



Term 3 2019

Dear Families

We would like to warmly welcome you to term three. We are assuming you have met the new teachers, if not please feel free to pop in and introduce yourself. TMET and Bellevue School are absolutely delighted to welcome Irene as team leader and Karina as a classroom teacher. As always we have a great knack of attracting teachers of high calibre who have a huge heart for Montessori education.

Montessori@Bellevue is constantly growing and evolving and we are incredibly proud to call ourselves the biggest Montessori primary in the country. We continue to have a close working relationship with all our feeding preschools and we are incredibly grateful for all their support around Parent Information Evenings, Education evenings and for being a key part in our wider community. We can speak for everyone at Montessori@Bellevue in saying we love having preschool teachers, parents and children come to visit us.

In terms of our teaching team, Irene is Montessori team leader and teaches in room 18 alongside Karina in room 19 and JayJay in room 20. They each work with their key groups of children and with the whole 6-9 cohort depending on what is happening on the day. In the 9-12 classrooms, Deirdre teaches in room 16 and Claire is in room 17. Our teachers bring with them a combined knowledge of 50+ years of teaching primary school children - jeeppers that is a lot of children!!! We are fortunate that all our teachers believe there is another way to educate our tamariki, that being the Montessori way. This became apparent when the team attended the 3-day MANZ (Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand) conference in July and fully embraced the learning, returning inspired to implement this in our classrooms. The newer members of our team are committed to professional development and have been spending many hours reading up and learning as much as they can about the workings of a Montessori classroom. Our teachers already have a huge Montessori heart and TMET is supporting them with the day to day mechanics. JayJay and Deirdre already possess Montessori qualifications and the whole team will soon be engaging in external learning that, once completed, will give everyone a recognised qualification in Montessori 6-12 years.

All of our children have the opportunity to work with Rhiarne doing a huge variety of practical life activities such as cooking, community service, gardening, woodwork, planning tramps and event organisation, to name a few. We are so fortunate to have Steph who teaches in room 16 on Fridays and relieves in all classrooms when needed. When Steph is not teaching, she loves to do practical life with the children and they work on sewing projects, etc.

All of our teachers are supported by Bellevue School senior management and by Leanna Mitchell who supports them in the areas of professional learning around the Montessori specifics.

*If anyone has any questions around the support and Montessori specifics please do not hesitate to contact Leanna Mitchell;
leanna@tmet.org.nz*

If anyone has any questions about how a classroom is operating, please talk directly to the class teacher, Irene, Scott or Dave.

TMET and Bellevue School wish to thank you all for your support of TMET and Montessori@Bellevue.

Meet the Team

Irene Martin: Team Leader

Where do you come from?

London, England: I was born in North London and then spent most of my adult life in South London.

How long have you been in Tauranga and what is your favourite thing about living here?

4 months - getting to the ocean in under 15 minutes and the Mount, ohh and the sunsets.

What age group children are you teaching?

6-9.

In a nutshell what does Montessori mean to you?

Individualised effective learning, delivered through children's interests and specific activities that creates a whole human being ready for a harmonious adult life.

Favourite animal?

Whale.

A unique talent you have?

I can veganise most cuisines.



Jay-Jay Smith



Where do you come from?

Can I say from my mother's womb ...or shall I stick with Invercargill?

How long have you been in Tauranga and what is your favourite thing about living here?

I have been in Tauranga for a while, since 2001...popped off to live overseas on several different occasions.

What age group children are you teaching?

I am fortunate to work with the 6-9 year olds. They have a fresh outlook on life, there is never a dull moment, and no two days are the same.

In a nutshell what does Montessori mean to you?

Teaching from the heart! Thinking and aiming to do what is best for each child for their whole well-being.

Favourite animal?

As a child I always wanted a pet monkey or a cockatiel (thank goodness I never got them).

A unique talent you have?

Craft queen and food lover.

Steph Mackenzie

Where do you come from?

I was born on The Wirral Peninsula, which is across the River Mersey from Liverpool, England.

How long have you been in Tauranga and what is your favourite thing about living here?

I emigrated in 2002 with my Kiwi husband. I love the climate, the space, the scenery and the fact that it is a wonderful place to bring up children. I also love Hokey Pokey ice cream.

What age group children are you teaching?

I am lucky enough to float throughout the 5 Montessori classrooms so I teach all the children aged between 6 and 12 years.

In a nutshell what does Montessori mean to you?

I love the holistic approach to the teaching and in particular the practical life aspect.

Favourite animal?

It varies but at the moment, I'm quite partial to Sphinx cats.

A unique talent you have?

I can play 'Stairway to Heaven' on the recorder using my nose.



Karina Fry



Where do you come from?

New Zealand!!

How long have you been in Tauranga and what is your favourite thing about living here?

I am a born and bred Taurangean. I love the warm weather and all the little peninsulas.

What age group children are you teaching?

I am in Room 19 with the 6-9yr olds.

In a nutshell what does Montessori mean to you?

Letting the student discover their own strengths and develop their independence in a calm and caring environment.

Favourite animal?

The kea - it's cheeky, clever, and it's native.

A unique talent you have?

I can do 10 cartwheels in a row.

Claire Gribbin

Where do you come from?

I come from a little village called Newbridge, at the opposite side of the world in Northern Ireland.

How long have you been in Tauranga and what is your favourite thing about living here?

I will have lived in Tauranga 2 years in September. Definitely, my favourite thing about living here is the short drive to a beautiful beach... even in the winter here it would be a warmer beach trip than a summer in Northern Ireland.

What age group children are you teaching?

I am in the senior classroom, teaching the 9-12 year olds.

In a nutshell what does Montessori mean to you?

A wide range of opportunities within Montessori which caters for sea of interests. The children and staff learn so many invaluable skills working with, and learning from each other. The children have the freedom of choice, with responsibility.

Favourite animal?

Penguins & Koalas.

A unique talent you have?

If I speak really fast, most people struggle to understand what I say. And music! I have played the violin since I was 8 (give or take a few years without practise), I can sing, and I play piano, occasionally.



Deirdre Harrison

Where do you come from?

I am from the Waikato - Te Awamutu to be specific. FYI this is the hometown of the Finn brothers from Split Enz, Crowded House, and now Neil Finn who has joined Fleetwood Mac.

How long have you been in Tauranga and what is your favourite thing about living here?

I have been in Tauranga for around 19 years. Some of my favourite things about living here are that the people I love are here. I can go for a bush walk and feel like I am not in the city or go to my favourite yoga classes only 10 minutes drive away.

What age group children are you teaching?

I teach 9-12 year olds. This has been the age group I have taught for 11 years - I really like working with this age group.

In a nutshell what does Montessori mean to you?

I love that it is holistic; it feels like it fits me as a person.

Favourite animal?

Elephants, but I have a cat!

A unique talent you have?

I can tap dance and sing!



Rhiarne Gribbin

Where do you come from?

Northland.

How long have you been in Tauranga and what is your favourite thing about living here?

15 years on and off, the best thing about living here is the many things to do outdoors.

What age group children are you teaching?

The practical life program is for all the students at Montessori Bellevue.

In a nutshell what does Montessori mean to you?

Individuals being encouraged to be themselves, to think for themselves and be amazing people.

Favourite animal?

Tiger.

A unique talent you have?

Crashing my bike.



Leanna Mitchell

Where do you come from?

I hail from Ireland and have been in NZ for 15 years, almost a local!

How long have you been in Tauranga and what is your favourite thing about living here?

The weather, the people, the Mount, the beaches, the chilled out kiwi way of being, oranges, NZ wine...the list is endless!

What age group children are you teaching?

Currently I am the Executive Officer to the Tauranga Montessori Education Trust. In the past I taught 3-12 year olds.

In a nutshell what does Montessori mean to you?

It is a way of life, a way of being and a way of education.

Montessori education is about growing good, kind humans who know their unique talents and place in our world.

Favourite animal?

I love horses and dogs. The African elephant is pretty magnificent!

A unique talent you have?

Hmmmmm, hard one! I asked my kids and I got two answers; 1-my wierd telephone voice and 2-I always look for the good in people.



Lee Martin

Where do you come from?

A village called Broughty Ferry, which is in Dundee, Scotland and sits on the banks of the silvery River Tay.

How long have you been in Tauranga and what is your favourite thing about living here?

I visited for a few months in 2003 and moved here permanently in 2005. I love the climate, living near the beach, Mauao itself and the relaxed lifestyle. It's the perfect place to raise children.

What age group children are you teaching?

I work closely with Leanna on the TMET management side and am the person at the other end of the TMET emails.

In a nutshell what does Montessori mean to you?

Allowing our children the freedom to find and follow their passions in an environment that nurtures their wellbeing and enables them to grow and learn at their own pace.

Favourite animal?

Giraffes. They are so elegant.

A unique talent you have?

According to my 12 year-old son, there is no such thing as a unique talent as someone else in the world will have the exact same talent. I have however inherited savviness when it comes to sourcing a bargain.



TMET and Bellevue School wish to thank all of you for your support of the Trust and our school.

On behalf of Montessori@Bellevue we thank our TMET Trustees:

Tanya Drummond (Chair)

Maia Ririnui (Treasurer)

Fenella Wilson

Julie Fisher-Somervell

Kent Hazlehurst

Leanna Mitchell (Executive Officer)

Lee Martin (Administrator)

“Our task is to educate their (our students) whole being so they can face the future. We may not see the future, but they will and our job is to help them make something of it.”

Ken Robinson.