



TMET Newsletter: Term 1 2024

Welcome to Term 1. We hope you have all enjoyed a lovely summer with whanau and friends. TMET acknowledges that change can be challenging and unsettling. However, we feel confident that your tamariki will continue to grow and flourish with the new kaiako who have joined our Montessori team this year. Welcome back to Janine and Grace (M@A) and to Claire, Donna, Michelle and Linda (M@B). We also welcome Sarah and Desiree 'officially' to the team at M@B (see more below).

We are so fortunate to have such a committed and passionate team: Donna and Claire are nearing the end of their journey with Steven Arnold and MOTU and Janine and Grace are commencing theirs: <https://www.amc.school.nz/motu-montessori-for-adults> We look forward to welcoming Steven Arnold to our schools again in 2024, starting with our Journey & Discovery Parent Education on 15-16th March.

TMET believes that education is a pathway to a more just and peaceful world, but not just any kind of education. Montessori education was scientifically designed to help humans reach their fullest potential and learn how to build cohesive, connected societies through personalised learning, embedded in social and emotional learning, and the integration of the hand/heart/head.

Are you interested in becoming a TMET Trustee?

TMET (Tauranga Montessori Education Trust) was established in 2001 by a group of passionate parents. As a Trust we are committed to ensuring that Montessori education remains a choice for generations to come. We are grateful to our host schools, Arataki and Bellevue, for their support. In order for Montessori to remain a choice, we need passionate parents with the desire to give of their skillset and time. We are particularly interested to hear from anyone with a legal, accounting, PR or business background. Current TMET Trustees are Kent Hazlehurst, Amanda Lowry, Karin Copestake, Michael Roe and Julie Fisher-Somervell.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to our departing TMET Chair, Tanya Drummond. Tanya started on TMET when her daughters were pre-schoolers and they are now at intermediate and high school. Tanya provided extensive guidance to TMET and gave tirelessly of her time and expertise. Tanya, you will be missed.

TMET Donation Requests

TMET requests donations to fund the costs of delivering a Montessori education at Montessori@Arataki and Montessori@Bellevue. In turn, prompt payment allows delivery of the Montessori programme to continue seamlessly in the classrooms. Thank-you to whanau for continuing to pay donation requests promptly. If you would like to set up a payment plan, please email Lee via trustadmin@tmet.org.nz

All donations to TMET are tax deductible and TMET is an approved IRD donee organisation:

<https://www.ird.govt.nz/income-tax/income-tax-for-individuals/individual-tax-credits/tax-credits-for-donations>



'Montessori at Arataki' and 'Montessori at Bellevue'

The recent additions to our team wish to say hello!



Grace M@A

Hi everyone! I have been teaching for 4+ years, mostly in small rural schools near Te Puke, and I also have experience at a farm school where children learn organic gardening, practical cooking skills, animal care and working with natural materials.

I grew up in Waihi Beach and now live in Papamoa with friends and my dog Sophie. In my spare time I love Pilates, yoga and spending time in nature.

I'm very excited to have started my Montessori journey at Arataki School last year.



Linda M@B

Nga mihi nui kia koutou katoa

Ko Linda Downey ahau

My journey in education has always been adventurous, challenging and exciting. But above all, it's been a satisfying experience. My interest in Montessori began when I observed young children in my cousin's Montessori preschool going about a range of activities. I was impressed with their independence and self-sufficiency. It was a few years later whilst DP at a Rotorua school that an opportunity was offered to teach in a Montessori class – but I had to train first. And so it was that I made my way to the AMI training centre in Bergamo, Italy, for teachers of 6 – 12 year old students. A decision which I have never regretted because I truly believe Montessori education offers the best opportunities for every student. And thus, my Montessori journey began...

Teaching in the International Montessori School in Hong Kong was meant to be my swansong before retiring. However, it's been hard to close the door so as well as volunteer work, I have also worked in Montessori preschools at Bethlehem and Athenree - as well as more recently in a local Katikati preschool.

My interests outside of the classroom mainly involve spending time with my partner, family, and friends, reading and travel.

I'm looking forward to meeting the M@B community, and bringing my experience and passion for Montessori to being a Support Teacher for Donna and your children.

Nga mihi nui,

Linda



Introducing *Michelle*

Hello!

Some of you may know me already as I am a Montessori parent but, for those that don't, my name is Michelle and I have 2 daughters, Lucia (10) and Ella (7), Ella is at M@B and Lucia had her final year in 2023. My love of Montessori education began when Lucia was attending a Montessori preschool and I saw how children thrived in this environment.

I am really excited to join Donna and the junior class this term as Montessori support. I have completed my Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Psychology. When I'm not working or studying, the things I enjoy most are spending time with my family, beach walks, drinking coffee with friends, and reading – simple things that make life good!

It is a privilege to be working with your children and supporting them on their learning journey – I look forward to meeting you all along the way.
Michelle



Hello, I am *Desiree*

I'm excited to begin a new year with the senior Bellevue Montessori children. My focus will be on sharing my knowledge of art amongst supporting individual projects that the children feel inspired to submerge themselves into.

This will be my third year with some of the children. It has been wonderful having the opportunity to watch them grow in such an inspiring environment.

When at home, I live in the Papamoa hills area on a small lifestyle block of land. I have converted part of my garage into an art studio and have oil painting commissions constantly on the go. I'm also a freelance hair and makeup artist.



"It is a fact that anyone who lives with children, anyone who knows how to approach them with love, will always learn new things." - Dr. Maria Montessori

Kia ora, my name is *Sarah*



Brad and I have two boys, Damian and Jeremy, who have both attended Montessori @ Bellevue. (Jeremy is now in his final year here.)

Over the past few years I have already got to know many of our students during my visits to the classrooms. Enjoying the time spent with your children has organically led me down this path to joining the team in a Montessori Support role.

I'm thrilled to be working alongside Claire and Desiree in the senior environment, as well as the whole Montessori team, and am looking forward to all that this year will bring.

EVENT FOR 2024 - BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND - 15-16 MARCH



Open to all parents, caregivers, grandparents, aunts and uncles - current and future.

In a nutshell, your journey will look like this: The Journey (Friday evening) will begin with a brief silent walk through each classroom level, early childhood through to senior Montessori.

The Discovery (Saturday morning) will then continue with your personal discoveries in each classroom at Montessori@Bellevue. Walking in your child's shoes, you will interact with the same materials your child learns from every day. You may notice how environments change as children grow and how materials relate from ages 3 to 12 years.

See next page for whanau feedback from our 2023 event ...

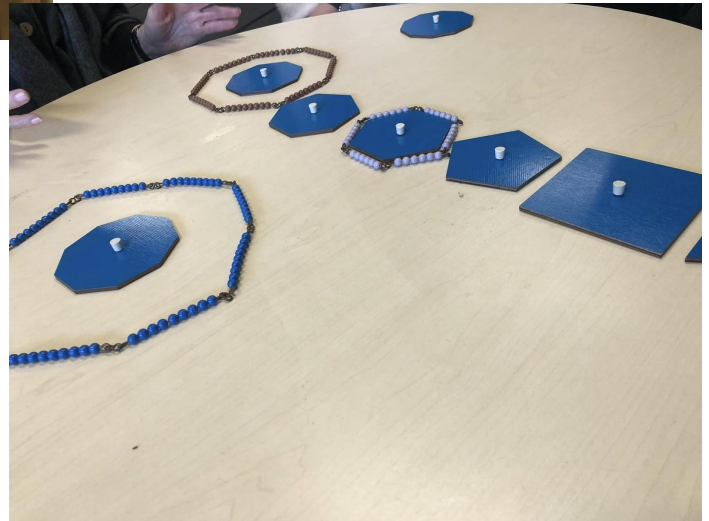
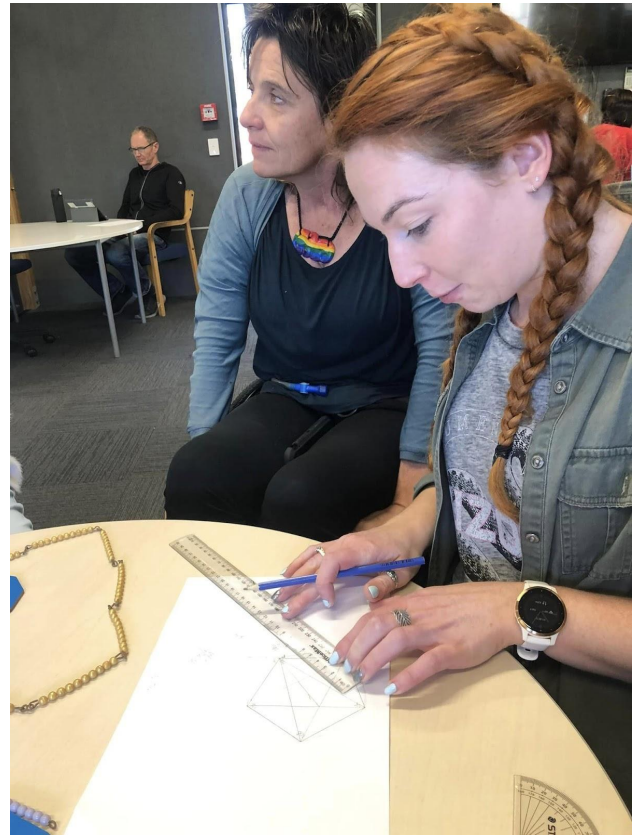


JOURNEY & DISCOVERY SESSION - FEEDBACK



- ♥Glad I attended to gain a better understanding of the teaching methods. I think that all parents who have children at Montessori should attend.
- ♥Excited to learn more about Montessori and spend time with our awesome community of like minded people.
- ♥I wanted to stay all day! I was excited to further my knowledge and understanding. So much better than reading about Montessori.
- ♥I have a better understanding of the student-teacher experience.
- ♥I have a better understanding of why it's so beneficial to start Montessori from a young age and how coming late to Montessori can be challenging for both student and teacher.
- ♥The J&D is suitable for people who are unsure about Montessori, who are fairly new as well as people who have had kids here for years. TMET should make it compulsory.
- ♥I felt relieved knowing that my child's education will be better and more caring than my own. The teaching team are such lovely people.
- ♥It was hard to make a choice about what to do as I wanted to do everything!
- ♥Fantastic experience, loved the two sessions – no changes recommended.
- ♥The hands-on learning with the materials allows you to see how each of the materials work and gives you the reassurance that it does actually work. Montessori works!
- ♥I felt a sense of wonder when I understood how to use some of the materials.
- ♥I now understand that all the activities were so purposeful.
- ♥It felt really safe. The time in the classroom was a wonderful experience that removed any feelings of hesitation about the learning style.
- ♥The open discussion regarding Montessori education and the day to day was very beneficial.
- ♥Gives you a great understanding of the Montessori philosophy and how deep it is.
- ♥It was peaceful,and mentally exhausting.
- ♥It is awe-inspiring to be observing, using materials and discussing education to broaden understanding of how we learn.
- ♥From the moment you walk in, the environment and atmosphere are welcoming and engaging.
- ♥All parts were amazing, especially observing all cycle classrooms and using a range of learning materials.
- ♥Really impressive compared to my personal experience with education.
- ♥Beautiful insight into the hands-on experience with materials.
- ♥The children catered for us, amazing, breakfast was yummy - they did it themselves, I observed independence first hand..
- ♥I know Montessori is right for my whanau.
- ♥When is the next one?





GOING OUT: Montessori@Bellevue

Here are photos of akonga from Room 20 going shopping with a parent to buy the ingredients to make Bubble Tea. They checked the best price for each ingredient on a list that they had constructed. They spoke directly with the shopkeeper when it was needed and they paid for the items they had collected. They then brought these back and made bubble tea for the class.

Going Out on field trips is beneficial for many reasons.

1. It allows children to practice grace and courtesy, learning different ways to act in different social situations.
2. It helps children develop resilience, courage and independence in their social interactions.
3. It teaches children about the interconnectedness of nature and the world around them.
4. It allows children to apply classroom teaching in a real-world setting, boosting their confidence.
5. It helps the child develop responsibility, research skills, manners and cooperation.

"When the child goes out, it is the world itself that offers itself to him. Let us take the child out to show him real things instead of making objects which represent ideas and closing them in cupboards." - Dr. Maria Montessori.



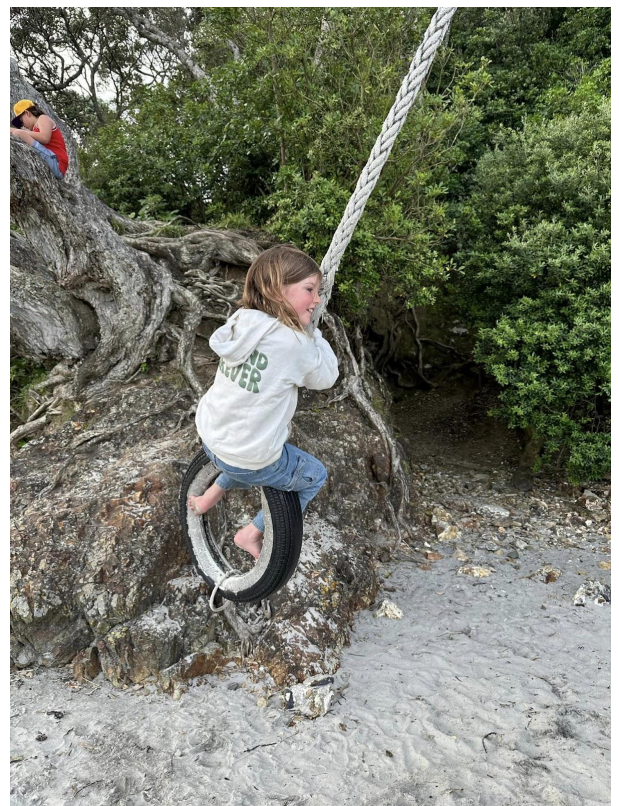
GOING CAMPING: *Montessori@Arataki*

The children decided they wanted to make this happen and it did! Under the guidance of kaiako, Janine, they planned, phoned people, prepared menus, organised accommodation, organised parent helpers, transport, packing list, got permission to go and after all the mahi they were rewarded with the best overnight Montessoiri noho ever!

“Our overnight camp cram was packed with awesome adventures. Waihi Beach put on stunning weather, it couldn't have been better. Thank you kids for all your prep to help make it a success. Amazing parent helpers both on camp and at home thank you for your ongoing help, equipment loans, delicious baking, and coffee support. It's been a great team effort all round. Luv your work!” - Whaea Janine

Camping provides an excellent opportunity for children to engage in social interaction and develop their social skills. Whether it's setting up camp together, sharing meals, or engaging in group activities, children learn to communicate, negotiate and collaborate with their peers. They develop empathy, cooperation and teamwork as they work together to overcome challenges and achieve common goals. These social skills are crucial for their personal growth, building meaningful relationships and navigating the world beyond the camping trip.

Camping and outdoor activities offer an array of benefits for children, aligning seamlessly with the Montessori philosophy. By immersing themselves in nature, children enhance their sensorial development, foster independence, and develop a connection with the environment. They also reap physical and mental health benefits while honing their social skills and collaboration abilities. As educators and parents, it is our responsibility to provide children with opportunities for outdoor exploration, allowing them to experience the wonders of the natural world and grow into well-rounded individuals. By embracing the Montessori philosophy and incorporating camping and outdoor activities, we can nurture children's holistic development and instil a lifelong love and respect for nature.





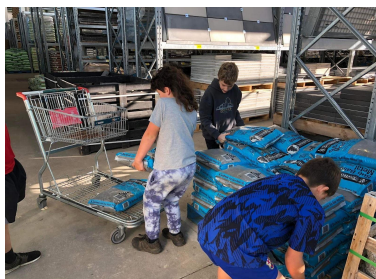
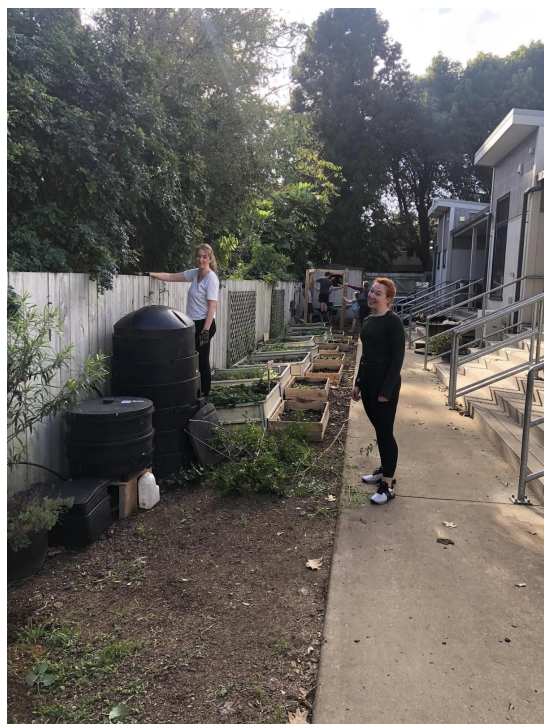
Montessori@Bellevue Gardens

Under the watchful eye of Whaea Donna, the gardens have come alive! Don't be shy, come in and have a look. If you have an hour free, please come in and help out! Our goal is to grow lots of goodness out there, to educate our tamariki and connect us to each other and papatuanuku. Naturally, it is a space to create, for peace, love and reflection too.

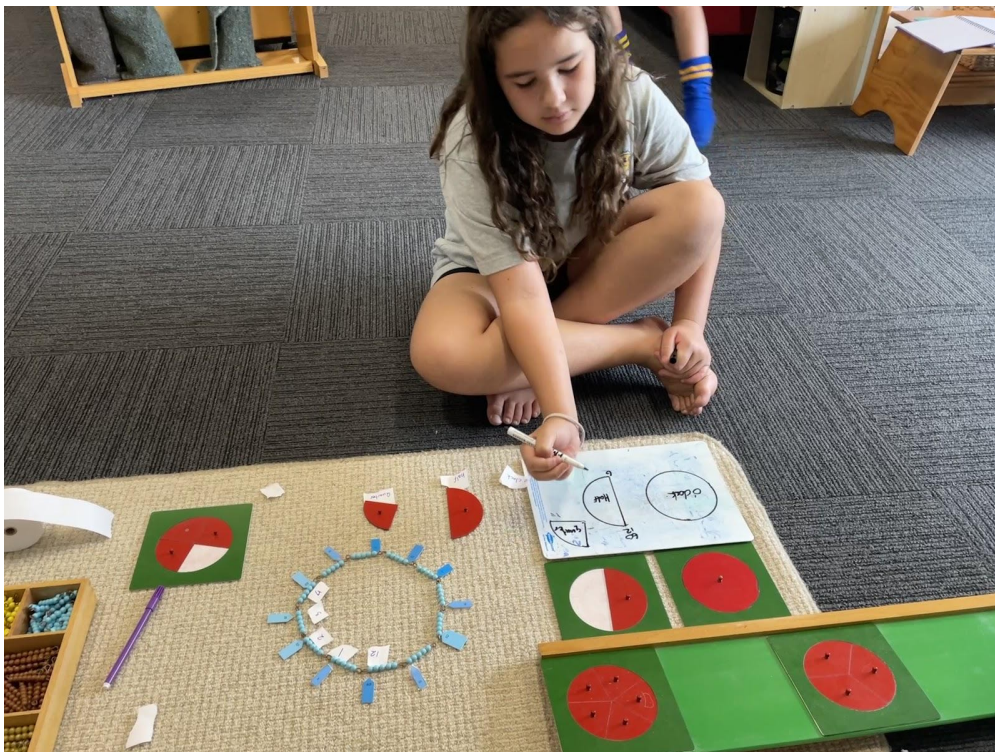
Sarah has been instrumental in this area and her knowledge and vision have connected the children to the gardens. We had a wonderful shopping trip to Bunnings to buy wood for our peace gazebo and then a working bee on a Saturday, and voilà, we are a step closer to our little piece of Montessori paradise.

"There must be provision for the child to have contact with nature; to understand and appreciate the order, the harmony and the beauty in nature.. That the child may better understand and participate in the marvellous things which civilization creates." - Dr. Maria Montessori.

Please talk directly to Sarah if you are keen to support the tamariki in the garden.



Claire, our 9-12 M@B Kaiako, shares how her Learning with MOTU translates into Learning with the Tamariki in the Classroom



“Time - how have you thought of time? Have you ever considered it to be a way of counting, a way of measuring, a fractional or multiplicative concept, a pattern, or a rhythm? Could you tell the time by following the stars or the sun?

I challenge you to channel your inner child, listen to the following story of long ago, and see if your understanding/connection with ‘time’ changes...[The story of long ago \(Michael Dorer\)](#)

So far, two of the biggest takeaways from the training received during Motu Montessori have been the power of storytelling and cosmic education. The conversations, resources and support from Motu has been invaluable not only to my Montessori teaching but also in a personal sense. The concept of storytelling is often undersold. Stories retold, not read, can be so powerful and inspirational at any age. This story of time is only one example of the numerous stories within Montessori.

You might wonder what ‘cosmic education’ is and how it relates to learning. In short, everything around us is interconnected and this is my interpretation of cosmic education. The mathematical concept of time, as we know it, is not just a measurement or reading a clock. It is much much more. Have you ever considered why we count time in 60s...why not 10 hours in a day like most of our other number systems? Well, not all civilisations counted in this way. A long long time ago the Babylonians and Sumerians counted in twelves and sixties and sometimes three hundred and sixty, hence eventually developing the concept of time as we know it. Clocks and telling the time has been a relatively new concept, only about 400 years old. Now, we have extended the thought to more than ‘just a mathematical concept’ but to also incorporate history, geography, astronomy, literacy, and most importantly gratitude for those who came before us to offer these gifts to us. This is cosmic education.”

