

TMET is ...

... a charitable trust that operates Montessori primary school classrooms at Bellevue (M@B) and Arataki (M@A) Primary Schools in Tauranga.

Space available

We currently have space for children to join our classrooms. Email us for application details.

For your calendar

Celebration

Our Maria Montessori Birthday Celebration will take place on Weds 31 Aug at Arataki.

Term Dates

Term 3 ends Fri 23 Sep.
Term 4 begins Mon 10 Oct.

Information Evening

Our next Parent Information Evening (PIE) is scheduled for Weds 9 Nov at Arataki.

Contact us

For governance related questions email TMET at: trustadmin@tmet.org.nz.



Gift cards earned for the Child Cancer Foundation.

From TMET

There is more content in this newsletter. Information from the Board, a note from our EO, Montessori parenting tips and updates and pictures from the M@B and M@A classrooms.

Space

We have scope to offer spaces to new students at M@B and M@A. A three classroom block is due to be completed at Bellevue later this year. The junior M@B classes will move to the new space, increasing the overall M@B maximum roll to 125. M@A currently occupies one classroom at Arataki and has scope to expand further as required.

Information

Parent Information Evenings (PIEs) provide information for prospective families while Parent Education Evenings (PEEs) cover specific topics for those already enrolled.



Thank you to those that attended this month's PIE and PEE. If you have follow-up questions or feedback please get in touch. The final PIE for the year will take place on Wednesday 9 November at Arataki. The next PEE will be scheduled for Term 1 next year.

Fees

TMET charges fees to cover the costs of delivering a Montessori education that are not covered by MoE grants. These include a portion of teaching salaries for classrooms with rolls below MoE-prescribed levels, teacher aide wages, Montessori resources, Montessori teacher education and administration costs. TMET also maintains reserves to ensure it remains a going concern.



At the beginning of this year TMET was directed by the IRD to charge GST. To minimise the impact on families the net Term Fee was reduced to keep the GST-inclusive amount aligned to that charged in previous years. An increase in the Term Fee, from \$410 to \$450 before GST, will be considered as part of the 2017 budget process. A final decision will be made in Term 4 and notifications sent accordingly.

TMET has not increased its Term Fee since 2013. A recent review of fees charged by Montessori providers in New Zealand showed that ours are, by a large margin, the lowest in the country. At its current level our Term Fee is less than half the average of that charged by other providers we surveyed.

Personnel

Governance

TMET's Board of Trustees is comprised of volunteers that contribute their time and expertise for the benefit of the community. The governance board is not remunerated. It is currently comprised of six members: Tanya Drummond (Chair), Maia Ririnui (Treasurer, Bellevue BOT liaison), Leanna Mitchell (Executive Officer), Melissa Cooke (Arataki BOT liaison), Natalie Bennett and Fenella Wilson.

Management

Leanna Mitchell and Lee Martin are employed on a part-time basis as Executive Officer and Administrator respectively.



A panoramic view of the M@B junior classroom space.

A note from our EO

Thank you all for your continued support. TMET continues to advance the Montessori philosophy and ethos that we as a community have committed to. This is being done in a number of ways; providing staff with professional development, improving facilities and advancing the curriculum.

Five of our teaching staff attended a MANZ conference in Hamilton in July and found it extremely beneficial. One of the keynote speakers was Wendy Callisse. Her workshop focused on 6-12 year olds and addressed, “Freedom and Responsibility – How to find the balance,” and “Exploration in the Primary Class – How far should our lessons go?” Wendy’s husband Guy had worked with the M@B team previously so it was good to maintain the relationship and reinforce the global applicability of the Montessori philosophy. .

We are working with the Bellevue Board to cater for growth in the M@B junior roll. The junior children will move from the old hall to a new three room open plan learning space. Jay Jay will join Suzanne and Isabella as the third junior classroom teacher. The new space is expected to be completed late in Term 4.

M@B hosted the third MANZ wananga on Saturday 6th August. In recent months the MANZ council, the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Anaru Kapa have been looking at ways of creating a greater connect between our teaching and learning outcomes with Māori tamariki in Montessori centres/schools. We want a better understanding of how to link Montessori to Māori and apply this in practice. This collaborative work has provided the council with some rich learning that can enhance and enrich Montessori in the Aotearoa context. TMET is excited to be a part of this.

TMET continues to receive materials ordered from supplier Nienhuis for at M@A and M@B. We want to thank Pub Charity for its grant of over \$5,000 that contributed towards these purchases.

Kristen has done a phenomenal job setting up M@A, creating the classroom culture and building relationships with the wider community. TMET are eternally grateful to have her as part of our team for M@A’s start-up year. However Kristen will return to Europe at the end of the year to be with her young sons. TMET is looking to the future and is working with Arataki School to find a suitable replacement. Following Kristen will be difficult but TMET is committed to making the change as seamless as possible for everyone.



A sincere thank you to the Bellevue and Arataki Principals Dave Bell and Shelley Blakey and the two Boards of Trustees for their continued support. For this we are extremely grateful.

Leanna Mitchell, TMET Executive Officer.

Montessori Parenting

Responding to concerns to support independence

From time to time your child may tell you about something at school that has disturbed or puzzled them. How you respond can have a strong effect on your child's future perceptions and feelings. We want to give your child the skills and strategies to cope with these situations and see them from different perspectives. Suggestions on how to respond include; giving short but heartfelt sympathy, listening, making a positive suggestion, listening and just leaving it be. If your child repeatedly reports similar issues or problems with one child then speak privately with the teacher so he or she can monitor the situation and support your child to help them deal with it. Below are some examples:

"Johnny hit me." Oh, that could hurt. I'm sorry you were hit. What could you do? What could you say?

"Jamie took the book I was reading." That could be frustrating. You'd like her to ask you instead of just taking it. What could you do? What could you say?

"Colin laughed when I fell down." That could hurt your feelings. You'd like him to help you up when you fall down. You'd like him to ask you how you are when you fall down.

"Susan said I took her pencil, but I didn't. She screamed at me in front of the whole class." That sounds embarrassing. You wish she would have asked you politely about her pencil.

Developing responsibility to support independence

At Montessori we assign responsibility for remembering things - like lunch, books, hats, resources, musical instruments and swimming togs - to the children. They are to ask their parents to help them arrange the physical layout and plan family routines to support their remembering. A habit of stopping to think before going out the door will serve them well now and in the future.

To help develop this a series of questions over a period of days might go something like this:



1. "Before you go out the door, stop and think. How many things do you need to take with you?"
2. "Before you go out the door, stop and think. What do you need to take with you?"
3. "What will you need before you go out the door?"
4. "What will you do?"
5. The parent stops at the door and looks into the child's eyes. The child is perplexed and stops to think while repeating, "What?" The parent waits for the child to think. If nothing comes, the parent says, "Think," and wait. If needed, ask, "What do you need?"

Maria Montessori Birthday Celebration

As a community we have been inspired by Heidi Hughes and the gardening club at Arataki School. Her enthusiasm and passion are catching. This year TMET will celebrate Maria Montessori's birthday on Wednesday 31st August. We are holding an event that brings the children from our community together at Arataki School. In Term 2 we spent time with Heidi and her gangsta gardeners from Arataki. We learnt about what they do, how they operate and what we, as a Montessori community,



can contribute to this already amazing group. In keeping with the Montessori philosophy, we are celebrating by giving our time to create a gift that keeps on giving, not only to the school but to the wider community as well. We will be planting seeds and trees, weeding, raking, making bird feeders, making homemade drinks, learning how to flax weave and learning about rongoa.

M@B and M@A children lunching together before joining the gangsta gardeners.

Montessori Pre Schools

Thank you to all our feeder pre-schools for the work they do in preparing children and families for the Montessori journey. To help pre-school teachers better understand what TMET offers at primary school level we are providing the opportunity for them to observe the classes in action. Contact us at trustadmin@tmet.org.nz to arrange an observation. It is hoped this will provide a valuable insight into our primary classes and help strengthen relationships between teachers.

Montessori@Otumoetai Lead Teacher Carol Ann is moving to America to be closer to her daughter and granddaughter. She has played a big part building the local Montessori community and her passion and knowledge have inspired many families. A huge thanks to Carol Ann. She will be missed.

Montessori children around the world will be taking part in the Sing Peace Around the World event on 21st September. They'll be singing the song, "Light a candle for Peace." For more information about the event see: <http://singpeacearoundtheworld.com>.

"It is true, we cannot make a genius; we can only give each individual the chance to fulfil his potential possibilities to become an independent, secure and balanced human being." - Maria Montessori.

M@B Update

Embroidery

The children are working on embroidery pieces for the Bellevue Art Exhibition. It is a long process from concept to completion and each child has spent many hours on their work. It has been fantastic for our new entrants, giving them a focus every day and something they have control of. The young children have managed well, using fine needles to embroider beads. The children have learnt complicated stitches and shown determination to master and include them in their designs. We don't have long until the exhibition in September and we're looking forward to seeing the finished masterpieces.



Giving



Many of us have been affected by cancer. A group of children in Deirdre's senior class were moved, by the suffering of sick children and the hardships their families face, to do something about it.

Jess, Charlotte, Caitlin, Poppy and Ivy worked as a team. They got Debbie from the Child Cancer Foundation to come to class and talk about cancer, the charity's work and what is needed to help. The girls planned a food stall to raise money. They made notices asking for contributions and got to work baking. By selling the food at school over \$200 was raised. Ka pai girls, what an amazing effort!

This initiative was 100% child driven and the learning was real. The girls organised a fund raising team, sought permission from the teacher and Principal and asked classmates to contribute some baking. Then on the day they set up the stall, managed the cash float and calculated their profit. Afterwards they asked an obliging Mum (thank you Tamsin) to take them to the shops to use their profit to buy gift cards. And to round it all off they asked Debbie to come back to school to present her with the gift cards.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." – Dr. Seuss.

Chinese Playroom

Cynthia runs the Chinese Playroom on Thursday afternoons from 3-3:45pm in Room 17. It has been well received by the entire school community. Cynthia explains:

“Mandarin is one of five main Chinese dialects and the official Chinese language. About 14.4% of the world’s population are native Chinese speakers and it is the most spoken language in the world.

That’s not why we started the Chinese Playroom though. It just happens that some of us native Chinese speakers love teaching and playing with children and Chinese is a stimulating language to learn. In the Montessori classroom environment we use games to engage curious minds.

Languages are easier to learn at younger ages. We have chosen a textbook from a series called, “Experiencing Chinese,” designed specifically for primary school children learning Mandarin as a second language. We chose this series is because it:

a) starts from the Chinese phonetics (汉语拼音), building a solid foundation for proper pronunciation; b) it’s fun; c) it has a detailed teacher’s handbook so even if you don’t speak Chinese you can still help your children; d) it incorporates writing skills from lesson one; and e) if students want to continue with Mandarin they can use the same series as they progress.



I sincerely hope you and your children enjoy the Chinese Playroom and can help our small community grow by giving us positive feedback.”



Davis Dyslexia

Jay Jay has been working with children on a one-on-one basis, using strategies from the Davis Dyslexia Programme to help them develop a better understanding of letters and words. Children work with plasticine to create alphabets and models that represent words to them. They children have enjoyed the work and it has helped progress their learning.

Working at M@B and M@A ...

