



Term 1 Newsletter 2019

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

Leavers Assembly

Thank you to everyone who came along to the end of year leavers' assembly. It was heartwarming to see the mutual outpouring of respect and admiration between our leavers, our teachers and the continuing students. All our children spoke with confidence and a genuine love and appreciation for their time in our Montessori classrooms. This really did highlight the confidence and independence Montessori education champions. It also confirmed to us, on the Trust, that the time and effort we put into running Montessori@Bellevue is worthwhile.

Update on Teachers

The recruitment process is continuing as TMET and Bellevue School work to fill the Lead teacher position at M@B. Although there have been a number of applicants for the position, none have satisfied all the requirements. We are committed to finding another amazing teacher to join our team and appreciate your patience around this. If you have any questions please speak directly to Dave Bell or Scott Symes.

We are delighted to introduce Claire Gribbin who will be teaching in Room 17. We are sure you will all welcome Claire into our community.

Reminder on Changes to Montessori Classroom Hours

Please remember that this year, our Montessori classrooms commence learning at 8.45am (10 minutes earlier than the rest of school) and finish at 2.45pm. This is to ensure that the children maintain their three-hour work cycle in the morning, before allowing them to conduct some self-directed learning in the afternoon.

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 to get clarity around eligibility for donation tax credits. We will provide an update on this as soon as we have more information.

TMET has worked to find the most appropriate financial structure for its operation, balancing the complex and often conflicting 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.

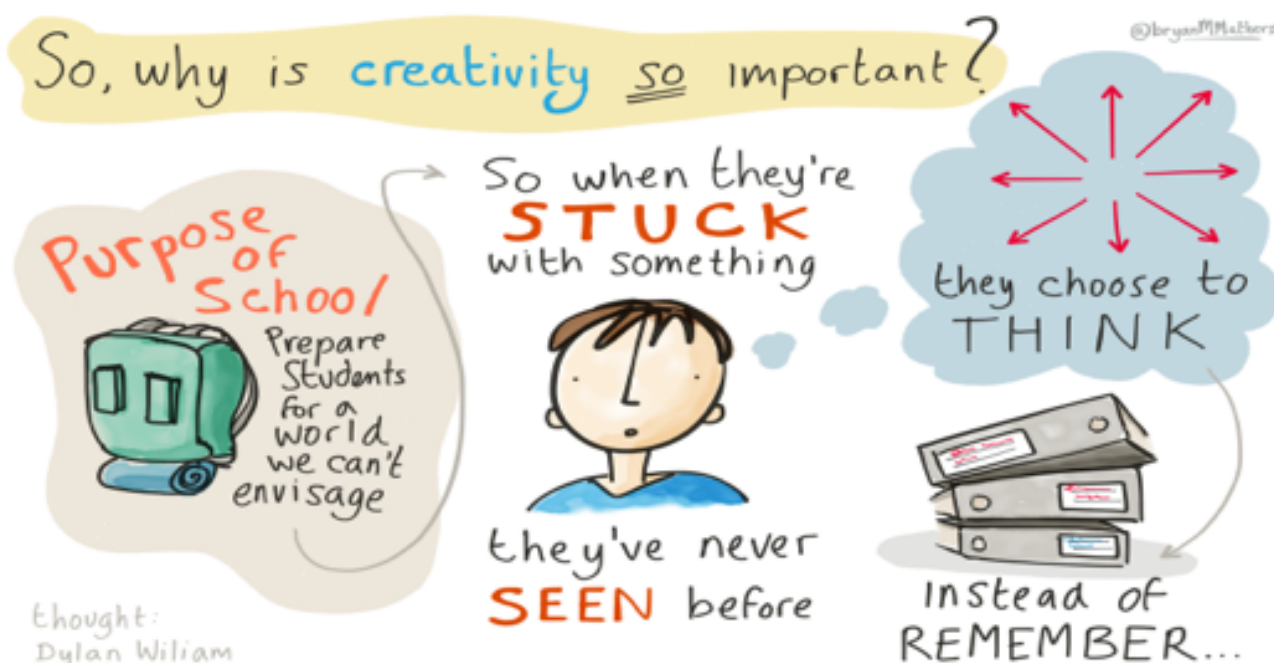
Term 1 Montessori Events

The Year 7s will be working closely with Rhiarne to plan their practical life activities in Term One, which will include harvesting fruit and making preserves. They will also be planning some of their EOTC (Education Outside The Classroom) activities and trips.

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

The Bellevue School triathlon will be held during Term 1 so please come along to support all our children.

Bellevue 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 help out and get to know a wider range of students from within the school.



Fundraising

TMET welcomes ideas for fundraising initiatives. These are usually held for our community and are parent-led. In the past, we have enjoyed cinema evenings at the Rialto and quiz nights. These events are a great deal of fun and help bring our community together. Funds raised from these events can be earmarked for a specific purpose or contribute to the general running of the school. Please talk directly to Leanna if you are keen to drive an initiative.

Montessori Alumni

It is extremely exciting to hear of the exploits of our Montessori Alumni. Many are heading off to university, some are now graduating, many are collecting prizes at their respective schools and many are playing representative sport, or being involved in the Arts and community happenings.

If you know of any news from our alumni, please send it through to leanna@tmet.org.nz.

Tauranga Montessori Education Trust (TMET)

TMET is a registered charitable trust that works to promote and support Montessori-based education in the Bay of Plenty. It operates classrooms at Bellevue and Arataki Schools in conjunction with their Boards of Trustees.

Its charitable purpose is to live out objectives such as the 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.

TMET would welcome any ideas you may have that can help achieve these objectives, including fundraising opportunities.

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

TMET focuses on governance while the school principals are responsible for education-related matters. Please address any learning enquiries directly to your Lead Teacher or Deputy Principal.

