



Bellevue School

6th February, 2019

Dear Parents and Whānau,

We would like to welcome back all of our families, and a special welcome to the new families joining us this term. We hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer, and are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Life Education

From 15th to the 27th of March, the children will participate in Life Education. This year our focus will be on 'What are the impacts of the decisions we make?' and 'How do we know what other people are feeling?'. And the health focus is 'What are senses and what do they do for us?'. Life Education is a charity trust and they ask for \$5.50 per child to contribute to the cost of running this programme. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Request from our Montessori Year 7 Children

As part of their service to the community this term, the Year 7s will be making a variety of foods using fruit. The Year 7s will gladly accept any donations of excess fruit or jars that you may have. They will be able to collect this. Please contact Rhiarne if you are able to support them with this project or to arrange collection: rgribbin@bellevue.school.nz

Promoting Independence

To help your child develop his or her independence, we ask that you consider developing a routine that encourages your child to say goodbye to you a distance from the classroom. Examples of this may be the corner of the hall, the junior playground, or the astroturf. If possible, could you also pick your child up from the same place away from the classroom to avoid distraction from the end of day routines, such as pack up.

Other ways you can continue to foster independence:

- Encouraging your child to make his/her own lunch and pack his/her bag
- Ensuring your child carries his/her own bag to and from school
- Scaffold your child to be responsible by allowing him/her to be hungry if they forget their lunch, or miss out on activities if they forget to bring their things eg. togs for swimming.

Kapa Haka

This term your child will have the opportunity to join the junior kapa haka group if they wish to. Kapa haka takes place every Friday morning during school time.

Swimming

This term we will have our swimming days on Wednesdays and Fridays. Swimming will begin this week. Could you please support your child to be responsible for remembering to bring his/her togs and towel on both of these days.

Personal Belongings

Just a friendly reminder to please name all lunch boxes, clothes (particularly shoes, socks, jumpers, hats) and swimming togs. We are always surprised at how much property is left over at the end of each week, even after showing the items several times to the children in the hope that they will claim their belongings. At the end of last year, there was a significant amount of unclaimed, unnamed property left over in the Junior Montessori classes. Thank you for your support with this.

Communication Reminder

If there is something urgent that you would like to discuss with your child's key teacher in the mornings, please send her a text to let her know so that she can make herself available. Please bear in mind that we see the mornings as a valuable opportunity to connect with and catch up with each child, so wherever possible we ask that these meetings be brief and arranged prior to 8.15am, or ideally after school. We generally have staff meetings after school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

If you have any concerns, please contact your child's key teacher to organise an appointment. Most things can be sorted out quite easily, however if you feel that the issue has not been resolved, or that you have not been heard, please come back to us so that we can work out a way forward together. We see each of these opportunities as valuable professional development.

Suzanne: 021 190 0247 email: srussell@bellevue.school.nz

Isabella: 021 0264 6537 email: idunn@bellevue.school.nz

JayJay: 027 750 2312 email: jjsmith@bellevue.school.nz

If there is an urgent message that you need to get to your child's key teacher or your child during the day, please call Rae in the office (07 576 5916). The teachers are not always available to check their phones throughout the day.

Rubbish Free Lunches

To help the children gain awareness around what they are eating and throwing away, we would like to continue rubbish free lunches this year. This means that children take everything home that is left after they have eaten. Children could bring a bag or container to carry any messy rubbish such as yogurt containers home.

Please be aware that we have a significant number of children with a range of moderate to severe food allergies including nuts, gluten, eggs, dairy, and coconut. While we do not restrict what food children bring in their lunchboxes, we do ask them to be mindful of others and to refrain from sharing their food. You could also help them to develop awareness by having a conversation around this issue with your child.

Lunch Time

On Mondays through to Thursdays, the children eat their lunch after lunch play at 12.15pm. We will continue to share Friday lunch times with the whole school. Every Friday the children eat their lunch first at 12.15pm, then they join the whole school for lunch play until 1.15pm. They are given sufficient time to eat, however, a few children choose to spend this time talking to their friends rather than eating. If you notice that your child is not eating his/her lunch, you may like to discuss with him/her how they are spending his/her eating times.

Montessori School Hours

School hours for the Montessori Team are now 8:45am to 2:45pm everyday. If you are late to pick up your child, the duty teacher will ask them to wait in the school office where you can pick them up from.

What School Level is Your Child?

Our students begin school in the term they turn six and remain in the junior class for three years. There has always been some confusion about which year level they participate in for school wide events. Below is a table that equates Montessori years at school to mainstream year levels. If you would like further clarification, please see your child's key teacher.

Montessori @ Bellevue Year Levels											
Year 1 Term 1	Year 1 Term 2	Year 1 Term 3	Year 1 Term 4	Year 2 Term 1	Year 2 Term 2	Year 2 Term 3	Year 2 Term 4	Year 3 Term 1	Year 3 Term 2	Year 3 Term 3	Year 3 Term 4
Equivalent Year Levels for Participation in Bellevue School Events eg. Triathlon/duathlon											
Bellevue Year 1	Bellevue Year 2			Bellevue Year 3				Bellevue Year 4			

Bellevue Sports Teams

If your child is in Bellevue Year 3 and is interested in playing kiwitag, volleyball or flippa ball, please complete the school sport notices that have been sent home with children that attended the sports meeting on Monday. Year 1, 2, and 3 children also have the option of playing T-ball this term. These notices must be returned by Thursday 7th February due to the competitions commencing next week.

Pencils

At the beginning this term, each child received their own named pencil that they are to be responsible for. If their pencil should go missing or needs replacing, they will be asked to bring a named replacement pencil in from home. Each term we will supply the children with one named pencil each.

Further Forms of Communication

Bellevue School website: <http://www.bellevue.school.nz/> - this has a variety of information such as school events, lunches that can be purchased, and the school rules.

You are also invited to follow our Montessori Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/montessoriatbellevue/>

Upcoming Events

- **Whole school triathlon/duathlon:** Tuesday 26th February
- **Teacher Only Day:** Monday 4th March
- **Peace Runners Visit:** On Monday 11th March we will host the Peace Runners. They are an international group of volunteers who travel around the world spreading the message of peace. They also bring with them a torch that they take around the world, and the children have the opportunity to carry this torch.
- **Zero Waste lessons:** 13th and 14th March
- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** Friday 29th March
- **Funky Fun Day:** Thursday 4th April (for Year 3 and 4's only)
- **Martha Mine Trip:** On Thursday the 11th April, the Montessori Junior Classes will be visiting Martha Mine in Waihi. This trip will include a visit to their education centre, as well as a tour of the mine. There is no charge for this part of the trip, however there will be a small charge for the bus. More information will follow closer to the date.

Kind regards,

The Junior Montessori Team