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The Ocean View Post

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Time for Sport

We marked the end of term two with our annual sports day at Crusaders Sports Club.

The emphasis is always on participation, whether it be running with a tray and cups of water a bean bag on your head, sprinting, a relay, a long distance run or the tug of war.

Fun was had by all, and it is heartwarming for teachers and parents to see how the children who were a little shy and timid on the start line aged 3 pound down the field aged 6.

We work on the children's fitness and physical confidence continuously, so it is lovely to see it all coming together at a fun family event on sunny winter morning.

It is our aim that all of our pupils enjoy fitness and feel the benefits that this brings them in their early years, building life-long habits. With rich opportunities for outdoor play the children move happily into more skill based development during our pre primary PE sessions.

Coach Renaldo builds on this with the weekly primary school sport. Whether it be learning skills for cricket netball, soccer or hockey the emphasis is on sportsmanship and fun.



OV Primary Parent Pupil Soccer



OV Tug of War at Sports Day

Sizi's Montessori Journey

"After spending time in the United States as an au pair, I knew that I wanted to pursue a career in education. I had developed such a deep connection with children, and I wanted to build on that in a more professional and purposeful way. Whilst exploring my options, I came across Montessori Centre South Africa (MCSA). What started as a simple search for a college turned out to be a blessing—I had no idea then that I would grow into a more confident, compassionate, and creative version of myself through the Montessori path.



As I began my studies, I was drawn into the Montessori philosophy and Maria Montessori's beautiful, respectful view of the child. Her methods amazed me. The materials alone opened up a new world—I found myself relearning things I had struggled with as a child, but this time in a way that made complete sense. The hands-on, concrete approach was genius, and I quickly saw how it supported true understanding.

I'll never forget my first year working with Lucy and the Grade R class. Watching the children confidently choose their work, move freely around the classroom, and care for their environment was eye-opening. They were so independent, thoughtful, and full of joy. That experience showed me the true power of Montessori, and I couldn't stop sharing my excitement with friends and family.

Being a Montessori teacher has stretched me in the best ways. It's rewarding, but it also demands resilience, discipline, and heart. At Ocean View, we do our best to model patience, creativity, and kindness—but it's often the children who teach us those very things.

Montessori has become more than a teaching method for me, it is a journey of continuous growth., not only as an educator, but also as a mother. The philosophy has given me fresh eyes to see my own children as capable, unique individuals and it has deepened my appreciation for the small, beautiful moments that we share together as a family."

From Sizi with Love

Montessori Philosophy Primer

An ongoing series that will enhance your understanding of Montessori Education

Part Two: The first plane of development 0-6 years

Intrinsic Motivation

In the Montessori approach, intrinsic motivation, the drive to learn, and act, based on internal satisfaction, is a core principle. Montessori classrooms foster this by providing a stimulating, self-directed learning environment where children can explore their interests, develop a sense of mastery, and act independently, leading to a lifelong love of learning.

Freedom

In the Montessori environment, freedom is a carefully balanced concept, allowing children to explore and learn at their own pace within a structured environment. This freedom is not absolute but rather "freedom within limits," fostering self-discipline and responsibility. Children have the freedom to choose activities, materials, and the time they spend on them, all while respecting the boundaries set by the ground rules of the prepared environment.

Choice

In Montessori education, giving children choices is a fundamental principle that fosters independence, self-motivation, and a love for learning. The freedom to make choices allows children to explore their interests, develop decision-making skills, and build confidence.

Work cycle

The Montessori work cycle is a daily period of uninterrupted time (typically two to three hours) where children in a Montessori classroom engage in self-directed activities, fostering independence, concentration, and a love of learning. It is characterized by four phases: choice, exploration, concentration, and completion and teacher support children as they work through these phases.

Discipline

In a Montessori classroom, discipline is not about punishment, but about guiding children towards self-regulation and respect through freedom within limits. It involves fostering a sense of responsibility, respect, and cooperation, rather than relying on external control.

Learning to read and write the Montessori way.

Maria Montessori viewed language as a fundamental aspect of human development, emphasizing the child's natural acquisition during what she described as the sensitive period for language from birth to 6 years. Montessori also stressed the importance of providing a language rich environment.

When giving school tours, parents often ask when we start teaching children to read and write. The answer is always the same, "As soon as they arrive at Ocean View." We take a 'whole language' approach: developing all the skills for speaking, listening, writing and reading in a fun and confidence-boosting way. We work in close partnership with families to maximise this development, both at home and school.

Toddlers

Toddlers arrive at Ocean View with emergent spoken language; they are developing articulation, building a vocabulary and stringing words together to make their needs and wishes known. Some parents worry that their little one will find school difficult if they cannot yet speak clearly. They are subsequently surprised to find that by joining the toddler group their children are motivated to communicate more explicitly.



Developing fine motor skills



Encouraging a love of books



Building core strength

Surrounded by caring adults, toddlers are encouraged to communicate what is needed and to chat amongst their peers throughout the day, particularly during free play, circle time and snack time. Through this, their independence develops rapidly.

and action rhymes are an essential part of the day. These provide exercise for the mouth muscles, give practice in articulation and promote Phonological awareness - the ability to identify the sounds and patterns that make up our spoken language. Daily story reading becomes a joy, a quiet time at the end of the day when a story can be shared and discussed, developing comprehension and building vocabulary. Following this, little ones often turn to books independently, developing an interest that becomes a great motivation when learning to read.

Gross motor development is key in the early preparation for writing. It may be counterintuitive to think that the foundational skills needed to sit at a desk and form neat letters during primary school, are actually developed through gross motor play in the toddler garden. The development of core strength through climbing and swinging and the stabilisation of the shoulder from large movements with the arms are vital steps towards fine motor development. This is further enhanced through the use of chunky crayons, chinks and paint brushes as well as practical activities that strengthen the grip in hands and fingers.

The next edition of the Ocean View Post will cover progression through the pre-primary and primary years.

“With the acquisition of language, the child reaches a new level of independence. The child can now communicate his feelings and desires and needs. It is a great step forward in the achievement of independence.”



Chess Matters



At Ocean View we really value the game of Chess. It promotes excellent problem solving skills and focus. Playing a chess match requires composure and etiquette. Children can experience the joy of winning and are taught to accept the loss of a match with grace. Coach Njapa is often heard to say “in chess you never lose, you only learn,” promoting a growth mindset. Participating in a Chess tournament with up to 100 children from all over Durban is a big experience and we are always proud of the way that our pupils conduct themselves at these events.

We ended last term with an in house chess tournament giving all of our primary children a chance to experience match conditions and play four consecutive games, a great way to prepare them for future tournaments.

The winners were:

First place shared by John Rall and Amrienta Gabriels

Second place was shared by Thina Makhaye, Shaka Nsimbi and Priyanka Mistry

Third place: Rocco Roberts.

Amrienta Gabriels, claimed first place in the under-eight girls section at the 2025 South African Open Chess Championship held at the University of Johannesburg in July. It has been a busy chess year for Amrienta she qualified to play for KZN at the eThekweni trials, following which she was placed in the top three at the Mzansi Interprovincial Youth Chess Championship. She will be playing in the South African team at the Africa Youth Chess Championship to be held in Zimbabwe this December.

All players were well prepared for the Durban and District individual chess trials with Amrienta Gabriels, John Rall and Priyanka Mistry all receiving 5 points, pushing them into the top 15 of under 10 year old players in Durban. We participated in the D and D Junior primary team finals and were placed fourth out of 16 schools. Well done to Priyanka, Amrienta, John, Ivan and Thina who formed our team for this event, we celebrate your efforts.

Our girls celebrated women's day play at the girls only tournament held by St Henrys, Marist Brothers.

It goes without saying that none of this would be possible without the support of our parents. Saturday Chess tournaments start at 7.30 am and usually run well into the afternoon. It really is a 'hurry up and wait' scenario, but we know that the children really appreciate seeing you in between matches!



Chess South Africa president, Andre Lewaks presenting Amrienta with her first prize at the 2025 SA Open Chess Championship



Participating in Chess matches promotes independence- the children quickly learn to find where they are seated and who they are playing.



Celebrating Womens Day playing chess at Marist Brothers

Staff Development

Thuli and Samkele, our toddler and pre-primary assistants, were very proud to have received the final acknowledgment for their AM! assistants course.

They have grown in confidence in their roles with the children, and are increasingly pro-active in the Montessori space, able to work alongside the teachers in guiding and encouraging children on their road to independence.

Bonga has been out and about on another gardening course, this time one organised by Builders Express. He is super active in sharing what he has learnt and is busy helping to create rich compost for our garden.

Natasha has been enjoying the AMI Montessori Sports Course. This sets out coaching skills and guidance on the set up of a Montessori orientated sports environment with developmentally appropriate activities. We are looking forward to her putting the learning into action with our pre-primary pupils.

Razia, Umia, Natasha, Sizi and I spent an enriching Saturday revising, and building on, our First Aid and CPR skills, presented Dr Kreyan Kasavalu of METS. It is always good to run through scenarios to ensure readiness in the event of accidents. We can highly recommend this course for anyone working with children.



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- Trauma Emergencies (Bleeds, Sprains Burns)

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OVMS Diary Dates - Terms Three and Four

Sun 31.08	Maria Montessori's Birthday
Sat 6.09	Spring Walk and Art Exhibition
Tues 16.09	School Photos
Mon 22.09	World Rhino Day Book Reading by Roslynn Toerin
Tues 23.09	Heritage Day Dress up and Braai
Thur 6.11	"Come home to Africa" OVMS end of year show!