



Bellevue School



Coming Up

Bellevue 500 and CARnival

Friday 9th November, from 11:30am onwards

Senior School Beach Education

Monday 19th to Wednesday 21st November

Senior School Athletics

Wednesday 14th November

Year 3 & 4 Funky Fun Day

Tuesday 20th November, 9am - 2pm. More information to follow.

Bellevue School End of Year Celebration Assembly

Tuesday 11th December. All whānau and friends welcome. More information to follow.

Welcome to Term 4's Montessori @ Bellevue newsletter. A special welcome to the new families who have joined Montessori @ Bellevue this term. We hope that everyone has settled in well to the final term.

Stay up to date

We are in for an exciting and busy final term. To keep up with all of the latest updates, dates for events and happenings from the classrooms, keep an eye on our Facebook pages, 'Montessori at Bellevue' and 'Bellevue School, Tauranga'.

Speech competition

Congratulations to Lilly Shere in the senior class who recently won the Year 5 Bellevue School Speech Competition. Lilly also represented Bellevue School at the East Cluster Speech Competition at Pillian's Point School. A fantastic effort!

End of Year Celebrations

On Tuesday 11th December, Bellevue School will be saying farewell to all of the Year 6 leavers in a special end of year assembly. This will be the formal farewell to our Montessori leavers as well. Following this, on Friday 14th December, Montessori @ Bellevue will be holding our end of year celebrations. This year we are holding a special picnic to celebrate our leavers and the end of the school year. Family and friends are warmly invited to both of these two special end of year celebrations. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

Year 3 and 4 Swimming Lessons

From Thursday 13th to Monday 17th December, all year 3 and 4 children at Bellevue School will take part in swimming lessons at the Otumoetai Pools. There is no fee for this as it is fully funded.

Coming Up

Year 3 & 4 swimming lessons at Otumoetai Pools

Thursday 13th to Monday 17th December

Montessori @ Bellevue End of Year Celebration and Leaver's Picnic

Friday 14th December. All whānau and friends welcome. More information to follow.

Reports sent home

Friday 14th December

Last day of Term 4

Tuesday 18th December

“Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war.”

Maria Montessori

Maria Montessori Birthday Celebration

Last term our community came together to celebrate Maria Montessori's birthday. Tamariki from Montessori @ Bellevue, Montessori @ Arataki, local Montessori preschools and their families and teachers enjoyed us for a day of fun and games at Bellevue School. A special thank you to everyone who donated food items for the Good Neighbour Food Appeal.



How your child's classroom runs

As you are aware from our Term 3 newsletter, there were some improvements made to our classroom programme last term. After attending the 2018 MANZ conference and working with Michael Dorer, (a Montessori teacher and teacher trainer for the last 45 years), the team decided to incrementally implement aspects of his teachings throughout last term.

The main difference now is that all children attend a lesson presentation each day in a different curriculum area. This is done in small, age-based groups. Following their lesson, the children are given a choice of two assignments. Children that need more support or extra challenge have differentiated work choices tailored to their needs. The work they choose is to be completed at a time suitable to them within a week. The responsibility to complete the task has been challenging and uncomfortable for some children, but we have found that once they adjust to it, the children really get a sense of accomplishment, pride, and enjoyment of learning.

At the end of last term, the Montessori teachers came together to reflect on the changes, and we also asked the children their thoughts and opinions. We are pleased to report that this has had a very positive impact on both the teaching and learning in all of the classrooms.

Among many of the positive changes, we have observed the following:

- Children developing greater self-management strategies.
- The group sessions have allowed children to share their learning with one another, offering opportunities for them to lead the learning and teach other children.
- Children are building relationships and friendships that they wouldn't have had the opportunity to do otherwise.
- There is a more consistent and coherent approach to building on previously taught skills, resulting in less gaps in children's knowledge. This will help children substantially in their transition from the junior to the senior class.
- There is greater opportunity for children's natural instincts of concentration and exploration to be applied to areas that are necessary for them to participate in society, even though they may not have chosen the work they are presented with.
- The teachers are enjoying teaching children of the same ages and differentiated abilities as the children respond, discuss and assist each other in similar ways because they are at the same developmental stage.
- Works well for children who previously struggled to choose and/or complete work.

Please be assured that students still have choice and flexibility in how they approach their day and their work. The children are encouraged to have freedom with responsibility to explore their interests through personal inquiries. All of the teachers are well aware of the importance of children exploring their interests and creativity. Students are still encouraged to think for themselves, problem solve and negotiate their days, not just in academics, but also in the social and emotional context.

Following the Montessori Curriculum, the teachers are also continuing to promote and foster cosmic education, promoting the connectedness of our universe. We continue to share the great lessons and weave into our everyday lessons wonderful stories, such as 'The First Word', 'The Four Strange Brothers' and 'The Ox and the House'.

It is important to note that with any new initiative, there is a settling in period for both the staff and the children. This has required a little more structure and direction to help support the children to utilise the skill set that they already possess. Students have voiced that overall, they are enjoying and feeling positive about the classroom changes. Here are some of the children's responses:

Senior class feedback:

"I find it really cool. It's really helpful because of the lessons, I get my work done now. I wouldn't have done it before."

"The new way is helping my brain learn more. If I don't have any work to do I can do my follow-up lesson work."

"I didn't really like the 1:1 lessons [previous to last term]. It's good to have other people to work with rather than having to try and figure it out by yourself."

"Teachers are still available if you need 1:1 lessons."

"We can do inquiry whenever but if we have a class objective we are encouraged to go down that path."

"It helps me manage my time better."

Junior class feedback:

- Enjoyed the Math lessons as they are challenging and fun
- Loved the stories that introduced their lessons

- Enjoyed the variety of lessons and learning about lots of different things
- Not used to doing assignments - not keen on doing them every day as they are used to having free choice all the time

We have also recently hosted the Montessori team and senior leadership team from Malfroy School in Rotorua. They are also in the process of implementing these changes, and were very impressed with what they saw when they came to observe.

"I really want to express my appreciation of the welcome we received when we visited you all last term. Every one of us got something valuable out of it and thoroughly enjoyed it. I enjoyed seeing your progress with the Michael Dorer-style planning. I am implementing it this term."

Helen Ramsdale, Malfroy School

The Montessori team would like to thank our parent community for your patience and continued support while we made this transition. The staff are incredibly invested in our children and not only have a wonderful relationship with them, but also a deep knowledge of them as people and learners. As always, we would encourage you to come and **speak to your child's teacher** if you have any questions or want to know more about how your child is progressing. You are always welcome; we encourage discussion and value the partnership that we share in your child's learning.

The Montessori Team