



NEWSLETTER - MAY 2016

TMET is ...

A charitable trust that promotes and supports education based on the Montessori philosophy. It currently operates four Montessori primary classrooms for 6-12 year olds at Bellevue School (M@B) and one at Arataki Primary School (M@A).

Space

There is space for children to join M@B and M@A now.

Coming up

Term Dates

Term 2 ends Friday 8 July.
Term 3 runs from Monday 25 July to Friday 23 October.

Information Evenings

Parent Information Evening:
7pm Wednesday 1 June at Arataki School.

Parent Education Evening:
7pm Wednesday 3 August at Bellevue School.

Contact us

Contact TMET by email at trustadmin@tmet.org.nz.



M@A is up and running

TMET opened M@A at the beginning of Term 1. On her arrival Head Teacher Kristen Taylor worked hard to ensure the environment was ready for her students. Arataki Principal Shelley Blakey and her team have been very supportive. M@A is now running smoothly as a part of Arataki Primary School.

Space is available

TMET is very pleased to have the scope to offer spaces to new students at M@B and M@A, now and in the future.

Bellevue School's Board of Trustees is finalising plans to have a new three classroom block constructed. On completion later this year the junior M@B classes will relocate to the new space and the maximum M@B roll will rise to 125.

M@A currently occupies one classroom at Arataki and TMET has access to the classroom next door, for expansion when the roll warrants it. So the maximum M@A roll is currently 50.

Contact us for more detail on the enrolment process.



Parent Information Evening

TMET will host a PIE at 7pm on Wednesday 1 June at Arataki School. PIEs provide information for new families considering Montessori primary education and attendance is an enrolment prerequisite. They provide an insight into what happens in the Montessori classroom, with teachers and students on hand to share their experiences and answer questions.

Parent Education Evenings (PEEs), by contrast, are targeted at families of enrolled children. They provide our teachers with the opportunity to cover specific Montessori topics in more detail. The next PEE is scheduled for Term 3. It will be held on Wednesday 3 August at Bellevue School.

Virtues in focus at M@A

“We've had a wonderful start to our year, getting to know each other and building our community within our classroom. We've been establishing routines and expectations with input from the children. The work we begin now will set standards for future students. It's a very exciting time.



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Tracey Vallance. Tracey works in our classroom three mornings a week. She provides support for our classmate Isaac but also often works with the other children. She is a wonderful addition and the children look forward to having her in the class.



An important aspect of our community building has been the implementation of the Virtues Project. We've looked at Orderliness, Kindness, Cooperation, Trustworthiness, Friendliness and Purposefulness and the children are integrating these into their work and relationships. They use these virtues in everyday language and identify and encourage them in others.

We're also implementing a mentoring programme in local Montessori Preschools. It will allow our students to give something back to the local community.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the parents who put their trust in this new venture. Without that trust our wonderful new classroom would not have been possible. On behalf of the children, Tracey and myself, THANK YOU!”

From Kristen Taylor, lead teacher at M@A.

M@B seniors are helping others

“This week at school the seniors are doing ‘Kids Can Ride,’ a programme that lets them work on improving their bike safety confidence and skills.



The seniors have been giving to those less fortunate than themselves. Last week four seniors; Armani, Caitlin, Mia and Charlotte gave over \$80 to Habitat for Humanity, which provides homes for families in need. They raised the money last term washing teachers’ cars. Skyla and Milla are planning to run a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Warehouse in Mount Maunganui later this term to fundraise for the Child Cancer Foundation. Ivy, Charlotte, Poppy and Caitlin are looking to set up a food stall later this term as a fund raising event for the same cause.

Lots of the seniors have also started giving back by being buddy readers for Mr Tonkin's children while he teaches choir on Thursday afternoons. Some of the children go to the Kowhai Room to help the juniors with their work too.

There has been a focus on science this week with the children conducting experiments out on the deck. Art is also a big focus at the moment as the children work on art pieces which will be put on display at the Bellevue School Art Exhibition later this year.”

From Deirdre Harrison, senior teacher at M@B.



Cross country

M@B children also took part in the annual Bellevue cross country run earlier this month. Congratulations to all for doing their best and having fun. M@B was well represented amongst the top place-getters. Good luck to those who qualified to represent the school at the East Cluster cross country event next month.

Fees

More on the change from donations to fees

In January the IRD directed TMET to invoice for fees, rather than request donations. The move was flagged in the January newsletter, put into effect in Term 1 and an explanatory note was distributed separately in March. It is a significant change with negative implications for TMET and its families.

One result of the forced change is that TMET must now charge GST. Another is that the fee payments are not eligible to be claimed as tax rebates. So TMET cannot issue donation certificates.

The change has been implemented retrospectively and TMET has been charged GST on all historic payments received from families. It has also been charged interest on the late payment of that GST. After an extended negotiation the IRD has agreed not to impose penalties and not to pursue families for past rebate claims it considers invalid.

What are fees used for?

Our classrooms operate within schools that receive roll-based funding from the Ministry of Education (MoE) but many of the costs associated with delivering a Montessori education are not covered. These include a portion of teaching salaries for classrooms with rolls below MoE-prescribed levels, Montessori materials and resources, Montessori teacher education and administration costs.



TMET also maintains reserves to provide for volatility in revenues, future growth and contingencies. This is necessary to ensure it remains a going concern capable of serving its charitable purpose.

Structure

TMET has undergone a light restructure to provide a better resourced split between its functions.

Administration

Leanna Mitchell has been appointed to the Executive Officer position permanently. She liaises with the schools to ensure the classrooms meet our children's needs. Lee Martin has assumed responsibility for enrolments and general administrative tasks, assisting Leanna and taking over from Sue Evans. The administrative roles are part-time paid positions.

Governance

The governance board is currently comprised of six members. Leanna continues as a board member and serves as teacher liaison. Tanya Drummond has been appointed Chair. Maia Ririnui remains Treasurer and Bellevue liaison. Fenella Wilson and Natalie Bennett continue as board members. M@A parent Melissa Cooke has joined the board (more on Melissa below).

Board members are volunteers and parents of children enrolled at M@B or M@A. They receive no remuneration, fee relief or benefits of any kind in return for performing their duties.

Board Changes

Welcome Melissa

A warm welcome has been extended to Melissa Cooke, TMET's latest board member. Melissa and her husband Matt run a furniture manufacturing business in The Mount. Their eldest daughter is at M@A and she will be followed by her two sisters. Melissa told us, "When searching for options for my children's education I found the Montessori philosophy was very close to my heart. I am extremely excited to be joining the TMET team and look forward to working on the exciting opportunities that lie ahead for us all."



Thank you Julie and Mike

Julie Still and Mike Rankin have left the board. Julie has stepped back to focus on her business while Mike has been released to focus on his teaching responsibilities. Julie and Mike remain key members of the Montessori community. The time, expertise and energy they contributed whilst on the board has benefitted all our children and their efforts are much appreciated.



Assistance

TMET often looks to the Montessori Community for assistance. Do you have useful skills, expertise or contacts? Are you willing to help? If so then please get in touch.

Concerns?

Feel free to send TMET any governance-related feedback but please direct any questions or feedback on learning experiences directly to your child's teacher, lead teacher or school principal.

Thanks

Starex

With little notice local firm Starex supplied TMET with furniture for the M@A classroom. It did so very quickly and at discounted prices.



Gerrand Floorings

Mount Maunganui-based Gerrand Floorings has given TMET a roll of carpet. It will be turned into work mats for use in the M@A classroom.