

A very warm welcome to our new families and of course our current families. Thank you for choosing Montessori education for your whanau. The Tauranga Montessori Education Trust (TMET) is delighted to be in its 20th year of serving the community in the Bay of Plenty. The Trust opened Montessori@Bellevue in 2002 with 8 children and 8 passionate parents. In 2016, Montessori@Arataki was born to meet demand across the bridge. A passion and belief in Montessori is what started our schools and that passion continues to this day. We thank you all for your support.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to the TMET Trustees: Tanya Drummond, Kent Hazlehurst, Karin Copestake, Mercedes Ackerman, Julie Fisher-Somervell, Leanna Mitchell, Amanda Lowry and Michael Roe. A warm welcome to Amanda and Michael who joined TMET in Term 1. Amanda Lowry also sits on the BOT at Bellevue School. Thank you all for your time and dedication to Montessori education in the Bay of Plenty. Another massive thank you must go to Lee Martin who keeps everything running behind the scenes.

Families, we thank you for paying donations to TMET as these donations allow TMET to fund: the teaching allocation salaries that the MOE does not cover, all Montessori materials, stationary, practical life costs, all support staff costs, Montessori furniture, professional learning, bringing in experts to M@A and M@B, annual MANZ conference attendance and administration costs.

Did you know that research shows students who attend (or have attended) Montessori schools foster higher levels of executive functioning such as self discipline, autonomy over learning, deep focus, critical learning, critical reasoning and problem solving?



# Will a Montessori Education Prepare My Child for the “Real World”?

This is a common question we hear when we meet with prospective parents.

A great response to this question is written below by Jeff Groh, a Montessori educator, parent and writer:

This is a difficult question to answer considering the “real world” is a relative term. Do they mean the “real world” of professional pressures, deadlines and aggressive competition? Or do they mean the “real world” of emotional intelligence, engaged citizenry, compassion, joy and relationship to one’s environment? If I were to be honest with myself, I’m pretty sure they’re asking about the former – the “real world” of work. Fortunately, no matter which version of the “real world” they are referring to, my answer is the same, a resounding “Yes!”

For those of you who are not familiar with Montessori education let me briefly explain that it is a philosophy and pedagogy based on the scientific research of Dr. Maria Montessori. Children are grouped in multi-aged classrooms, where students are engaged in hands-on, self-paced, collaborative work. Multi-aged classrooms allow older students to be leaders and mentors while providing opportunities for younger students to work with older classmates on group projects. In addition, Montessori teachers do not stand in front of a class giving lectures while asking students to work on the same thing, at the same time, in the same way. Rather, they walk throughout the classroom working one-on-one with students or in small groups. At the core of Montessori philosophy is the belief that all students have a natural desire to learn, explore and joyfully work toward independence through knowledge and discipline.

Now, keeping all of that in mind, ask yourself:

- In any “real world” job, is everyone the same age?
- Are workers all sitting at their desks working on the same thing at the same time?
- Do workers often need to access memorised facts in a timed setting? Of course not.



In a “real world” job, one is expected to be able to work with people at different levels of experience, work well independently and in a group, set up work, concentrate on it, keep it organised, complete it and put it away. Workers need to try things to see if they work and then learn from their mistakes. They need to be able to problem solve and to communicate effectively.



**The top five types of knowledge and skills employers are looking for in the 21st Century were listed by a Gallup poll.**

**These skills are all deeply embedded in the Montessori method:**

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Creativity and innovation
- Diversity training
- Information technology application

**Montessori education has been proven to prepare children for the “real world”**

An article in the Wall Street Journal titled “Montessori Mafia” by Peter Sims, author of *Little Bets: How Breakthrough Ideas Emerge from Small Discoveries*, states:

“The Montessori educational approach might be the surest route to joining the creative elite, which are so overrepresented by [Montessori] alumni that one might suspect a Montessori Mafia: Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, Amazon’s Jeff Bezos, video game pioneer Will Wright, and Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales.”

Sims didn’t mention other famous Montessori innovators like Julia Child, Katherine Graham (Pulitzer Prize winning author), Gabriel Garcia Marquez (winner of the Nobel Prize for literature), Yo-Yo Ma (cellist and winner of 15 Grammy Awards), George Clooney (Academy Award winning actor), Helen Keller (who is considered one of the most widely admired people of the 20th Century), and the list goes on.

In 2004 Barbara Walters interviewed Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, and asked them if having college professors as parents was the major factor behind their success. Page stated that more influential than having professorial parents was the fact that, “We both went to Montessori school, and I think it was part of the training - being self-motivated, questioning what’s going on in the world, and doing things a bit differently.”

**So yes, a Montessori education will prepare your child for the “real world” of 21st century employment. But here is the added bonus: a Montessori education will also prepare your child for the “real world” of life, learning skills such as the ability to:**

- Resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Build a relationship between themselves and their environment.
- Remain curious and a lifelong learner.
- Treat others with kindness and respect.
- Be more interested in the joy of discovery than the value of a grade or paycheck.
- Reflect and know how to celebrate their individuality while at the same time knowing how to sacrifice their own desires for the benefit of the whole.

These values have deep roots in Montessori education, and it just so happens they are also what prepare us for how to live fully in the “real world” of life. So, will a Montessori education prepare your child for the “real world”? Yes it will.

Jeff Groh

Reading Jeff’s response sums up many of the reasons why we all choose Montessori education for our whanau, and what a great choice it is!



## SKILLS, SKILLS, SKILLS!

What can you share with our tamariki? Can you volunteer in our classrooms? We are always looking for whanau to come in and share their talents and skills. Have you a skill or interest in gardening, baking, cooking, woodwork, botany, zoology, insects, the arts or an ear to read to? The sky is the limit! Please let us know and we can try to match your skill and availability to the interest of our tamariki and our classrooms. Please talk directly to your teacher.

## TIME TO RE-CONNECT

We are so excited to connect with our preschool friends again and we need parent volunteers to help us make this happen! This is a key part of nurturing our community and keeping us all connected. Are you available to drive students to some of our preschools in the local area?

We are looking for caregivers to commit to helping us at M@B from 12.30-2.30pm every Wednesday for four weeks beginning on Wednesday 8th June.

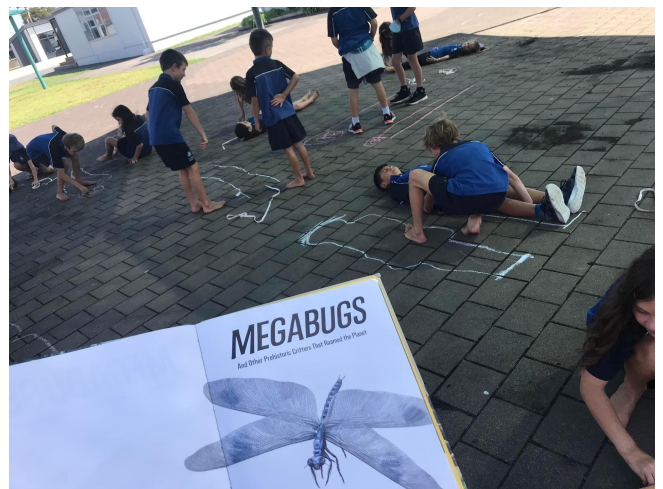
If you are available, please email Karina via [kfray@bellevue.school.nz](mailto:kfray@bellevue.school.nz)

Preschool visit planning is also underway at M@A!

## Are Assessments Necessary in Montessori?

Assessments will be a part of the curriculum in almost all Montessori schools. As a matter of fact, observation is a critical skill and component of a Montessori teacher. Every day the teacher observes and informally assesses the child in front of them, without them even being aware of it! Sometimes observation leads to an assessment that the student is ready to move on, or that they need some more practice with the task at hand. Sometimes it is the completion of work, whether it be concrete or abstract, that will fulfil the required work assessment.

The Montessori teacher is always observing to see what the child needs and to ensure that the environment is answering these needs. M@A and M@B are part of a state primary school and children are formally assessed twice a year according to New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) requirements. In the Montessori environment, the children are often not aware of being tested and as Montessorians we are always looking at the whole of the child.



NZC tests are used for accountability, student growth and achievement, and planning for each school to improve the learning environment. It is important to remember that assessments are inevitable and are a part of the child's, and the adult's, life. Montessori schools prepare the child for life. Learning, assessment and preparing the environment for success in life all go hand in hand.

So, to answer the initial question, yes your Montessori child will take assessments and will find success in meeting and exceeding the expectations placed on them in school so they can do the same in life.

If you have any questions about your child or assessments please talk directly to their teacher.



## Introducing Amy, our new teacher in the junior space at M@B

Kia ora whānau,

I'm Whaea Amy and I'll be teaching in Room 18 from term 2 - how exciting!

I was born in England and it took me about 24 hours on a plane to fly here, to New Zealand! I've lived in lots of different towns all over the country but found myself in Mount Maunganui about 1 month ago. I am loving living so close to the beach: ocean swims, beach bike rides (on my bicycle named Winnie) and sandy toes make me smile!

I taught for two years in England (both junior and senior), after obtaining my degree and then I spent a year in Auckland as a year 4 class teacher in a Reggio inspired environment. Most recently I was in Nelson, teaching a year 1 class. I am excited to begin my Montessori journey.

I love to travel and have spent many years visiting as many countries as I can, meeting all sorts of interesting people and soaking up different cultures. I really enjoy learning new languages so anything you can teach me will be super.



I enjoy the outdoors (no doubt you guys do too!) and love overnight hikes in remote parts of the country, camping and keeping active.

I can't wait to find out more about you guys and look forward to teaching you, come May. We will all be learning together and I will definitely need help from you with Te Reo, finding my way around the school and learning even more about this beautiful country.

I look forward to getting to know you.

Best wishes, Amy Hewitt.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

## Learning and Growing Together

In Term 1, Claire and Donna from M@B took part in 'Big Work in Cosmic Education' presented by Montessori educator and trainer, Peter Erskine.

This workshop looked at how Montessori educators and adults can help children in the second plane of development stay curious, and encourage their enquiring minds to keep exploring rather than simply accumulating and memorising knowledge. It also focussed on discovering how storytelling helps children understand the world and their place in it.

- What kind of questions do we ask the children and how do we encourage meaningful conversations in the classroom?
- What is the difference between big work and busy work?

Over at M@A, Darniel has started her Montessori journey with NAMC to gain her diploma in Montessori 6-9. We would like to give a big thank you to Darniel for the time and dedication she is giving to her study and to the tamariki in room 18.

This term, Claire at M@B is attending an online Montessori conference titled "The Childhood Potential". This conference will be jam-packed with lectures from world-class Montessorians, doctors, teachers and writers from all over the world. Claire is also planning to attend a Montessori geometry workshop in Auckland.

Later this term, Donna at M@B is planning to spend two days with our friends at Meraki Montessori in Auckland where she will observe and korero with the teachers there. On a similar note, Janine at M@A will be spending two days with our friends at Berhampore Montessori in Wellington.

The annual conference hosted by our National body Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand (MANZ) takes place during the July holidays. All M@B and M@A teachers will be attending. This year's theme is: Leaving No One Behind - He waka eke noa.

The meaning behind the theme is that it is aligned to the movement of a waka and those upon it paddling together to their destination with deliberateness and clear intent, united in effort and whakawhanaungatanga.



Leanna Mitchell has been providing Professional Development to the Montessori teachers to help upskill and support the team in their delivery of a genuine Montessori education for our tamariki.

Leanna's Montessori training began with Saint Nicholas in Ireland, from birth to 12 years: <https://smsi.i/> She has been involved in Montessori for 30 years in a variety of ways, including owning a Montessori school in Ireland, teaching in classrooms aged 3-12 years and offering professional learning at primary and preschool.

Leanna's main focus has been around supporting both M@B and M@A to flourish. She believes that Montessori education has the power to change the face of humanity and what the world needs now is peaceful, collaborative thinkers. Leanna is grateful to the M@B and M@A communities (and respective schools) for allowing her to be part of them for many years. She is also thankful for the education her four tamariki have received at M@B.

It is always interesting to learn more about each other and our backgrounds. This allows us to grow together and share our knowledge, thus creating a rich environment with adults who all play an important role in holding onto the heart of Montessori within a wider mainstream school setting.

Leanna recently presented a workshop on the prepared environment. This topic will continue to be part of our learning for the remainder of the year as our environment is always growing and changing to meet the needs of the children. Currently, Leanna is spending two days a week in the classrooms at M@B to support the Montessori philosophy.

*"Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war"*

*Maria Montessori*

## Dates to Remember

### Event:

Parent Information Evening for families of prospective students on Wednesday 25th May from 6-7pm at Arataki School.

Parent Education Evening - open to everyone.  
M@B Thursday 16th June  
M@A TBC - please keep an eye on our FB page

M@B community afternoon tea happening soon.  
Please keep an eye on FB for date, time and location.

Parent open afternoons coming soon at M@B.  
Please keep an eye on our FB page for more information or talk directly to your child's teacher.

## BOT Elections in September

Montessori whanau interested in standing for the Board of Trustees (BOT) at Bellevue and Arataki Schools should get their bio ready for the upcoming elections in September.

Traditionally, the BOT at Bellevue School has had representation from Montessori parents. Please see the Bellevue School Newsletter for more information.

Arataki School has also had a Montessori representative on its BOT since its inception in 2016.

