



The Ocean View Post

**Toddler, Pre-Primary, Primary News and
Festive Season Tips**

Another Family Orientated Year

In January 2025 we welcomed many new pupils and their families to Ocean View. As a small school we look for opportunities for bringing families together and creating an environment where ideas about education are shared and development is supported.

Holding family events is a great way of doing this, often joining together in our 'Fig Tree Garden.' This was the setting for our Easter picnic and Mother's day tea, where the children served their mum's treats as they relaxed and chatted under the trees.

Our Father's day breakfast saw many father's sitting on mats in the classroom engaged in activities with their children, before heading out to the jungle gyms and bike track to be served with muffins and coffee by their little people.

Another big highlight of the year was our annual Spring walk and Art Exhibition. This coincides with Maria Montessori's birthday and provides the opportunity to highlight the teaching materials as parents tour the classrooms to view the art.

Bringing families together on this day is always a heartwarming occasion. Assembling early for coffee before taking a walk around Bridgevale Valley provides many opportunities for relaxed socialisation amongst strolling parents and racing children. We added another dimension to the walk this year with the distribution of 'kindness rocks.' Each child painted a rock with a design and a message that they placed in the valley during the walk.



Budding Artists at Ocean View.

Teaching art in the early years should have a two-pronged approach. First, children need to learn skills; how to hold a crayon, pencil and brush, use glue and scissors. With these skills developing children can start to explore materials and create their own pieces.

Much pre-school art stalls at the skill level. Children complete a sequence of painting, cutting and sticking steps to produce a teacher-designed piece. This can be great for skill practice, but does not enhance creativity. The creative process can flow once some skills are in place, once children have some knowledge and feelings about a topic and a range of suitable materials to choose from, there need to be options, and then the truly creative process can begin.

Art is crucial for the overall development of children. It enhances fine and gross motor skills, develops cognitive functions like problem-solving and critical thinking, fosters emotional well-being through self-expression and regulation, and boosts self-esteem and confidence. Art also supports the development of language, social, and decision-making skills, and provides a medium for understanding emotions and cultural context.

Other Benefits include:

Communication - Art enhances communication skills by providing a visual language for expression and understanding. Drawing and painting can often help a child to communicate their feelings, when they are literally lost for words.

Cultural Awareness - Art can provide insight into a society, culture, values, and history, fostering social awareness. At Ocean View we like to take time to teach children about the stories of artists and periods of art history, weaving these lessons into our wider projects.

Career Preparation - Early exposure to art can prepare children for future careers, particularly in fields that require creative and innovative thinking. Giffy, our local graffiti artist, told us that he had little chance to experience art at school and spent the years after school honing his skills. He promotes the importance of art in schools as vital to development, particularly confidence. As we can see from his work, there are many ways that you can make art part of a career.

Promoting Art at home.

Depending on your space, you can set up an art corner or provide a drawer, box or small cupboard for art materials.

Gather an age appropriate selection of crayons, pastels, pencils, kokis, water colour trays, glue and scissors.

Collect scrap paper of different sizes, colours and textures.

Provide a wipeable work mat and an apron. An easel is lovely to use, but you can always stick a sheet of paper up on the wall or a glass sliding door for your child to work on.

Create a cutting box - include some magazines, old greetings cards and wrapping paper.

Create a collage box with ribbons, stickers and natural materials.

Rubber stamps are also fun to use.

Air drying clay and playdough are great for manipulation.

And remember that cleaning up is a vital part of the art project so make sure that the materials get packed away and the mat and table wiped clean.

More ideas for art at home can be found in our Festive Season tips at the end of the newsletter.



#smallschoolbigheart



It was another great year for community outreach at Ocean View. The Spring walk has become a signature event for us and a beautiful way to turn family fun into earnest community contribution.

The Children always enjoy slipper day, often donning their PJ's too, in their efforts to raise money for the 'Reach for a Dream Foundation,' who provide joyful experiences for terminally ill children.

We celebrated World Rhino Day with a book reading from local wildlife author Roslynne Toerien, who captivated the children with her book 'Rumbling Rhino,' and other titles from her collection. The primary children took up their own reading challenge and raised over R1000 for KZN Project Rhino which was most gratefully received.

At Ocean View we like to mark the Festive Season with the Spirit of Giving and yet again thank you all for your contributions towards creating stationery packs to equip the 46 Grade R pupils or Isibonelo Creche for Grade One.

Moving to Grade Four

We had a very sad farewell to our year three primary class, all beautifully prepared for Grade four. Aleena is moving to Maris Stella, Priyanka to Northlands and Mckenzie to Glenashley.

"My favourite thing about primary is that it is a really, big, classroom and we have an aircon and a library. My favourite materials are the ones on the maths shelf because I really like maths and the materials make it a lot of fun."
Priyanka

"The cool thing about this school is the materials. They make learning very interesting and they help your brain to understand what you are learning. My favourite material is the Stamp Game because it helps you understand maths and it helps you get through your work"
Mckenzie

"I am going to miss all these beautiful materials - if I don't know something, they help me a lot. I love being librarian because it is fun and I get to do it with a friend. I love reading, and when I am librarian, I get to see all the books that the younger children are reading and I remember when I read them."
Aleena



Recycling updates

Educating our pupils about sustainability is at the core of our teaching and we are committed to running our school in as an eco-friendly way as possible.

We encourage all families to try and reduce their use of single use plastic. At home, when out and about, and in the school lunch boxes.

If you go on a beach clean up you will find endless plastic bottles lids, lighters, earbud shafts and crumbled polystyrene.

By not buying these items and seeking more eco-friendly alternatives, you will keep them out of the ocean and make a huge difference to the planet.

Re-cycling Bins at School

- Polystyrene
- Plastic
- Cans
- Paper and cardboard
- Tetrapak cartons
- Bottle lids and bread tags
- Batteries

E-Waste Challenge

We collected 343 kg of E-Waste this year!

Please start collecting again, as we will enter the E Waste Challenge again in October 2026..





Our Annual Production at The Milkwood Theatre, Danville.

A journey through Mzansi from Durban's tropical shores to the savanna with music, dance, song and humour to celebrate the rich culture of our beautiful land.

What we do know is that every child enjoyed getting on the stage and for us this is a true reflection of the quiet confidence that they develop through their Montessori learning journey. The approach to teaching fosters true self belief, determination, flexibility and resilience.

These are all qualities that are essential in preparing, rehearsing and giving a performance, along with a good dose of fun and dazzle.

At Ocean View we are blessed with the best in terms of our drama teacher Cara Roberts and our music teacher Nkosi Shem. Both regulars on stage themselves, they bring the joy of performance to the children.



Some Reviews

Noah, Grade Two

"The thing I liked about the play is that there were 250 people. I was nervous at the beginning, but at the end I was so proud that I did the whole play in one hour non-stop. The thing I loved about the play was watching the breakdancers, that was so cool, my brain was firing!"

McKenzie, Grade Three

"I had so much fun at the Milkwood Theatre, at first, I was a bit nervous, but when I got on stage, I was very happy because my brother was waving at me."

Thina, Grade Two

"I had a fantastic time doing the Bollywood dance with my friends. I also enjoyed doing the Bokke dance. When we did the Shosholozza dance we had to come on like a train!"

Rocco, Grade One

"The Surfing RSA dance was spectacular. Cara was fantastic. I was nervous at the start."

Babette Von Loggenberg, Milkwood Theatre Manager

"The children were amazing, so brave and enthusiastic. I was so impressed by the little musicians, and all the jokes, poems and choral verse bits were incredible! I couldn't believe how polished the performances were with such littlies! The Ocean View staff were lovely to work with, and I could see that the audience thoroughly enjoyed the show."

Dr Thandeka Mdlalo, Speech Therapist

"Congratulations on an amazing show, thank you for inviting me. I really enjoyed it I loved seeing the kids perform, their spontaneity and zest but put in such hard work in learning all the moves and poetry. So proud."

Farewell from Umia

For 28 beautiful years, Ocean View Montessori has been my second home – a place of laughter, discovery, and little hearts that have touched mine in ways words can never fully express.

I will always cherish the memories we've shared – the laughter, the songs, the small milestones, and those quiet, tender moments that make the toddler years so special. It has been a privilege to be part of your children's early journey, and I am deeply grateful to all the parents who have supported, trusted, and walked alongside me over the years.

Although I will miss the classroom dearly, I look forward to carrying all these beautiful memories with me as I begin this new chapter.

A special little quote from the depths of my heart:

"Every child I've taught has left a footprint on my heart."

With love and heartfelt gratitude,

Umia Daya



Welcoming Yoginie

"My Montessori journey started in 2010 when my daughter joined Ocean View at the tender age of 2.5 years, with Umia as her first teacher. The impact of Umia's presence with young children gave me the confidence that we were in the right place.

The philosophy of the school ignited in me the desire to begin my own studies in Montessori Pedagogy. My passion for teaching became a reality in 2015 after completing a dual diploma in Early Childhood Development and Montessori Pedagogy. My training was facilitated at Ocean View, following which I set up my own school on the North Coast, which I ran for 10 years, gaining a deep understanding of the Montessori method and practice with toddlers and preschoolers.

My expertise naturally gravitated toward the physical development of the child. Leveraging my background as an internationally accredited martial artist in both Kung Fu and Karate, I've successfully developed specialised programmes for young children.

Further studies in Advanced Yogic Science solidified my conviction regarding the critical importance of physical development in early childhood.

As a Commonwealth Cup Gold Medallist in Karate Kumite, I always try to embody and instil the values that will fulfil my purpose as an effective educator.

To be joining the Ocean View team is a dream come true, and I look forward to adding value to a school that already has its roots deep in the true essence of education. I am so looking forward to meeting all the children"

Yoginie Naidoo

Our Garden

The final total of sponsorship money raised at the Spring Walk was R9687. We donated R6887 to Durban North Envirofixers as a contribution towards the invaluable work that they do in the Bridgevale Valley and throughout Durban North, greening and beautifying our suburb.

The balance of R3000 was used towards planting more indigenous plants in our school garden and re-wilding the grass bank on Bellengere Drive.

We have nearly achieved our aim of having a completely indigenous school campus which enriches the biodiversity of our area and provides the children with increased opportunities to study birds, plants and insects in the garden.

To complement this work we used the money raised from veggie sales to purchase story tree tags for the indigenous trees at school (Pepper Bark, Flat Crown, Coral Tree, Lavender Tree, Giant Leaf Fig, Tree Aloe).

We have had great success in generating compost via two methods. We use the fast acting Aerobin for all of our food waste and larger bays made from pallets for leaves and grass cuttings.

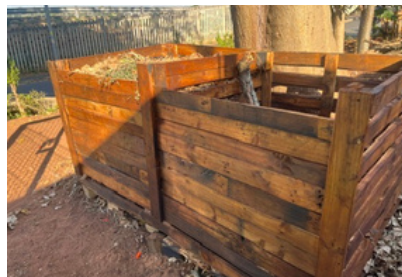
These are all simple steps that we encourage you to take at home, we can guarantee you will have willing helping hands from your little people. Bonga attends regular gardening workshops throughout the year and is always most willing to offer advice.



Composting Fun.

We installed an aerobin and compost all the organic waste created at school.

We built two larger compost bays to handle all of our leaves and grass cuttings.



We used money raised at the Spring Walk to 'Rewild' our verge along Bellengere Drive, increasing the biodiversity within and around our school property



Other Activities

Sport:

It all starts in the Toddler group with active outdoor play, building gross motor skill balance and fitness and continues throughout the pre-primary years with weekly PE that helps with the development of ball and movement skills. Our primary children love their weekly ball skills, cricket, netball and soccer with Coach Renaldo. Through these sessions they are fully prepared to participate in the sports of their choice at primary.

Exciting news for 2026, is that we have asked Renaldo to do a weekly session with Grade R called 'Core and Ball.' It is never too early to start focussing on these skills.

Swimming:

We look forward to getting the primary pupils back into the pool in January, for a refreshing Wednesday morning swim at Durban North College, with Coach Loraine. There will be a gala at the end of term one.

Chess:

We have had great success at the Durban and District Chess tournaments this year, achieving strong results against much bigger schools. We finished the year with another of our in house tournaments that provide all our pupils with a chance to play under match conditions, preparing them to participate in tournaments. We congratulate Amriente Gabriels, year one, who is ranked 5th in South Africa in the under 8 age group and who has recently represented SA on an International level at the Africa youth games held in Zimbabwe.

Coding and Robotics:

We just love the well planned and engaging programme delivered to our primary pupils by Young Engineers each week. They are learning the basics of engineering and coding. Next year the Grade R's will be included in the offering.

Enviro Club and EQ:

All primary children enjoy these weekly sessions offering many opportunities to participate in environmental projects and learning, alternated with focussed EQ sessions, providing a lovely balance of enriched personal development.

Foodie Friday:

All groups participate in healthy food preparation activities every other Friday, learning new skills, recipes and enjoying new tastes together.

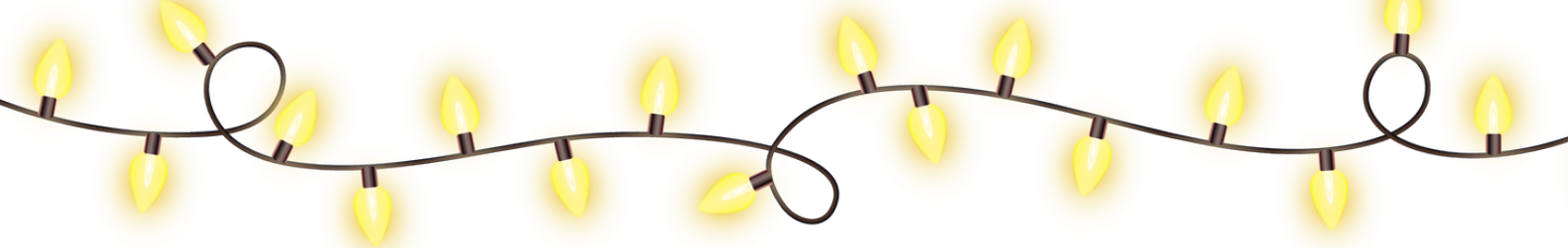
Extra Mural News:

Football Factorie, Monkeynastix, Glide and Ride, Break Dance (Grade R upwards)

Karate: To be offered by Yogie from term two onwards.

OVMS Term Dates 2026

Term One:	Weds 14 January.....Fri 27 March
Term Two:	Tues 14 April.....Fri 26 June
Term Three:	Tues 21 JulyWeds 23 September
Term Four:	Tues 13 October.....Fri 4 December



Festive Season Planning

We all long for holiday periods and time to relax with family and friends, particularly in the turbulent times that we currently find ourselves. However, sometimes, once the holidays are upon us, work stress can be replaced by home stress. This can often be the case when caring for young children with the added pressure of visiting family over the Festive Season. We hope you find some of these ideas helpful in navigating the Festive Season.

ROUTINE AND GROUND RULES:

Without the routine of school in place children will be looking for a little structure, and I am sure you will too. Even with young children you can have a family chat about the rules that you would all like to follow:

Talk Softly

Be Kind

Put away your toys

Do your chores (even the smallest person in the house can have a simple chore.)

Eat at the table

TV and screen time limits to be set

Snuggle and story at bedtime.

MODEL THE BEHAVIOUR THAT YOU WANT TO SEE:

Children will quickly become disenchanted if you are not clear and consistent. Remember the rules and follow them too. Be present: When talking, walking, or playing with your little person, engage and have quality time together, put your phone away and enjoy the moment. A short period of quality time sharing a game is productive and validating for you both.

LIMITING SCREEN TIME:

This is central to your plan. Limits on devices need to be realistically set and enforced. There are many educational YouTube channels. TV programmes can even include cooking and travel programmes along with the wildlife favourites. It could be fun to make a list of classic family films to watch and have some movie nights.

CHOOSE A BOOK TO READ AS A FAMILY

There are so many classics of children's literature, longer chapter books that lend themselves to a daily read together.

CHORES:

These can be adapted to all ages and can be done daily. Older children love the idea of earning money, so an extra chore can be great to encourage too, such as washing cars and windows, show them the skill and provide suitable tools.

FUN ACTIVITIES AT HOME:

Spend some time setting up activity areas at home. A craft table, a relaxing book area, a gardening patch or a mud kitchen could probably all be created using what you already have at home.

INDOOR SOFT PLAY:

This is great for a rainy day, pile up cushions and blankets and make some dens and forts. Setting up a tent indoors or in the garden can also be a fun game.



SORT THROUGH TOYS, BOOKS AND CLOTHES:

The festive season is a time of giving, so it may well be the time to sort through outgrown things with your children and take them along to a local charity collection.

ENTERTAINING:

Involve the children when you are having guests. They could help with a simple recipe, set the table or make decorations and help to serve snacks. Great for the development of social skills

RECYCLING:

set up a recycling station at home if you do not have one already and start some eco-bricking or creating an aluminium foil ball for recycling. See what crafts you can make by re-purposing.

TACKLE A PROJECT TOGETHER:

Children love a challenge, so involve them in a project over the holidays. Maybe you want to plant a herb or veggie garden, re-organise your garage, make Xmas decorations or cards, complete a photo album, the list is endless.

LEARN A NEW SKILL:

With a little more time at home this maybe the opportunity to help your little person to ride their trike or bike, learn to swim, maybe there is something that you could learn together?

TAKE REGULAR WALKS

in your neighbourhood parks: or the beachfront. Outings can be simple and cheap just enjoy strolling, observing, chatting or having a simple picnic together.

PLAN SOME BIGGER OUTINGS:

Make a list of more involved trips and plan ahead for suitable opportunities to go to the theatre and see Sinbad at the Elizabeth Sneddon, The Trail of Lights at the Botanic Gardens, Ushaka, Tala Game Reserve, Burnedale Village, Sugar Rush, Flag Farm. More ideas can be found at:

<https://www.ilovedurban/kids-activities/>

https://www.instagram.com/whats_on_durban/

HANDLING CHANGE:

Get ready for the trip, but check the weather and make the final announcement once you are sure that you can make it happen to avoid disappointment. Sometimes there are just too many moving parts to coordinate at this busy time of year. Handling change effectively is a developing skill for little people and whilst good to give practice in this skill, choose your moments!

HAVE YOUR OWN TIME:

These are just ideas that will make all of your time together more meaningful and help your little person feel more contented. With this, you will also be able to have your own time to re-charge and rest. Call in the visiting relatives for some babysitting duty! Parents have rights too after all!