



Newsletter

Term 4, 2020



The Montessori environment promotes independence,
freedom and happiness through understanding and respect

An International Baccalaureate School





Dr Maria Montessori

Dr Maria Montessori (1870—1952) was Italy's first female medical graduate, distinguishing herself by securing an honours double degree as a Doctor of Surgery. She also had an intense, passionate interest in the development of young children.

In 1907 Dr Montessori opened the first institute for children below the age of six, which she called Casa del Bambini (Children's House). Dr Montessori's two pioneering books, *The Montessori Method* (1909) and *The Advanced Montessori Method* (1917), closely link her educational theories with her basic philosophical ideas.

The school was founded by Mrs W M Duyker de Vries in 1962.
The Montessori School is the longest running Montessori School in Western Australia.

The Montessori School fully endorses the A M I Objectives:

Article 3: The objective of the Association is to propagate, maintain and further the rights of the Child in Society.

The Council of the Montessori School:

Angela Chew—Chair	Rob Carruthers
Des Reuben — Principal	Tash Tourabaly
Hannah Zhang — Treasurer	Julie Gravel
Celine Royet—Secretary	Jarrold Burns
	Alex Zavros
	Laila Miller

Council Meetings:

Parents may attend any Council Meeting. They are generally held on the forth Monday of each month. Minutes of Meetings may be read at the School office.

Information about the School:

For information regarding membership of the Montessori School and subscriptions to the Montessori School newsletter please send a stamped, self addressed envelope to:

The Secretary, The Montessori School, PO Box 194, Landsdale WA 6065

Telephone: (08) 9409 9151

Email: admin@themontessorischool.wa.edu.au

Web: www.themontessorischool.wa.edu.au

Location: 18 Montessori Place Kingsley WA 6026

School Staff

PRIMARY

Pre-Primary 1

Maria Vaiolati-Ponga
Bernice Ollermann
Shanie Do - *Assistant*

Pre-Primary 2

Ria McBennett
Bernice Ollermann

Pre-Primary 3

Ciara Foley
Bernice Ollermann
Audre Mare - *Assistant*

Lower Primary 1

Salwa Guirgis
Kate Tottle
Eavan Coughlan - *Assistant*

Lower Primary 2

Ian Chapman
Zoe Judge - *Assistant*
Julie Fitzpatrick - *Assistant*

Upper Primary

Sue Hoolohan
Michelle Muller
Emma Seeber
Anja Reid
Vicky Brown - *Assistant*

SECONDARY

Lower Secondary

Lena Streiff Kosok
Katharina Stillitano
Kamel Guirgis
Emma Seeber
Diana Schuler
Fern York

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Katharina Stillitano
Kamel Guirgis
Jaromir Kulir
Diana Schuler
Fern York

SUBJECT

Co-ordinator/English /German/CAS/Pamoja online
Maths
Geography/TOK
Biology
Art

OFFICE

Queenie Massie
Rachelle Edwards
Alison Grondein
Nicola Pattison
Bittany Watson
Graham McMillan

Business Manager
Bookkeeper
Administration & Enrolments
Administration
Administration
School Groundsman

Pre-Primary 1

It has been a full term with lots of busy work and new children joining our classroom. We have spent the beginning of the term welcoming in new classroom critters from Zoe Judge in Lower Primary. She offered to donate silk worm eggs to the classroom and we have been eager to watch the lifecycle of the silkworms evolve with many children commenting on how quickly the larvae grew and we now have a few pupae in our classroom, as we await the arrival of adult silk moths. We also want to say a thank you to those wonderful parents in our class and school community who have generously bought in fresh mulberry leaves to bulk up our silkworms.



This term we have started investigating sound and exploring how vibrations produce sound and how these vibrations that move through the air in waves are called sound waves.

The children used the Montessori bell job and hearing boxes to hear the differences of sounds and then used a range of other jobs to produce vibrations. One of the popular jobs to try was the paper phone cups with children whispering messages to each other as the vibrations of their voice travelled from the cup, down the string to the child eagerly awaiting to hear the whispered message. Maria Montessori elaborates, "The child's mind between three and six can not only see by intelligence the relations between things, but it has the higher power still of mentally imagining those things that are not directly visible".

Some children took the opportunity to try and make their own wooden sound job with lots of sawing, clamping and nailing to produce a rubber band instrument. One of our lessons on sound was to categorise sounds that were pleasant and unpleasant, with lots of different sound choices included on each list, however "pigs snorting" was a sound almost all of the children agreed was a funny but pleasant sound!



This term has also included our school's first book week to celebrate Australian Authors and our Montessori School Lake Walk, with a lovely morning of enjoying a walk around our local bush and wetlands, which we are so fortunate to have access to. Another highlight to our classroom this term was the arrival of our first ECU pre-service teacher Caitlin Morey who joined our classroom for four weeks during her placement. She has been a lovely addition to PP1 and the children have thoroughly enjoyed having her work alongside them as she learnt more about Montessori education and how unique our school is.

We look forward to enjoying the term as we finish another year in these last few weeks of school in Pre-Primary. Before we end the school year, I would like to take the time to wish all of the children who are moving up to Lower Primary the very best start in their new classrooms next year and also farewell any families who will be leaving our school at the end of this year. As always, I look forward to welcoming back all of our Preprimary One children in the new year.

Pre-Primary 2

This term we have been focusing on recognising and valuing the cultural identities of the children in our classroom. The children have had the opportunity to share special cultural and family celebrations and traditions with the group, including their parents and grandparent's cultural backgrounds. We have arranged a pin map to demonstrate all the countries that they are connected to and we have discovered that within our class, we are connected to every continent in the world which has sparked some lovely discussions and research into other continents and countries.



The children have really enjoyed this work and many chose to recreate the text themselves, and even do their own research on other animals to create their own new individual texts.

As we near the end of the year, we look forward to our end of year concert and performing some of our school and Christmas songs that the children have been eagerly practicing. This will be on the second last week of term but a confirmation of the date will be sent out soon.



As ever at this time of year, we are busy with a few little projects. The older children are busy sewing their teddies in preparation of completing their time in our environment, and all children are working on their "all about me" books. This is a special book they work on in term four where the children record their height, weight, who is in their family and their favourite place.

We have also been focusing on developing oral language and sentence writing skills this semester through creating and innovating an information text about sea turtles. As we have been learning about the oceans and the animals that live there, and together we created an information text all about the characteristics and features of sea turtles. We used pictures and actions to retell our information text and we have slowly innovated the all of the information for new information. Finally, we changed the animal of focus and by popular demand, we chose to learn about and create a text all about dolphins.

Pre-Primary 3

It has been a wonderfully busy term in our classroom and we cannot believe another school year is about to come to an end. We are delighted to welcome some new friends, Bethany and Harper to our class. It is a pleasure to see them settle into their new Montessori environment.

This term we have been exploring the Noongar language and culture. How special to hear the children greet each other with “kaya” in the mornings. We have some beautiful Noongar books which we read and discuss at story time. The most popular being “Mamang” and “Noorn”, the Noongar words for whale and snake. The children requesting these quite often. We began looking at native artworks and the symbols used. The children each had the opportunity to draw and paint their own story using these symbols. Most of these stories, of course, featured the ever popular Rainbow Snake.

As part of our Maths curriculum, we have been exploring directions. We began with a lesson using a real compass and how we determine which way is North. We drew chalk compasses on the paving and played direction games in the classroom. Some of the children, equipped with a school map, set off on journeys around the school, following written directions.

The older children in our class, who are preparing for their transition to Lower Primary, have eagerly sewed and stuffed their teddy bears. This is a long standing tradition in Pre Primary, as the children have something special to accompany them on their journey. We wish Izaac, Henry, Imogen, Ishaaq and Lev well. Their presence will be sorely missed in our classroom and we look forward to their inevitable lunch dates back in PP3 next year.

As the year comes to an end we have started to prepare for our annual Christmas Concert. We hope to see you all there so you can join us for some Christmas carols and our favourite school songs.



Lower Primary 1

Bushwalk around firebreak

We were blessed with a glorious spring day on our bush walk. The children were put into groups and given coloured pictures of wild-flowers to try and identify with their parents and peers. There was much chatter and excitement as everyone tried to spot and name the pretty flowers. We are so grateful to have this wonderful natural space to call our own, and to be able to share it with everyone who was able to join us. As an extra bonus a Tawney frogmouth has taken residence in one of the trees outside the Upper Primary classroom and was there for all to see as the walk came to an end.

School Play

In Term 3 we started planning for our end of year play, The Story of Writing. The children got to decide if they wanted to narrate, help make props or design costumes. These events require a great deal of pre-planning and we have started early with designing and creating.



School Group Projects

The focus of Term 3 was a group project by each year group. The children were encouraged to find a topic they all agreed on and then research it. Afterwards they created props to assist them with the presentation they gave to the various classes on their chosen topic. Group one, chose Tutankhamun, group two, the planets and group three ancient Egypt. These topics were well researched with the children able to answer many of the questions posed to them by the students.

Book Week

We enjoyed an entertaining excursion to Woodvale Library during book week. The children got to meet Julia Lawrenson a published author who explained how her love of writing developed. They also got to re-enact excerpts from her books which were very entertaining.

Afterwards there was time for them to the Curious Creatures hunt and have a book read to them by a friendly librarian. She recognised a few children from the school, and knew some by name, as they are regular patrons.

Science

In Term 4 science we are studying living things, specifically zoology. We have looked at the Kingdoms of Life and how living things are classified into groups according to their characteristics. Some students have gone further with classification - learning the phyla, classes and orders of different animals. Others have been studying the similarities and differences that classify vertebrates - how their bodies are covered, how they reproduce, how they breathe and so on. A third group of students has been examining the life cycles of animals and considering whether the babies resemble the adults of the species or not. They have also begun to look at how life cycles are often interconnected - for example that of the butterfly and the plant, each depending on the other to complete their reproduction. In addition to these studies, all of the students have been researching native pollinators, particularly the wide range of native bees found in Western Australia. One or two keen-eyed students even found that we have a regular Amegilla (Blue-banded bee) that visits the Bush Basil plant outside the class. Later in the term we hope to research and build a bee hotel and plant some more bee-friendly plants to support our native bee populations.

Sports

Sport this term for Lower Primary was a netball course for the first four weeks and will be followed by athletics in the second half of term. The students who participated in the after-school netball earlier in the year were keen to demonstrate their skills and knowledge. Students practiced catching, throwing using netball passes, stopping their feet and changing direction, and shooting for the goal. They also worked on team skills - having to work together and support one another despite being at different levels of ability and experience. With group social skills being of utmost importance to children at this age, team sports provide an excellent opportunity for children to practice leadership, cooperation, encouragement and to develop strategies for fairness. We look forward to some new skills and games to come with the athletics program.

Lower Primary 2

This term we have spent time farewelling our older students as they ready themselves for the next chapter in the journey through our school. We wish them all well.

We began the term with the Lake walk which was a good experience and not too hot (Although Jacob says it was REALLY hot) for us all. Families joined us all which was exciting for everyone and good exercise.

Our Lower Primary production has taken a lot of time with rehearsals and making the props. We are looking forward to showing the families and rest of the school our efforts. All the children have participated in one way or another.

We now have an exciting addition to the classrooms and it arrived with great excitement from us all. We now have a Smartboard which is currently getting a lot of attention.

As time progresses and we learn more uses for this technology we will get to really benefit from it being in the class.

Our sport this term has been focused on netball skills and next we will be looking at Athletics. The skills shown have been good from all the children.

Chess has really taken off within the Lower Primary space and now we have a chess club to attend it is even better.

Silkworms have been in the class visiting from various homes which has been good to show how we need to care and look after these creatures as well as the fish we are also trialing new Reverse cycle air conditioning which another exciting moment for the rooms.



Upper Primary

For our contribution to the newsletter this term, a number of the Upper Primary children were given the task of writing about our term so far. We hope you enjoy...

Art

The class has had some truly magnificent art to work on; A MASSIVE MURAL, about the sea, made completely by plastic lids! Lots of focus is needed though, but the fun never ends with hand drills and bottle caps. Upper Primary as you will see, is booming with fun, and great experiences, this term, so keep reading, to hear about all of the great things the class is doing.

WASO

On Friday 20th November, a few of the Upper Primary attended a WASO Rehearsal. We listened and watched the performances of: Mozart, The Magic Flute, Overture, Bruch Violin Concerto No.1 and Tchaikovsky Symphony No.4 for Classics 8 with Guy Noble.

Sport Clinics

This term, for sport, we had netball with Maddison, a talented netball coach. We learnt netball rules and played fun games.

At the moment we are doing athletics with Taylor. We are having lots of fun running, jumping, throwing, skipping jogging and sprinting.

The Bird Nesting

This year, Upper Primary was blessed with not one, or two, but three bird's nests close by!

One is home to what we think is a wattle bird, another is home to what we suspect is a butcher bird.

Last and definitely not least, a tawny frogmouth decided the best place to nest is right outside our classroom! This nest was found by Caleb Chew and Maud Royet.

As you have read, loads of amazing and fun work and experiences have happened this term, and there is much more to come, for Upper Primary is never, ever Dull.



Lower Secondary

We are well into Term 4 and students are slowly wrapping up several projects before focusing on the camp and end of the year activities that are still to come. After last term's massive effort of the curriculum showcase and the performance of their play, they have successfully passed another milestone: the quiz night. And what a night it was! Students always put in a huge effort into organising the night, as it is one of their major fundraising events towards their senior school overseas trip. It was so heartwarming to see, how the school community came together to support them. A big thank you for all that donated prizes and attended on the night.

The Pre-IBs have spent a day in the city to visit places of significance in the civil rights struggle of Indigenous people in Perth. This was a compelling introduction to look at the nature of civil rights movement more generally and worldwide. In English we are discussing the novel *Jasper Jones*, again exploring questions of racism and justice.

The LS have been looking at Geography, learning about processes that lead to erosion. They were undertaking a case study involving a landscape hazard such as a landslide or tsunami. They translated their understanding into a narrative set in the hazard studied. Students revised punctuation and practiced oral presentation skills.

This term we are looking at chemistry and the elements. At school they have studied chemical reactions and mixtures leading to soap making, hopefully there will be some products for Honkey Nuts by the end of term from these experiments. The students have come up with some great ideas for their soaps, so we look forward to seeing them come together. The students are also compiling their own complete periodic table of elements which will be compiled in the last few weeks of term.

The LS students have been working their science studies into the farm for the past two terms. At the farm we have enjoyed "Storytime" under the rotunda reading, *The Mystery of the Periodic Table*. This book has been the catalyst from some excellent discussion and experiments. From this story the students decided to do a PH experiment with purple vegetables which created a lot of excitement, and mess!

The story has also given rise to our favorite thing so far, Thinking time. Thinking time arose after reading about Aristotle and the way he just sat and thought, the students felt this was a marvelous idea and have initiated this multiple times since. They often share their thoughts after the silent thinking. These thoughts lead to our first science debates to be held at the farm, they were all very keen for the debate and I look forward to some well researched and vibrant discussion. This process is a true presentation of the beauty of following the child and using a well-chosen story to spark the flames of learning. The joy of storytelling is often lost in adolescence and it has been wonderful to see it bring so much learning and creativity to our space.

The Micro-Economy program on the farm continues with more exciting projects on the way. We are helping the Farm with extending the paddock around the planned animal hospital. Students had to remove the old fencing, clear some land and have now begun to place the new poles. These will need to be set in concrete and wired. New flowerbeds have been created and a straw cow is close to completion. Two wooden benches have fully been refurbished and two more are awaiting a makeover.

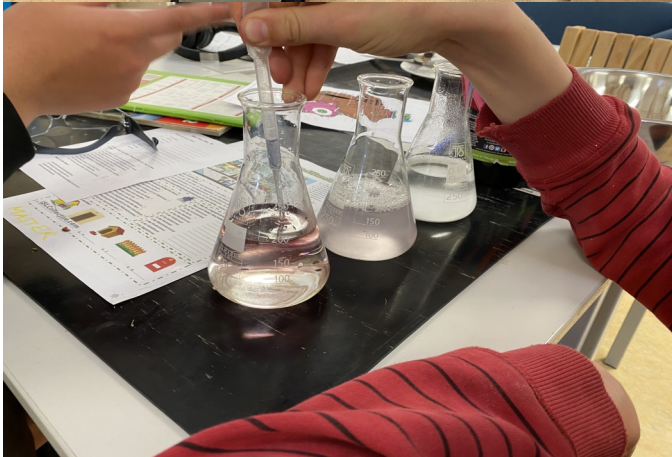
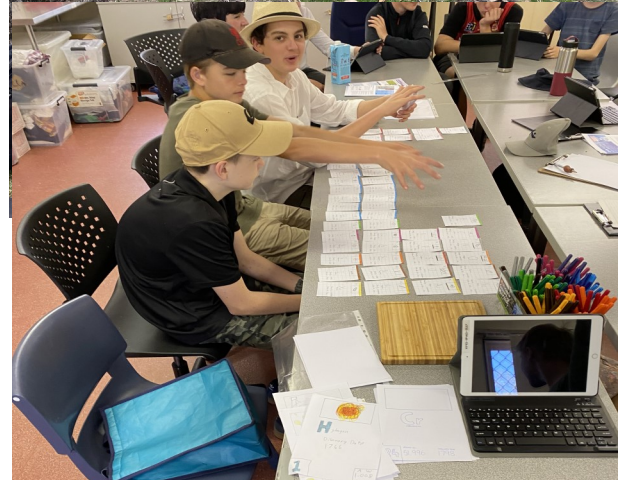
This term, our Fridays at school were focused on community service. Students have been busy making items to go in "Bags of Hope" for Anglicare, these are given to children who have been through trauma. They were very committed and created pillow pals, stress balls, dream catchers, lip balm and calming hand cream. We will have a visit from Anglicare next week to present the gifts they have made and for them to discuss with the students the services they offer. Students will also spend a morning at the Perth Homeless Support Group providing and preparing lunches (over 300 sandwiches to be made).

Students have also discussed how to spend and re-invest the money earned with the Micro-Economy endeavors, most prominently the café. They agreed to re-invest about 50% of the profit in the business to be used to further train our students with professional barista training. They are spending 20% of the profits on themselves, with an outing to an escape room and lunch planned late this term. The remainder is to be for charity, currently they are looking at sponsoring a child through Sunrise Children Association. This would be an ongoing cost from the profits of micro-

Lower Secondary

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As always, too many things are happening to put them on a page. Thanks to all the families for their ongoing support.



International Baccalaureate

IB Matters

2020 Term 4

As ever, the final IB examinations and mock examinations are the main event at this time of year as our Y12 students prepare for their final and Y11 students for their mock examinations. During the first half of this term, IB examinations very much dominate our lessons as well as the general IB school life and IB students and staff are very grateful for the co-operation and understanding of the school community at this stressful time. Thanks also to all those wonderful parents and staff who have offered to invigilate.

The IB Organisation has established a very rigorous set of rules and regulations to conduct the examinations that all IB schools have to comply with. One of the newer rules requires the school to organise two invigilators (supervisors trained to overlook exams) for any one examination regardless of how many students sit the exams. You can imagine that this can be quite intimidating when only two students sit a particular examination paper. In fact, if there are any parents who would like to volunteer and invigilate the IB exams, please let me know; we normally ask for 'new recruits' in preparation for the May Mock exam period at the end of term 1.

To mark the official end of school-based-learning for our Y12 students, we gathered the whole school in the amphitheatre on Thursday, 22nd October 2020. During the gathering we commended the Y12 students for their achievement, perseverance and resilience and celebrated their last official day at the Montessori School; the day was followed by a very last day with communal lunch prepared by the Y11 students with Matilda, Liam, Anna, Eden, Jaromir, Des, Zoe and myself. Thank you Liam and Matilda for organising a delicious Taco lunch and thanks to Anna for the yummy cake.

You may have noticed that our CAS IB students are organising donations for the annual Christmas Appeal run by the Salvation Army. We always appreciate the generous donations from the school community, and it is a great task for the students to co-ordinate and organise this collection. We would like all your donations to be handed in by Friday, 27th November 2020, so that we can organise them into boxes ready to be picked up on Thursday, 3rd December.

One significant skill that students develop during their IB Diploma are writing skills; the students are currently working on their Extended Essay and English Higher Level essay- and will participate in a research seminar run by the State Library of WA next week. At the upcoming Theory of Knowledge (ToK) seminars, on Thursday 20nd November 2020 (week 6) the Y11 and Pre-IB students will have the opportunity to explore what it means to know, how we know what we know and how that knowledge applies to science, languages and humanities.

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Our ToK teacher Jaromir will be in charge of the main seminars but IB Biology teachers Diana and IB English teacher, Katharina, will have a chance to introduce their area of expertise in a subject specific workshop, exploring the link between their own subject and ToK. The Pre-IB students in particular appreciate the opportunity to familiarise themselves with IB teachers, IB subjects and their new learning environment.

It is in fact the beginning of our transitioning program that the Pre-IB students will have lessons with their future IB teachers to introduce subject matters but also provide guidance to how students can prepare for a smooth start into the IB in 2021.

We certainly look forward to a new year in the IB, hopefully with more stability and less disruption and uncertainty. A big thank you must go to all IB staff for their dedication and commitment to making the transition into online learning possible with unprecedented challenges this year and easing our new students gently into the their IB classes.

After the exams are finished, we will say good-bye to the graduating students at the graduation ceremony on Friday, 27th November 2020 at Rotary Park on the East side of Lake Joondalup. Our students have certainly grown into confident and mature young people who are ready to explore the world beyond the Montessori School, we wish them all the best for all their future endeavours, 2021 and beyond.

Katharina Stillitano



Resignations:	Resignations must be received during the term prior to the child's last term at school, and must be in writing.
Dress:	We advise loose, comfortable and practical clothing that enables the child to undertake the full range of possible activities. Shoes are not worn inside the school by pre-primary or primary children. The use of soft slippers is advised. Long hair should be worn tied back. The Montessori School encourages the use of protective clothing and sunscreen for all outdoor activity. We maintain a year-round "No Hat—No Play" policy.
Hours of operation:	Pre-Primary and Primary school hours are from 8.40am to 3.00pm, Lower Secondary from 8.40am to 3.15pm. The school's responsibility for the children is from 8.30am, when the child has been formally brought to the teacher's care, until 3.15pm or when the child has been formally returned to the care of the parent. Staff are not available to supervise the school's playground after 3.00pm. For that reason children are not permitted to play in the school playground after 3.00pm.
Lunches:	Wholesome lunches are encouraged in the school. Students are requested to take home any food that they cannot eat. The school aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for students at risk of anaphylaxis. Parents are requested to assist by not sending any nuts or foods containing nuts to school.
Absences:	Parents should notify the school office of the absence of the student as soon as possible. Notification of extended absence, for reason other than illness, should be made in writing. An acceptable reason must accompany the absence notification.
Late Arrival / Early Departure	In order to maintain accurate attendance records, the School is required to record students who arrive late and or depart early. Students arriving at school after 8.40am must report to the Office, sign the Late Register and pick up a Late Pass. If a student needs to leave school early, parents / students must proceed to the Office first, sign the Early Departure register and receive an Early Departure card which is given to the teacher.
Books:	Books which are the property of the school may be borrowed. Books must be returned to the school the following day, to be available at school, and must be carried in a cloth book-bag.
Television:	Parents are reminded that research into child development indicates that TV does not contribute to the development of the child. It is recommended that TV-watching is kept to as little as possible for as long as possible.
Medication:	As a rule, medications are not to be brought into the school. Should special circumstances arise to make it necessary, parents must first discuss the matter with the Principal and complete an authorisation form. Parents will be contacted to pick up children who are sick at school. If parents cannot be contacted medical advice will be sought on their behalf, if necessary.
Head Lice:	The school follows the Health Department recommendations on the treatment of Head Lice, and undertakes Synchronised Head Lice checks as part of the Head Lice Management Program.
Report Books:	Report books are a record, by parents and teachers, of the child's development from birth to when he/she leaves Montessori. Report books are available to parents on request, at mutually convenient times.
Contact with Teachers:	Teachers are available to talk to parents before school between 8.15am and 8.30am and after school between 3.15pm and 3.30pm by appointment.