them, all two years apart I might add. I know sleep deprivation and melt downs in public. However, when I get back to our simpler roots I find peace, calm and hope. This is all found in something so simple but rare in today's busy world. The Pause.

Perhaps he longs for more independence at home... Maybe the environment is overstimulating or under challenging.

## THE PAUSE

is where as a parent you stop what you are doing even if it is amidst chaos. You take a breath, sit for a moment and observe the situation and collect information. It's important to do all this without judgement. Notice your child, the space and yourself. What do you see or feel? What is your child trying to accomplish? Perhaps he longs for more independence at home but there are limited opportunities. Maybe the environment is overstimulating or under challenging. Tune into the positive things as well and feel inspiration from them. Notice your own body. Do you feel relaxed or tense? Practicing The Pause is so important because it forces us to be more in tune to the world around us and what our child is trying to tell us. The child's Sensitive Periods are discovered in these moments and with that knowledge we can prepare an environment that will best suit his current needs.



## AS WE GET READY

to part for our much-needed school holiday, I challenge you all to practise The Pause. It will require self-discipline if it is not something you usually do. You might even try setting an alarm to remind you. The rewards are great for so many reasons; including mental health. Plus, it is setting a wonderful example for your child when he sees stillness in his parent—it's not extinct after all! Yes, it exists but we often have to make time for it now as it no longer seems natural for many.

I wish the entire Northside community a safe and relaxing holiday. May it be one of rejuvenation and joy found in the simplest moments.

Megan Nguyen  
0-3 Directress



# stepping stones

## NIDO ROOM

With the weather getting warmer, we have set up some outdoor space giving children the opportunity to choose either indoor or outdoor activities. The children have been taking care of their physical health and wellbeing through learning sun safe practices. They have been applying their own sunscreen and ensuring that they are wearing their hats before going out. Repeating the process has developed a routine and procedure which many of the children are now confident in expressing and following independently. They are developing so many skills in this simple, everyday process. They have loved sandpit play, water experiences and catching bubbles outdoors as well as the undercover work area with books, animals and nesting dolls.

With the end of year fast approaching we have had some children transitioning to the Infant Community room. They have spent time with familiar educators in the new environments to create a sense of security and comfort as they explore and connect to the new environment and build new relationships.

We are looking forward to Christmas and end of year celebrations coming up with plans of creative art explorations, cooking experiences and sharing time with families to celebrate before our holiday break. We would love to hear how families are celebrating or spending their holidays so we can incorporate this into our curriculum towards the end of the year. Please feel welcome to share any thoughts, ideas or celebrations with us to add into our planning.

Karla Moggs

Nido Room Leader

The children have been taking care of their physical health and wellbeing through learning sun safe practices and applying their own sunscreen.













## IC ROOM

There is much excitement in the IC lately around our scientific and practical life discovery areas. Magnets, locks and keys are causing such a sensation. Working with magnets provides the children with the opportunity to discover the concept of magnetism, cause and effect and problem solving. The children's expressions are priceless when they first feel and see the impact of a magnetic field. There is a lot of conversation among the children about objects that will or won't 'stick' to the magnet.

Our lock and key tray has become one of the most popular activities for the children. Opening a lock with a key may seem like a simple task, but the co-ordination required makes it quite difficult for young hands. This activity attracts the curious learner and teaches perseverance. Not all the children are successful in their first attempt to open a lock, but they are determined to master it.

Also popular is the opening and closing tray. Working with a variety of containers strengthens the children's fine motor muscles, challenges them and teaches the mechanics of everyday items.

The warmer weather has been enjoyed by all with the children making the most of outdoor play. Playing with bubbles has been a recent hit in the playground. Chasing bubbles is a fun and interactive way of learning and developing spatial awareness and gross motor planning which is important to ensure the safety of the child and others around them. Who'd have thought that developing strength, co-ordination and endurance could be so much fun?

With the end of year approaching, the IC children have started working on special Christmas gifts for their families. I'm sure you will be very impressed with their efforts.

It's been another busy year. I hope that the Stepping Stones community take time to relax, recharge and enjoy the company of family and friends during the upcoming holiday season.

Belinda De Santi.  
IC Room Leader



There is much excitement in the IC lately around our scientific and practical life discovery areas. Magnets, locks and keys are causing such a sensation.









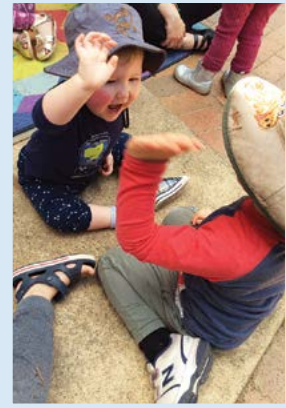
## CASA ROOM

The Casa Room is a buzz of excitement with the older children preparing to start school next year. They have shared their experiences of transition days at school with great enthusiasm which has led to lots of writing practice. To further enhance their experiences, we have introduced a 'sign in' sheet where each child is given the opportunity to write their name each day. It has been lovely to see the older children supporting the younger children with their writing, even showing them how to use the sandpaper letters.

We recently had a visit from Healthy Harold where the concepts of gratitude and thankfulness were explored through storytelling, games, music and Harold the giraffe. The session utilised prior knowledge and taught children to be aware of their emotions and those of others. Gaining new vocabulary and learning how to communicate their feelings has enabled children to build on their interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. Whilst building positive connections with others, they also enhanced their sense of belonging. Each child was provided with some activities to do at home to reinforce their learning.

With Christmas fast approaching the children have been happily singing 'Jingle Bells' throughout the day. To incorporate this interest into the program we introduced 'Aussie Jingle Bells' by Colin Buchanan into our morning circle time to reflect a more Australian Christmas. Over the next few weeks we will be incorporating arts and crafts into our daily routine.

Amanda Annear  
Casa Room Leader



We recently had a visit from Healthy Harold where the concepts of gratitude and thankfulness were explored through storytelling, games, music and Harold the giraffe.







# pre-primary update

*The Pre-Primary classrooms have been a busy hive of activity this past term. We have welcomed some new children and enjoyed watching those children who were once three years old now blossoming into independent 6 year olds.*

by Marina Ridley (3-6 Directress)

For the extended day child, having worked with the materials for some time and explored the presented lessons, it is now time to ask 'what if I'...



The egocentricity of the past is starting to change. Suddenly Practical Life exercises are coming out and being done for the good of the group rather than personal gain.

**T**erm 4 is always a rewarding time. It is a time of consolidation for many children and a wonderful time of exploration for our Extended Day's. Many of the Sensorial materials in the Children's House have such wonderful possibilities. It is really only the child who has been in the environment for 3 or more years who is really able to take advantage of this. Having worked with the materials for some time and explored the presented lessons, it is now time to ask 'what if I'.... and then we see all the boxes of triangles come out as we did today and be used in new ways. We learn of relationships that we had not thought of between materials and we see that excitement and joy at what can be achieved with freedom, knowledge and skill. We often witness the 'normalised' child.

In this newsletter, I seem to be focussing on the Extended Day child and at this time of the year, they attract our attention. They are starting to change. Some are loosing teeth and many are growing taller. These physical changes, together with changes in their behaviours, let us know that they are ready to move into the next plane of development - that of the 6-12 year old child.

And yet, they still have much to offer the 3-6 environment. It ceases to be just about themselves. The egocentricity of the past is starting to change. Suddenly Practical Life exercises are coming out and being done for the good of the group rather than personal gain. Sweeping up spills for others, preparing snacks, tying aprons for the littler children, cleaning shelves and so on. They are helpful, they are sometimes a bit too confident, they are modelling just what we hope they will for the next group of Extended Day children following.



## WE AS THE ADULTS

marvel and then we turn our attention to the four year olds and we wonder whether they are really ready. The Extended Day year is such a journey with so much development and change, we often forget where they began!

We hope that all of you get the opportunity to experience this wonderful transition time when your child reaches Extended Day and beyond. The three year cycle is an amazing journey for every child.

Marina Ridley  
3-6 Directress

# news

## FROM OUR 6-9 CLASS

*Throughout the term the children in the 6-9 classroom have enjoyed preparing for the class environmental expo.*

by Janene Johnson & Claire Fenton  
(6-9 Directresses)

**A**long with developing the children's understanding of global issues, this unit of work also provides the children with the opportunity to practise important skills such as planning, researching, summarising and time management. At the beginning of the term the children were placed into mixed level groups and provided with a topic to research. The topics included climate change, recycling, saving water, energy, soil pollution, deforestation, over fishing, overpopulation, air pollution and the introduction of exotic species. A group was also asked to research the environmental impacts industry is having on the Great Barrier Reef. To begin the project each group separated their topic into parts for each student to research. Using the information books in the classroom and school library the children summarised and translated written text into their own words. The teachers were aware of the difficulty of this task and ensured they worked together with the children at all times to help them to translate information. The children enjoyed publishing their information on the computer using Word and presenting their information and illustrations on cardboard. The children also found interesting and creative ways to provide parents and students with information to take home. The enthusiasm and interest each child demonstrated whilst presenting their work at the environmental expo was wonderful to see.

The enthusiasm and interest each child demonstrated whilst presenting their work at the environmental expo was wonderful to see.

### THE CLASS WILL BE

attending the 'Mammoths - Giants of the Ice Age' exhibition at the Australian Museum on Friday 1st December. When the children enter the 6-9 classroom they are introduced to all of the key learning areas through the Montessori Great stories. The Timeline of life, Timeline of man, Timeline of the hand, Long black strip and Clock of Era's are the Great stories told for the area of History. As its name suggests, The Timeline of life introduces the children to the different periods of evolution. Using the Timeline of Man the children study stages of human development and move on to learn about the stages of human progress by studying clothing, art, defence, communication and housing. The exhibition at the Australian Museum will help the children to consolidate learnt concepts and to experience the information in a new and exciting way. The children will also have the opportunity to put into practice all of the skills they learnt from the 'Safe Living' unit of work. This work required the children to recognise that their safety depends on the environment and the behaviour of themselves and others.

The grandparents' open morning provided a wonderful opportunity to meet many of the children's families.

## MANY EVENTS

have occurred throughout the term. The grandparents' open morning provided a wonderful opportunity to meet many of the children's families. The children were really excited to use the materials to demonstrate their knowledge and proudly showed their work to their grandparents. The children also enjoyed having the opportunity to share morning tea with their family on the day.



## DURING THE TERM

the class welcomed the children in extended day into the environment. All of the children settled in beautifully and took part in lessons with enthusiasm and interest. We look forward to welcoming the children back into the class next year. The level three students also had the opportunity to spend time in the 9-12 classroom. Whilst they will be sadly missed next year, it is clearly evident that they are ready to move on to the next learning environment.







## WE LOOK FORWARD

to the primary end of year afternoon tea which will be held at the school on Friday 8th December from 1:30pm to 2:30pm. The Graduation Ceremony will also be held on Friday 8th December at 6:00pm. Celebrating the end of year 6 is a very special event for the children, parents and teachers. We hope to see you on the evening to take part in the graduation of the year 6 students and to watch all of the children at the school perform their music pieces on stage.



## THANK YOU

Janene and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Emma Spencer and Julie Vickers for all of their work as class parents. The help that you provide to Janene and I is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank all of the parents who have come in to the classroom throughout the year. This term Ming-Wei came in to give a talk to the 6-9 and 9-12 children on germs. This was an interesting and insightful talk which the children and staff enjoyed very much.

Janene and I are looking forward to working with the children during the remaining weeks of the school year.

Janene Johnson  
6-9 Directress

Claire Fenton  
6-9 Directress

# oosh update

by Surendrini Giritharan  
(OOSH Coordinator)

**O**ur busy year is finally coming to an end! It was a smooth transition for all the children who joined throughout the year. They all settled in really well and mingled with peers and other age groups alike.

Each day the OOSH staff create a daily program covering Learning and Wellbeing. The children participate in these enrichment programs through various arts, crafts and cooking activities.

We also do termly observations of each child individually and in group situations.

We see almost all the children getting involved in some form of group activity, collaborative game or generally enjoying being active.



## THE FRONT PLAY AREA

has been an attractive playing ground for the children. They got to access a variety of activities and equipment suitable to different age groups. In addition, the garden has been a truly educational experience for the children, as they wander around investigating all that nature has to offer. We see almost all the children getting involved in some form of group activity, collaborative game or generally enjoying being active. In particular, soccer and cricket have become very popular. The primary school children are very happy and patient in explaining and involving the pre-primary kids in their games.

## THE OOSH STAFF

ensure that the children's diet contains two fruits, two vegetables, one carbohydrate and one dairy product each day. There is a strict no sugar or white products policy, to ensure we practice healthy eating habits and promote the children to do the same. Of course, there are exceptions on cooking days when we do make a sweet treat.

Food is also prepared strictly taking into consideration every child's allergies and special dietary requirements. This includes a no nut policy for the safety of all the children!

We know how much every parent worries about their child's safety, so a task sheet is filled out every single day about the safety and practice of the activities being performed.



The OOSH staff ensure that the children's diet contains two fruits, two vegetables, one carbohydrate and one dairy product each day.

## OUR HOLIDAY PROGRAM

incursions, particularly Moving Bodies, are becoming very popular. They have given the children a better variety of activities to participate in and we are happy to be receiving positive feedback from parents and children alike.

In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all the children who are leaving our school this year the very best in wherever they go next.

Finally, a big thank you to all our wonderful staff members Sandra, Veena, Kalpana, Christine, Sirisha, Hyun, Blandine and Yuki. Ladies, without your commitment, cooperation and support the program wouldn't have been possible.

Seasons greetings and I hope you have a relaxing and safe holiday!

Surendrini Giritharan  
OOSH Coordinator





# parenting

## THE MONTESSORI WAY

*Recently I came across a great article by Christina Clemer. It had such a positive message that I'd like to share an amended version with you.*

by Margaret Kroeger (9-12 Directress)

### 7 KEY PHRASES MONTESSORI EDUCATORS USE - AND WHY YOU SHOULD USE THEM TOO!

Adapted from an article by Christina Clemer

**M**ontessori can be hard to sum up in a few words - it's so much more than a philosophy on education and children. It runs much deeper. It's a way of seeing the world and your role within it. A great way to see the essence of Montessori is to observe in a Montessori classroom and see first-hand what Montessori educators do and say.

Montessori educators tend to use language that respects the child and provides consistent expectations. Words are chosen carefully to encourage children to be independent, intrinsically motivated critical thinkers. Here are 7 key phrases that you can incorporate into your home.

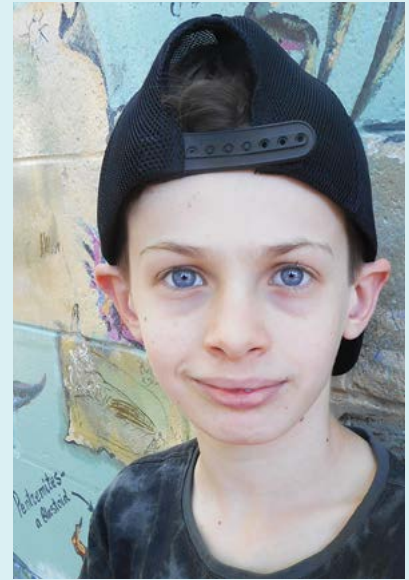
Here are 7 key phrases that you can incorporate into your home.

#### 1. I SAW YOU WORKING HARD.

The focus is on process over product. Praising your child's hard work and focus rather than the results, helps instil a growth mindset. Children can then make the realisation that they can improve through their own efforts.

#### 2. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR WORK?

The children are their own teachers. We, as educators, are there as guides to help connect the child to Montessori materials. We give lessons and set up an environment to support the child. But the work is done by the child, through their interactions with the materials. Self-analysis is a big part of that discovery. When your child asks, 'Do you like my picture?' try asking him/her about it instead. Ask what he/she thinks about it, how she/he decided what colours to use, or what her/his favourite part is. Help her/him start to evaluate her/his work for himself/herself, rather than looking for outside approval.



Don't just  
sweep in and  
solve everything.  
Ask how would  
you like me to  
help you?





### 3. WHERE CAN YOU LOOK FOR THAT?

Independence is at the core of Montessori. Our goal as educators is to help the children to do it for themselves. While it may be easier and quicker to simply answer a child's question about where something is, or how to do something, try answering questions with another question. 'Where could you look for that?'

### 4. WHICH PART WOULD YOU LIKE HELP WITH?

In a Montessori classroom, children are responsible for many things. This includes maintaining the environment and caring for class plants and animals. Sometimes though, a job is just too big and overwhelming. In a case like this, ask how we can help. Don't just sweep in and solve everything. Ask how would you like me to help you? If a child has lego all over the floor and is overwhelmed, help him/her break down the task. What colour can I help you put away?

#### TRY THESE KEY PHRASES AT HOME.

Not only will you be using consistent language and guidance as your child's educators, but you may be surprised with the impact these seven small phrases can have.



### 5. 'IN OUR CLASS, WE...' OR 'IN OUR HOME, WE...'

This little phrase makes clear desired behaviour whilst reassuring the child that he/she is an important member of a larger community.

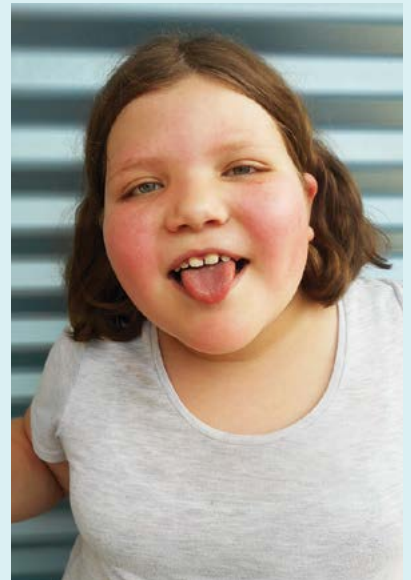
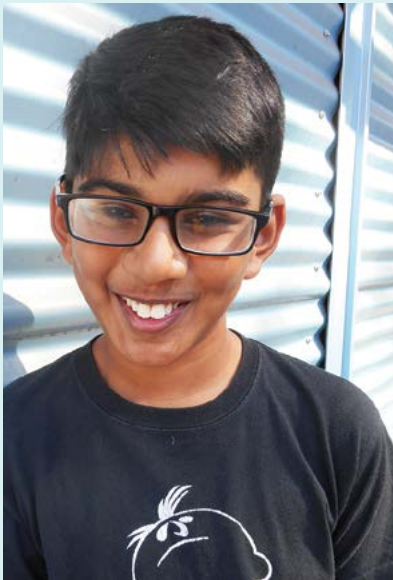
### 6. 'DON'T DISTURB THEM, THEY'RE CONCENTRATING'

Protecting children's concentration is a fundamental part of the Montessori philosophy. It can be tempting to compliment a child who is working beautifully, but sometimes even making eye contact can break their concentration.

### 7. FOLLOW THE CHILD

This doesn't mean letting a child do whatever he/she likes. Instead we trust that each child is on his/her own developmental timeline. That he/she is doing something for a reason.

This reminds us to search for the reason behind the behaviour. This also reminds us that not all children will do the same thing at the same time. Not all children will be walking at one or reading by six. Following the child means remembering that each child is unique and has his/her own individual needs, passions and strengths. As such he should be guided accordingly.





# reflections

## FROM OUR 9-12 CLASS

*2017 has certainly been a fun, eventful and productive year for the 9-12. I recently asked each of the children what they'll remember best about 2017. Their answers were diverse but incredibly enthusiastic.*



### MY FAVOURITE MEMORY

was walking into class for the first day of Term 1. Our friends were there, all the Montessori materials were waiting on the shelf and it was really exciting. We got to know the new Year 4s too. That's my favourite day.

### GOING TO NEW YORK

for Montessori Model United Nations was my favourite time. I learnt so much and saw so many new things.

### I LOVED EVERYTHING

to do with our production of 'Aladdin.' I still remember what it felt like to be standing in the wings waiting excitedly to go on stage.

**I LIKED EATING** sausages on the Zoo Snooze. I liked sleeping next to the stick insects.



**I'M PROUD** of my goal sheet and filling it up because I'm working so hard.

**I LIKED DOING THE DRUMMING.**

**MY FAVOURITE** part was going on the Year 6 trip to Canberra. I loved being on the submarine and in the World War 2 backyard at the War Memorial.

I liked the 3 days of Orientation. We got to meet our new classmates and we got to pretend to be a year older.

**'EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARIES'**

was my favourite thing all year. I loved dressing up and pretending to be statues. I liked answering questions and sharing my work.

**WRITING LETTERS TO OUR 3-6 PEN PALS HAS BEEN FUN.**

**I LIKED** it when we created a new country and made decisions how to run it. It was fun to debate what to do.

**I LIKED** planning a 'going out' to meet the Consulate General of Colombia - she really helped us.

**I LOVED ALL THE WATERMELON ON THE ZOO SNOOZE.**

**I'M PROUD OF LEARNING SQUARE ROOT.**



I really liked visiting the 'Titanic' exhibition. We got tickets that gave us the name of a real passenger.

## OUR FIVE DAY CAMP FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN THE CHILDREN'S RESPONSES.

- I liked the camp fire and fire twirling show while we were on camp.
- Jumping on the trampolines at camp was fun.
- Archery was my favourite activity.
- I liked watching the cattle dogs and feeding the horses at Tobruk Farm.
- I remember how comfy the beds were at camp.
- The people at camp presented me with a t-shirt. That was great.
- Climbing up the mountain was my favourite part.
- The midnight snacks were the best bit.
- I loved the egg experiment we did trying to make a rocket with the egg inside. Then we dropped them off the top of the slide and saw which ones survived unbroken.
- I really liked visiting the 'Titanic' exhibition. We got tickets that gave us the name of a real passenger. We walked through sets of the top deck, the worker's rooms and the boiler room. We even touched the ice berg. Then we got to see if our character survived. It was really interesting.

## THANK YOU

We would like to acknowledge:

- Niki and Michelle, our class parents, for your great support throughout the year and with the videoing of the Year 6's 'Ted Talks'.
- everyone who helped make and transport costumes and props for 'Aladdin'
- Barbara in the library
- Nic for your help with the sound equipment
- our canteen parents
- Jamie for her kind donations and support with MMUN
- the Tarraf family for their wonderful help with the guinea pigs and chickens
- the parents who drove and accompanied students to 'going outs'
- our cooking parents
- Shirley and her expertise with the Year 6 t-shirts
- Kim and Kay for your endless energy and hard work

Thank you most sincerely to everyone who helped make 2017 so memorable for the 9 -12.

We really appreciate all of your efforts.

Finally, we would like to wish our graduates a heartfelt congratulations. We also welcome our new Year 4 for 2018. We look forward to getting to know you better.

Wishing everyone a relaxing and restful holiday,

Margaret, Kay, Kim.

WHAT'S ON...

## for the festive season



Saturdays in December - Free Festive Fun, Westfield Hornsby.

### SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK FREE CHRISTMAS SHOW

Free entertainment on Saturday 9th December from 4pm-7pm in Cathy Freeman Park. Includes live show with Santa's dancers, festive carollers, archery hover ball, inflatable soccer and a giant Christmas tree.

### CAROLS IN THE PARK - WEST PYMBLE

Saturday 9th December. Food stalls open from 6pm. Mainstage program 7:00-9:00pm. Playground, face painters and farm animals for the children! Ku-ring-gai Bicentennial Park, Lofberg Road, West Pymble.

### CHRISTMAS CRAFT AT TURRAMURRA LIBRARY

Each child will be able to make a handmade Christmas decoration that could be hung on a tree, used as a card or sent to relatives and friends. Monday 11th December 3pm-5pm. Bookings are not required.

### FREE FESTIVE FUN @ THE SANTA SET, WESTFIELD HORNSBY

Your little elves will decorate gingerbread, make snow globes, design Christmas cards and so much more! Santa Set Play Zone, Level 3. Every Saturday in December 11am - 2pm.

### THAT GREAT FESTIVE MARKET, LINDFIELD

The Festive Market will bring the community together. There will be a quality lifestyle market, great food, local musicians and entertainment. Sunday 17 December, East Lindfield Community Hall.

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT 10 CABBAGE COURT, DAVIDSON

Now in its 17th year, the house attracted over 12,000 visitors in 2016. It's decorated with over 100,000 christmas lights, and you're invited to park your car and explore the front and back yard. Entry is free, though donations are welcomed as all money raised over the 5-week period is donated to Red Nose, The Humpty Dumpty Foundation & Cure Brain Cancer Foundation. For viewing times visit: [www.cabbagecourtchristmaslights.com](http://www.cabbagecourtchristmaslights.com).

### CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY ZONE AT WESTFIELDS CHATSWOOD

Get into the Christmas spirit with daily activities including Kids San Churro Decorating & Bauble Making. 11am-3pm every day until Christmas. Located on Level 3 near MyHealth Medical Centre.

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