

Montessori Team



**Bellevue
School**
Growing
Learners for
Life

Term 1, 2020

Welcome to 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome all to our new year at Bellevue Montessori. As a team this year we have defined our principles and ethos. We will be underpinning the Bellevue Four R's with a personal Montessori philosophy 'To foster a love of learning, where children feel safe to discover and try new things, grow without judgement and become their best future selves'.

We have a fully qualified teaching team working here, some of whom have been in education for more than a decade (some even two!). During this time we have all had the experience of working in many different environments and fulfilling varied requirements based on schools, whanau and individual tamariki. There is no school based obstacle that this team has not come across. Further to this, all of our team have training at the university stage, or later, some with additional training in Montessori. To solidify and strengthen our knowledge we will be adding to our Montessori qualifications by completing the North American Montessori Centre 6-9 Diploma.

We are excited to see the Montessori grow into a calm and organised environment where all of us focus on the wellbeing of tamariki and the importance of their education. We will be working together towards a common goal of creating a strong, kind and capable generation who can help both Aotearoa, New Zealand become the best country it can be, and help the world move towards a positive future.

Nga mihi nui,
Irene Martin
Team Leader

★★ Greetings from the new principal, Melissa Nelson ★★

I am excited to be the new principal at Bellevue School. Over the coming weeks, I look forward to working with the staff and students in our Montessori classrooms and to see Montessori education in action. My emerging understanding of the Montessori philosophy is that it is based on building and fostering self-motivation with students and endeavours to foster a deep desire to be curious, connected learners.



Dates to Note:

- **Thursday 20th Feb**
Open Classroom 5 - 6.30pm
- **Friday 13th March** -
Teacher Only Day
- **17th March** - Year 5/6
Swimming Sports
- **18th/19th March** -
School Production
"Maui the Magnificent"
- **25th March** – Bellevue
Triathlon
- **30th March** - Year 3
and 4 Funky Fun Day
- **Thursday 9th April** -
Last day of term
- **Tuesday 28th April** -
Term 2 commences

Swimming days

Juniors - Wed morning, Friday
afternoons

Room 16 – Monday and Tuesday
morning

Room 17 - Tuesday and Friday
morning

Why Did You Choose Montessori?

As a Mum of four children, an educator, and married to an educator, I often find that people are naturally curious about why we chose Montessori for our family.

It is simple really: in my eyes, anyway. We wanted a 'type' of education that reflected our parenting and our belief systems as people. We did not want 'special' attention, we do not wish to create mini-Einsteins, nor do we want our children to be completely egocentric! As parents, we want to have kind and caring human beings, who can look after themselves, their environment and other people. I believe by choosing Montessori education we are there, well almost.

Schooling is like a social experiment and sending four children from the same family to the same school is also an experiment and one that we love to watch. Why you might ask? Well, the children's personalities are all so different and M@B supported each individual child's strengths, encouraged their weaknesses and allowed them to fully believe in themselves and their own skills. The one piece of feedback we have received, and continue to receive, over and over again from Intermediate and High School is: "Your child is very thoughtful, a strong leader and a great role model". This has been said numerous times about our three older children who have moved on from Montessori, and yes, we feel very proud as parents to hear this.

They have all had different teachers over their time at Montessori@Bellevue, sometimes they have been in the one class sometimes different classes, and their teacher has treated them all as individuals in their own right. They have not been seen as a sibling, a son or daughter of ours, but as an individual and they have been given the opportunities to develop their own personalities, traits, and quirks. And if you know our children, they have plenty of these!

People also ask if we are not worried about our children's academic progress. The short answer is no. As parents, we trust the school we have chosen and we trust/ed our children 100%. We live in a literacy-rich home where technology is limited, which is reflected in their passion for reading. We also know through our own professional experience that academic success follows when everything else is "okay" or working. This means they have a trusted relationship with their teacher, they are respected as a class member, learning is individualized to suit the specific needs of our children and an open-door policy allows us to talk directly to the teacher if we have any questions.

Academic success is important to us; we obviously want our children to reach the top of their potential and to have choice in their lives. Whether they go to university or pursue their own chosen pathway is their choice and we have encouraged our children to strive for their best as we do not want any of these pathways blocked. Thankfully our children know it is up to them and they will not be spoon-fed by us and they need to take all the opportunities that come their way, and to reach out and strive for success: and being Montessori kids, this is their natural way of being.

Choosing Montessori was an easy decision and one we do not regret. We feel blessed as parents to be able to do this for our children, and given our time again, we would not hesitate in doing the same again.

By Leanna Mitchell



Working Together

Helping our Children's Well-Being

Three things that make a significant difference to all of us are staying hydrated, eating well, and getting enough sleep.

WATER: As a guideline, children under 8 need around 1.2 litres each day and 9-13 year olds need around 1.5 litres daily. Perhaps they could have a glass/cup of water before they come to school. They could bring a named water bottle to school everyday or alternatively leave it in their classroom during the summer term.

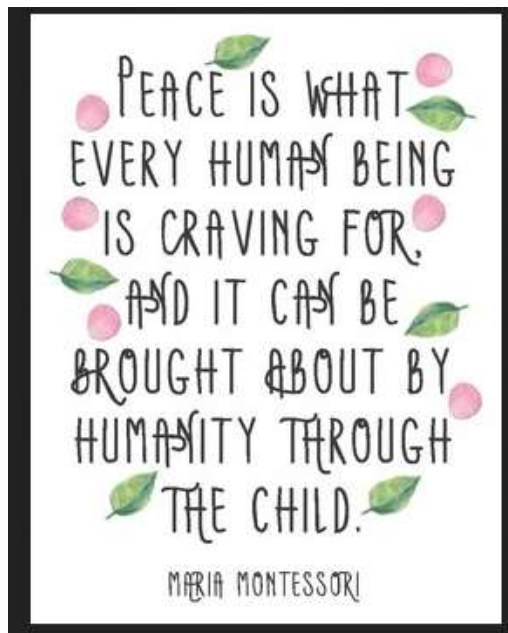
SCHOOL LUNCHES: Healthy food makes a significant difference to us all. There are some great websites with information about healthy food for children that you may be interested in such as www.helpguide.org healthy food for kids and www.kiwifamilies.co.nz preparing healthy school lunches. As we are working towards developing independence it is great if your child could be part of this process. Depending on the age of your child they could prepare some of their snacks, make their own sandwich, or if they are older make their own lunch for school. This can be great learning. We also encourage our children to avoid pre-packaged snacks, which is better for their health and helps minimise rubbish.

SLEEP: Being back at school means different routines. The website www.kiwifamilies.co.nz has a guide to how much sleep children need at different ages. www.kidshealth.org all about sleep has information on sleep recommendations for children and ideas to help with establishing routines to help calm children and encourage a better sleep. Having a regular bedtime is helpful. Help your children develop calming routines that work for them; brushing teeth, reading, quiet time, cuddles etc.

Working in Partnership for each Child's Well-Being

We look forward to getting on well as a team who all want the best for the children in our care, however sometimes, there can be misunderstandings or issues that need to be addressed. In the first instance, please approach your child's class teacher. Most issues can be sorted out here but if you need to take the matter further your second port of call is to make an appointment with Irene, our team leader. If after meeting with Irene, you need to further escalate the matter, please make an appointment with our Deputy Principal Scott Symes or our head principal Melissa Nelson. This system enables matters to be dealt with in the best possible way.





FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- If there is an urgent message that you need to get to your child during the day, please call Lana in the office (07 576 5916). The teachers are not always available to check their phones throughout the day.
- School finishes at 2:45pm. If for some reason you are late to pick up your child, the teacher on duty is required to ask him/her to wait in the school office.
- It is helpful if your child's lunch boxes, bottles, clothes and swimming gear are named.

Keep Informed

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

Bellevue School website: <http://www.bellevue.school.nz/> - this has a variety of information such as school events, information on Kindo shop, and the school rules.

Also Bellevue School Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/bellevueschooltauranga/>



Have you got a particular skill or talent that you would be willing to share with our tamariki?

We are interested to find out what skills, talents, and knowledge are in our community that could be imparted onto our young people.

If you are interested in sharing your knowledge please send an email to your class teacher to express your interest, include what you would like to share, if there is a particular age group/time of year (celebrations perhaps).

Let's come together and see what we can create, do and learn in 2020!

Choir: Claire (Room 17) will be leading the school choir this year. In Term 1 we will be focusing on the whole school Gobsmaeked production - each class will participate in one of two choirs for Maui the Magnificent. Children will have the opportunity to join the school choir in term 2, preparing for various events throughout the year... More information will follow at the end of Term 1/beginning of Term 2.

Bellevue School 'Meet the Teachers' Evening

This Thursday, 20th February 5 – 6.30pm

You are invited to come look around your child's classroom, ask the teacher questions, and enjoy time mixing with the other families in our school community. At 5.45pm there will be a Montessori presentation in the junior classes.

Gobsmaeked Production

With our production coming up we encourage as much singing, drama and dancing as possible at school and at home!

To hear the songs use the details below...

Website: www.gobsmaeked.nz

Username: belleveueschool

Password: gsmack16

Room 16 & 17 - Choir 1

*What is it?, Last Dance of the Petipeti, Life of the Pouakai, Kiwi's Can't Fly, *Maui Boy is Home, *Magnificent Magical Maui

Room 18, 19 & 20 - Choir 2

Fabulous, Flavoursome Food, *The Old Man Sun, *Anthem of the Patiki, The Fire has Gone, Sizzle Sizzle, *Magnificent Maui

*Whole song

'NAMCs exceptional Lower Elementary curriculum manuals prepare Montessori teachers to inspire and guide young students to be independent learners and creative thinkers'.

As teachers we are constantly upskilling ourselves so we can meet the needs and learning of the children in our care. This year, our professional development is based around completing the NAMC (North American Montessori Centre) curriculum diploma. We will also be attending the annual national Montessori conference.