



Term 1 Newsletter 2019

Welcome back everybody and a warm welcome to all our new whanau.

End of Year Celebrations

Thank you to everyone who came along to the end of year activities. Colleen organised various fun community days for everyone to enjoy and from the wonderful feedback we have received, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It also confirmed to us, on the Trust, that the time and effort we put into running Montessori@Arataki is completely worthwhile.

Update on teachers

A huge and heartfelt thank you to Colleen for everything she has done for our children and for M@A. She shared her phenomenal knowledge of children and education in the classroom, she undertook Montessori study and she put in hours of work – for which she was rewarded by coming out with top marks. Colleen also embraced Michael Dorer (a renowned Montessorian who presented at the 2018 MANZ Conference and will be returning as a speaker in 2019). She completely transformed Room 18 and for this we are all truly grateful. We are sad to say farewell, but know we will continue to see her in and around Arataki school.

TMET and Shelley Blakey are delighted to be welcoming Kavya into Room 18. Kavya comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience in Montessori, along with all the requirements of teaching in a state school. Colleen and Kavya have already spent a couple of days in school together to ensure that the transition is as seamless as possible for both the children and the teachers. TMET is humbled to have such committed teachers as part of the team.



Changes to Payments

As a result of a shift in emphasis by the MoE under the Labour government and ongoing discussions with its tax advisor, TMET will switch from a fee-based revenue model to a donations-based revenue model from the beginning of 2019.

Although TMET's financial obligations are unchanged, invoices for fees will be replaced with requests for donations from this term.

TMET is currently working with its tax advisor and the IRD around the issue of parent donations and eligibility for donation tax credits. We will update our community on this as soon as we have more information.

TMET has worked to find the most appropriate financial structure for its operation, balancing requirements of different government departments in the process. Your patience and continued support through this is appreciated.

Donation requests will be sent out in week 2 of term 1.

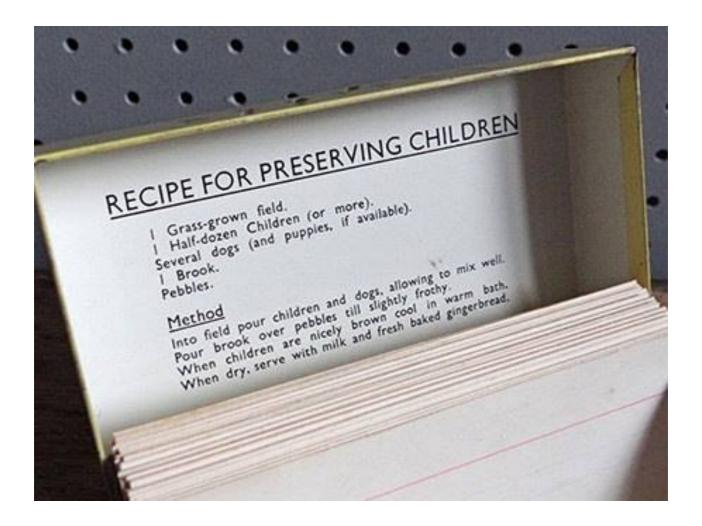
Term 1 Montessori events

We will be inviting members of our pre-school community to come in and join us in the classroom and garden, as the younger children love spending time in the M@A gardens. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to impart knowledge and teachings on to their younger charges, further instilling Maria Montessori's ideas around vertical age groups.

Arataki School offers a number of sporting opportunities for its students and a great way to get involved is to offer to coach or manage different sports teams. This is also an opportunity to get to know a wider range of students within the wider school.

Please keep an eye on Arataki School Newsletters and its Facebook page to keep up with the latest news regarding whole school events. M@A is a full and integral part of Arataki School, so parents are encouraged to take part in all events advertised. Please also like our Montessori at Arataki Facebook page for Montessori specific posts.

If anyone is interested in assisting the PTA, please contact the office for more details.



Fundraising

TMET welcomes fundraising initiatives. These are usually held, by our community, for our community. It is never too soon to create an opportunity to come together as a community to raise funds for our tamariki. In the past, we have enjoyed cinema evenings at the Rialto and quiz nights. These events tend to be a great deal of fun and also help with bringing our community together. The funds raised from these events may be earmarked for a particular area, or go towards the general running of our school. Please talk directly to Leanna if you are keen to drive an initiative.

Tauranga Montessori Education Trust (TMET)

TMET's primary activity is to provide governance for Montessori classrooms in partnership with its host schools. As a Charitable Trust, its purpose is that of education using the Montessori Method. To maintain its charitable status TMET has an obligation to live out objectives such as promotion of the Montessori philosophy to its immediate and wider community; the establishment and maintenance of classes to meet the demand of its local communities; effectively communicating with host schools to best support Montessori classrooms; ongoing professional development of teaching staff and adequate resourcing of the classrooms with Montessori specific materials.

As valued members of our Montessori community we would welcome any ideas you may have that can help us live out these objectives, as well as fundraising opportunities to help us meet costs that allow us to continue to offer Montessori as a way of life within the Tauranga region.

TMET's volunteer governance board is currently comprised of Tanya Drummond, Fenella Wilson, Leanna Mitchell and Maia Ririnui. Leanna Mitchell also serves as Executive Officer. Lee Martin is Administrator.

Please contact your Lead Teacher or Deputy Principal directly with any specific concerns around your child's learning.