

The Montessori Bell

Term 4, 2021



Help me to do it myself.



Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Extraordinary times in an extraordinary school need an extraordinary community. At the heart of this community is our wonderful students. Our staff are the pulse of the school supporting and guiding our children. At The Montessori School Kingsley, we are fortunate to have a group of skilled and dedicated staff – professionals who will go beyond to support the needs of our students. The families are an inseparable part of an important trinity who also support our Montessori children. There are not enough superlatives I could use to thank all the students, staff and families for your contributions.

Moving into 2022, the School should expect much excitement with a number of things set to occur. This includes, but is not limited to, our 60th anniversary celebrations, including the Gala on 30 July 2022; development of our vision and values; our next strategic plan; further development of our Reconciliation Action Plan; renewal of our Senior Secondary International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme and the introduction of the Careers Programme; the first stage of our new building program, which is the redevelopment of the Shammai Building.

The name Shammai was given to our IB Building, named as such in honour of our very first two graduating IB students, Adam Shaman and Mai Shimizu.

Over the last 12 months, we have been busy developing designs as well as applying for funding for our next development project at our school: a new Shammai Building (to make room for our expanding lower secondary class and IB Programme).

This project will ensure our school remains sustainable and, as our senior student numbers grow, there is ample room for our students to continue their journey at our school. We will keep you updated as we progress through the next phases of the project. This building will be a two storey modular build, with creative use of space, with five classrooms including a new science room, staff rooms, student common room, mini library, reflection space, toilets, storage and a kitchen.

Here is a look at the preliminary design.

Des Reuben
Principal





The Montessori School Kingsley

Our story began in 1962 when Willemien Duyker-de Vries founded our school, first in Scarborough, before relocating to Kingsley shortly after.

We are Australia's longest running Montessori school and the first Montessori school in the world to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. We have a rich tradition grounded in the philosophy of Montessori education as well as in the science of how children learn.

Today, we remain true to the Montessori philosophy, focusing on the holistic development: physical, intellectual, social – of every child – in a safe, inclusive environment.

We carefully prepare our learning environment to promote curiosity, resilience, independence and connectedness to self, to others, and to the natural environment.

Our mixed-age classrooms mirror real life, creating a supportive culture that fosters empathy, mutual respect, and leadership.

We cater to children aged 3 to 18 in mixed-age classrooms. From pre-primary education to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (a globally recognised tertiary entrance qualification), our individually tailored learning pathways equip your child to thrive as a confident, resilient young adult in a world full of possibilities.

Our structure is as follows:

- 3 x Pre-Primary Classes (ages 3 to 6 years);
- 3 x Lower Primary Classes (ages 6 to 9 years);
- 2 x Upper Primary Advisories (ages 9 to 12 years);
- 1 x Lower Secondary Cohort - Divided into two academic classes with two advisories (ages 12 to 15 years);
- 1 x International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Cohort - Year 11 and Year 12 (ages 16-18).

It is an education designed with and for your child, providing the structure, freedom and guidance they need to learn at their pace, in a way that fosters respect – for self, for others, and for learning.

Dr Maria Montessori

Born in Italy in 1870, Maria Montessori was one of the first women to attend medical school in Italy and she qualified as a doctor from the University of Rome at the age of 26.

Soon after, Dr Montessori began practising medicine and, through her work with children, she developed an avid interest in education.

She opened her first education institution for children, Casa dei Bambini, in 1907 and published two seminal books – *The Montessori Method* (1909) and *The Advanced Montessori Method* (1917) – before establishing The Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) in 1929.

Her aim: “spreading of knowledge of how the children, immature and struggling to develop their own powers, may be assisted in the self-realisation of reaching their full perfection of growth.” And today, there are over 22,000 Montessori schools in the world that are determined to pursue her work, with around 300 just in Australia.

For her committed efforts on behalf of children, especially in the face of the fascism of World War II, Dr Montessori was nominated three times for a Nobel Peace Prize (1949, 1950 and 1951).

At The Montessori School Kingsley, we have a special connection to Dr Montessori as she trained the founder of our school, Mrs W. M. Duyker-de-Vries.





Who's who?

Teaching Staff			
Pre-Primary Classes	Pre-Primary 1 Maria Vaioleti-Ponga Shanie Do - Assistant	Pre-Primary 2 Ria McBennett Ciara Foley - Assistant Debra Beach - Assistant Eavan Coughlan - Assistant Georgia Williams - Assistant Hemali Vasandee - Assistant	Pre-Primary 3 Jessica Jackson Ciara Foley Audre Mare - Assistant
Lower Primary Classes	Lower Primary 1 Salwa Guirgis & Kate Tottle Debra Beach - Assistant Eavan Coughlan - Assistant Julie Fitzpatrick - Assistant Zoe Judge - Assistant	Lower Primary 2 Ian Chapman Eavan Coughlan - Assistant Julie Fitzpatrick - Assistant Zoe Judge - Assistant Debra Beach - Assistant	Lower Primary 3 Sunny Steffanoni Eavan Coughlan - Assistant Julie Fitzpatrick - Assistant Zoe Judge - Assistant Debra Beach - Assistant
Upper Primary Advisories	Upper Primary Advisory 1 Sue Hoolohan Chantal Mare - Assistant Vicky Brown - Assistant	Upper Primary Advisory 2 Michelle Hayes Chantal Mare - Assistant Vicky Brown - Assistant	
Lower Secondary Cohort	Lena Streiff Kosok - Advisor / Humanities / Language Emma Seeber - Advisor / Lower Secondary 1 Mathematics / Lower Secondary 1 Occupations	Katharina Stillitano - German Fern York - Arts Kristijan Pekic - Lower Secondary 2 Mathematics Diana Schuler - Lower Secondary 2 Science	
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Cohort	Katharina Stillitano - International Baccalaureate Diploma Coordinator / German / English Literature / Extended Essay (EE) Coordinator Emma Seeber - CAS Coordinator Fern York - Visual Arts Jaromir Kulir - Geography / Theory of Knowledge (ToK) Kristijan Pekic - Mathematics (Applications & Interpretations) Diana Schuler - Biology / Chemistry		
Specific Area of Teaching	Adin Livnjak - Physical Expression (Pre-Primary, Lower Primary and Upper Primary) Anja Reid - German (Lower Primary and Upper Primary) Anja Cirkovic - Creative Expression (Pre-Primary, and Lower Primary) Anja Reid - Creative Expression (Upper Primary)		

School Office

Des Reuben	Principal
Queenie Massie	Business Manager
Alison Grondein	Office Manager
Rachelle Edwards	Bookkeeper
Nicola Pattison	Administrator
Felicity Cooper	Administrator
Julie Gravel	Personal Assistant to the Principal / Marketing Administrator
Graham McMillan	Grounds Person



Message from the Board

On Saturday, 16 October, we, the Board of Directors and the Principal, came together for our annual Strategic Planning Day. The most complicated of logistics were required to re-jig kid's sporting commitments so that we could all be in the same place at the same time, but we made it in the end! On the day, we were joined by Queenie Massie (the School Business Manager) and Warren Miller (Convenor of the Capital Planning Sub-Committee) who were valuable contributors to our discussions.

The Strategic Planning Day is an opportunity for the Board to step back from the month-to-month agenda items and policy documents and take some time to think about the longer-term planning and vision of our school. This year, we spent time discussing development of the School leadership structure, capital planning projects, including the new Shammai Building, protecting and utilising our bushland, financial investments for future sustainability, and further development of a risk management framework tailored to our school.

We are very grateful to our school community members Scott and Doulene Walker of Active Migration in Wangara who offered us the use of their workspace for the day. Coupled with outstanding catering organised by Melinda Shreeve, it made for a very productive day indeed.

Our school is fortunate to have such a skilled and dedicated group of volunteers serving on the Board. I know they will all enjoy a well-earned break at the end of this term and come back ready to make 2022 another successful year for our school community.

If you have any queries regarding board-related matters, please email me and I will put you in touch with one of our Board directors.

Angela Chew

Chair

chair_board@themontessorischool.wa.edu.au



Welcome to the Pre-Primary 1 Class

As the weather starts to warm up, we have had more opportunities to walk around the firebreak and also enjoy picnics outside together. As we start the Noongar Season of Birak, the children have been keen to water the garden, wash windows and enjoy the outside jobs with the weather bringing us more sunny days.

As a class, the children had lessons learning about the water cycle and the continuous movement of water within the Earth and atmosphere. The children were then introduced to the different types of weather, including the different types of clouds and many were interested in cloud spotting during our play time, by naming the types of clouds they could see.

This term, we had the pleasure of having a student teacher from Edith Cowan University (ECU), Annette Griffiths, join us for four weeks. We were fortunate enough to have our ECU student demonstrate a science experiment during our study on weather. Doing so was a wonderful way for the children to see how condensation begins to form, much like a cloud. There was a lot of anticipation and excitement as the cloud was finally released from the container.

Our children have also begun writing up our daily weather chart for our classroom. It is lovely to see the children carefully standing still in the courtyard waiting for the wind to blow their small piece of fabric and then to excitedly tell the class which direction the wind was blowing from, so that it could be recorded for the day. Lots of joyous learning around the weather this term!

We have continued to enjoy the last few weeks of school in the Pre-Primary classes and we, staff and students alike, loved the Pre-Primary Christmas Concert - and we are told the guests also had a lot of fun at the concert.

Before we end the school year, I would like to take the time to wish all of the children moving up to the lower primary classroom the very best start on their move up to their new classrooms next year. As always, I look forward to welcoming back all of our pre-primary children in the new year.

Maria Vaioleti-Ponga
Pre-Primary 1 Teacher





Welcome to the Pre-Primary 2 Class

Term 4 commenced with the arrival of eight new members to our group. It was lovely to welcome each and every child, and it did not take long before they felt relaxed and comfortable in their new environment. Some of our new children were familiar with their new surroundings as they had siblings in other parts of the School, but many were new to our school, and it has been lovely to see the families being welcomed into our community by staff and our existing families.

The big news this term was the reptile incursion. The children had a fantastic morning, looking, interacting and learning all about various reptiles found in Western Australia. They had many interesting questions and we were delighted to see how engaged the children were throughout the morning, and eager to either hold or feel the reptiles. The older children in our group followed up our incursion by writing a retell of the information they found most interesting about the incursion. We first created a mind map together to gather our ideas and to provide some focus, and then each child went on to write their own individual retell. It was lovely to see what each child took from the incursion and what they found the most interesting.

This term, we continued our work on the non-living world and we have focused much attention on air, sound, electricity, magnetism and the solar system. The solar system is always a favourite topic, which provokes thinking, investigation and discussion. Some of the children have continued the investigation and completed their own research, and others have drawn and painted all the planets in our solar system.

As we have investigated air this semester, the oldest children decided to test their learning and understanding by designing and building kites for Design Technology. We first started by looking at the history, uses and types of kites. We then discussed the materials suitable when designing kites and why certain materials would be suitable or not suitable for kite building. For example, are those materials too heavy, will they be strong enough or break too easily, what do we need to put them together. This led us to comprising a list of items that we would need to build our kites.

Each child involved then went on to design their own kite, and comprised a list of materials they would need to build their own individual kite. Then came the really fun part, actually building the kites. It was lovely to watch the children engage with their creative side and there was lots of discussion on how best to put them together. After we built and tested our kites, the children followed up by determining how well their kites worked, were they a success and why. We also asked if they would they do anything differently the next time or change the materials they had originally chosen. The children thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and it was a wonderful learning experience for all involved.

Ria Mc Bennett
Pre-Primary 2 Teacher





Welcome to the Pre-Primary 3 Class

We have had another wonderfully busy term in our classroom. As we continued our study of the non living world, the children were very interested in our topic of the solar system. We looked at all of the planets and their individual characteristics, the constellations and the different phases of our moon. Some children enjoyed drawing, painting and labelling the different planets.

This term, we explored ourselves and our families. Each child had the opportunity to make their own family tree and an "all about me" poster, sharing a lot of information about themselves such as their age, favourite job, height, etc. We hope these will be keepsakes that the children will enjoy reflecting on in years to come.

This term, our much loved class spiny leaf insects Disco and Cutie went through an enormous growth spurt, much to the children's amazement. Each week, we take them out of their glass tank to hold while we add fresh leaves and water. It is wonderful to see the children so confident and careful as they allow the insects to climb on their hands and arms, giggling as their sticky feet tickle their skin.

This term, we were lucky to have a visit from Perth Reptile Company. The children were in awe of the various reptiles such as snakes, lizards and a turtle.

We learned a lot about these native animals and had the opportunity to hold and touch them. The children loved to share their own knowledge about reptiles and asked very informed questions. To everyone's delight, one of the lizards was named Disco. What a wonderful hands on learning experience for the children.

As the end of term approaches and the older children in our group prepare for their move to lower primary, they have been busy sewing their teddy bears. This is a tradition in our school and we love to see how proud the children are of their hard work. We wish them well on their move to the next classroom and they will all be truly missed in our classroom.

As we wind down the term with lots of arts, crafts and singing, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in 2022 for another year in our beautiful school.

Jessica Jackson & Ciara Foley
Pre-Primary 3 Teachers





Welcome to the Lower Primary 1 Class

Project Work

Throughout the term, students choose their own projects according to their interests. These may be construction, art, gardening, craft or cooking. They find resources to support their ideas and write a detailed plan including a list of materials required. They source materials with the assistance of the teacher and then complete their work. After they have finished we complete an oral reflection to consider what went well, what was challenging and what they might do differently next time. This process reflects the design procedure, building skills that will support work in many occupations as well as their further study.

Poverty Day

The children were shown a map of the world with a key that indicated which countries were above or below the poverty line, to demonstrate where in the world the poorest nations are. They discussed what it is like to live with just our basic needs, and how those people below the line do not have all their needs met. To recreate the concept of not having a great deal the children had just rice for lunch. The children measured out the cups of rice and water and mixed in the stock cubes. They got out stop watches to measure the cooking time - who knew it could take so long for a pot of water to boil! The smell of the rice wafted through the classroom through the morning and by lunch time everyone was very eager to have a bowl or two.

Trial Days

The older children did a trial day in the upper primary classroom; some were a bit nervous at first but they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The pre-primary students also did a trial day, and we paired the younger students with an older child who showed them how the Lower Primary Class operates. This is important for the children who are moving up next year to familiarise them with the new environment, this is something we have been doing for many years.

Work in the Class

Our children enjoy different types of writing. We are focusing on planning and correct structuring as well as editing. The children were able to write about topics they are interested in and this has generated a lot of interest and work being produced. They are also enjoying spelling with Julie in the afternoons. Mathematics materials are always used by our children, especially the geometry this term and this suits all ages in many ways.

The term has also included making Christmas decorations, cards for the homeless, decorating pots and planting succulents for the Twilight Fete, as well as finger knitting and the loom.

Salwa Guirgis & Kate Tottle
Lower Primary 1 Teachers





Welcome to the Lower Primary 2 Class

This term has been very busy with a variety of different projects.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming two children and their families to the class. We wish them all well.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to the older children as they transition into upper primary but, of course, we also wish them well. We have had the farewell dinner for all our transitioning children and that was a good experience for all concerned. We finished with a game of teacher dodge ball where the staff were dodging balls thrown by the children; we all had lots of fun!

The term has absolutely flown by and blink and you have missed it. We have continued research projects as groups, which has seen the children presenting their information to the class. Some very brave students standing up in front of the class and conveying their research.

We have also spent time looking into the animal kingdom and breaking it down into the invertebrates, vertebrates and then phyla. We read one of the great stories to accompany this subject, which was called 'The Gifts of Phyla'. The story about Phyla goes through each one, from humans, plants, protozoa, porifera, cnidarians, annelida, worms and on it goes. We read the story and explain each element and say thanks for what each provides the world.

Thanks to lower secondary for spending their time with us and reading each week. This has been good for our children and the readers to improve reading and listening skills.

We also had the pleasure of participating in the making of a thousand cranes and made many paper cranes to help. I read part of the story to the children and we now have a copy within lower primary. It explains the reasoning behind why we make the cranes.

We have been very busy sealing, painting, resealing and finally potting some beautiful plants into the sensational pots. They are for sale at the School Twilight Fete. It has been a lengthy process but the results are stunning.

The children have also been busy working with Anja during their Creative Expression lessons and have produced a fantastic concert for the families. Lots of singing and dancing for your enjoyment.

I will take this opportunity to thank you all for this year and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to next year and the adventures that the year will bring.

Best wishes,

Ian Chapman
Lower Primary 2 Teacher





Welcome to the Lower Primary 3 Class

Wow! It has been an amazing year. It has been an honour and privilege working with such supportive, caring parents, and such loving, generous children. I am looking forward to welcoming some new arrivals next year. But, it is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to our amazing students: Ella, Winter, Madeleine, Marc and Tristan – these children have been such fabulous role models for the younger children, and I have enjoyed every moment teaching them. I know they will flourish under the loving care of the adults in the Upper Primary Classroom.

The term has been a busy one with our continued look at the forces of push and pull. The children have enjoyed making a Newton's Cradle and, I must say, I will not miss the tap, tap, tap as the children experiment with the cradle trying to work out how it is happening!

They have also designed and created some amazing Rube Goldberg machines, which is a chain reaction type machine or contraption intentionally designed to perform a simple task in an indirect and overly complicated way.

Some of the tasks and machines that the children came up with were: sending a message (using pulleys), throwing a ball for a dog (using ramps), feeding a dog (using ramps and dominoes), and closing a door (using a roller-skate, a weight, string and a ramp). The children working alongside their peers used skills such as design, communication, reflection, adjustment, and perseverance.

We also read the Story of Mathematics, looking at the timeline of human mathematical creations from the Late Upper Palaeolithic Lunar calendar, and Palaeolithic stone blades to the creation of such an amazing structure as the Golden Gate Bridge and the model T automobile, and many of the inventions in-between.

A big thank you to the parents that volunteered for washing this term. I really appreciate your effort in getting our washing done, and returning it beautifully folded.

I hope you all have a peaceful break, and I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Sunny Steffanoni
Lower Primary 3 Teacher





Welcome to the Upper Primary Class

The upper primary classroom had an absolute bonanza of events this term! We actually finished Term 3 with our day trip to the Gravity Centre in Gin Gin. The students were guided through the Solar Walk, which gave them an idea of the scale of our solar system and some information about the planets. They tested gravity by dropping water balloons from the tower and experimented with other space related activities in the centre.

Term 4 then saw our class at Scitech, enjoying an investigative activity and then a Moon Base One film in the Planetarium, which was rather dizzying for some! We used this activity for comparison to other visual texts in the classroom.

To learn about civics, citizenship and Australia's government system, the class journeyed to the Constitution Centre and Parliament House. They discussed themes such as how our local shire operates, what they provide to citizens and the difference between rules and laws. The older children visited Parliament House and learnt about the system of government in Western Australia.

On the more arty side of things, we spent one day at the WA Museum in the city, spending time at the Greek Exhibition, learning about Greek culture and how it affects our own culture today. The class mingled with public in the building, taking notes and visiting other displays during the day. Members of the public approached us and commented on the lovely behaviour of the children.

We also had the privilege of having a visiting author in the classroom, who is an ex-student of our school, Rebecca Higgie. She talked to the class about how she took ideas for her stories from actual historical events, and how these events can inspire writing. The students all had the opportunity to write their own story based on a historical event from the book.

Kids Helpline in Brisbane delivered some online workshops to the class during the term, talking about various health themes such as safety, emotions, online safety, and healthy friendships. The students reflected on these discussions and wrote about them after the workshops.

Apart from the excursions and incursions, the Twilight Fete kept the whole class busy. The upper primary classroom organised stalls and sold hand made cards, jewellery, scrunchies, and other items, mostly from recycled materials. Some students played their guitar and sang, while others put on a magic trick show. We also had books for sale that have been written and illustrated by the students themselves.

All in all a very busy and interesting term in our class!

Sue Hoolohan & Michelle Hayes
Upper Primary Teachers





Creative Expression & Physical Expression

Creative Expression

This term has flown by very quickly and we are nearing the end of the year. The lower primary children have been busy rehearsing all the songs for the end of year concert. When time allows, we manage to fit in a dance or drama activity. The pre-primary children have been exploring a new musical story of 'Pat the Pirate' and have enjoyed the songs accompanied by myself on ukulele, including learning a traditional Bosnian song.

Anja Cirkovic
Creative Expression Teacher

Physical Expression

This term, the pre-primary classes have been focusing on their throwing, tracking and trapping fundamental movement skills. They practiced their two-handed underarm throwing as well as their rolling underarm skills, involved in bowling. We finished off the term with catching games. The lower primary students focus was on dodging, kicking and running skills. They practiced doing relays, partner work, mixed sports games and circuit stations. The upper primary classes have been taking part in tennis this term. We are lucky to have great tennis resources such as nets and rackets and students were able to work on their skills as well as play games.

I would like to wish all our community a safe and happy holiday season!

Adin Livnjak
Physical Expression Teacher



Welcome to the Lower Secondary Class

Sport

This term, we started with archery, from Week 2 to Week 5. We started by learning basic archery skills, such as aiming, holding the bow and practicing shooting. The students also did martial arts, which was the second sport the students did this term. The class has found this sport a lot harder, but for some more enjoyable.

Community Service

This term, we did plenty of Christmas themed community service things, such as making Christmas cards for homeless people, who do not have family so wouldn't be receiving cards otherwise. We also went to Perth Homeless Support Group and made plenty of sandwiches, just like last year. In anticipation of our visit to the Perth Homeless Support Group, we worked collaboratively with the International Baccalaureate students and collected bags and necessities, and delivered the lot during our visit. We also put together toiletries and small gifts for Youth Futures, which is a non-profit organisation that also support homelessness.

Fundraising

These two terms were fairly normal in terms of fundraising. We had quiz night, and the normal usual stuff. Quiz Night ran fairly smoothly, and we managed to raise upwards of \$2,000. We would like to thank everyone who turned up and attended, and all the people who set it up and did all the behind the scenes work. It was great, and we hope we can continue having quiz nights like that for a long time to come.

Micro Economy Program

This term, we had our farm program on again with Landsdale Farm. The structures and farm group spent their mornings there, while the food and factory spent their morning at the School for easy access. The structures group started on the café building – which entails making permanent stall/trolley for the Honkey Nuts Café to be fitted above the amphitheatre in 2022 – is starting to form shape. The farm group spends their time weeding and planting new plants, as well as work on the worm farm. Factory group made some more products for the Twilight Fete, which was an amazing event. The food group made some amazing meals for our long table program which happens every fortnight – and when the students were not cooking, they spent there time planning for the next long table and making jams for the fete.





Lower Secondary Classroom #1

Mathematics and Science:

This term, the Lower Secondary 1 class has been working on a house building and design project for an island that we call, 'Not 4 Sail Island 2.0'. In this project, we each designed a house, and we first designed it on paper and do all the lengthy and painstaking work. We then build a physical scale model of it (the scale of it is 1cm = 1m).

The name of the project is derived from a similar project that the lower secondary students had done, from 2019 called 'Not 4 Sail Island'. So naturally we named it 'Not 4 Sail Island 2.0'. One difference between this project and the one in 2019, is that the current one powered (when we say powered, we mean that some houses may or may not have solar panels with working lights on them). The main difference about this one is that it is based off the passive house building movement. Passive house building is basically building an extremely well insulated house, with an extremely efficient ventilation system, that has a low environmental impact. And that is basically the story of the main mathematics/science project that we have done this term. The island was on display at the Curriculum Showcase in week 10. I would like to thank Emma for the noticeably more fun and enjoyable project than usual.

Lower Secondary Classroom #2

Science:

This semester, in science, we've been learning about physics. We've learnt about Newton's laws of motion, forces, speed, velocity, SI units (International System of Units) and significant figures, among other topics. We also conducted an experiment in smaller groups, experimenting with changing the height of a ramp to observe the change in velocity in a car rolling down said ramp.

Towards the end of this term, we've been working on our individual projects. Our projects can be any experiment (within reason) on a topic that we're interested in, we have in-class time to conduct the experiment, record our results, and write up our lab reports. Science this semester has been really engaging, interesting and enjoyable. On behalf of the Lower Secondary 2 Classroom, We would like to thank Diana for being an awesome teacher and teaching us stuff this year.

HASS/English:

This term for HASS and English, we've been learning about the Australian civil rights movement, democracy, voting, government and making speeches. We went on an excursion to places of significance to civil rights movement in Western Australia. We visited the Swan Brewery, Lake Monger, Yagan Square and other assorted places in the city.

In English, we've been reading Harper Lee's 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' which has been interesting and mostly engaging. Towards the end of the term, we've been writing our own speeches about something we're passionate about, we recorded our speeches and we displayed them at the end of term curriculum showcase.

German:

This term in German, we've been learning about the environment, past and present tense, thinking, weather, celebrations, and Christmas traditions. We baked three different kinds of German Christmas biscuits, which were both, nut free and gluten free. We ate them for lunch. German has been really interesting and fun this term, We would like to thank Katharina for teaching us this year, and for the biscuits.

Lena Streiff Kosok & Emma Seeber
Lower Secondary Advisors





Welcome to the International Baccalaureate Programme

This year, we seemed to have raced through Term 4 and our summer break is approaching very fast. Here are some of the events that happened in Term 4:

In weeks 3-5, the IB students sat their final and mock examinations, our science teacher Diana organised a collaborative science project with the IB students from Treetops Montessori, prospective and current Y11 students collaborated for our Theory of Knowledge Day, organised by Jaromir. (Please read more about the ToK Day below.) We also went to the Montessori Senior Student Formal, celebrated the graduation of our Y12 students Matilda Broomhall and Liam Hiskins and sent some of our current Y10 and Y11 students on a school trip to Queensland.

International Baccalaureate Formal

After the examination week all our senior students went to the annual Montessori Senior Student Formal, a combined school occasions between our Montessori School, Rockingham Montessori, Treetops Montessori and Perth Individual (formerly known as Perth Montessori). This year the event was organised by Rockingham Montessori and held at East Fremantle Yacht Club.

Graduation

We also farewelled our graduating students Matilda Broomhall and Liam Hiskins and Y11 student Kalayis Don at the graduation ceremony on Friday, 26 November 2021 at Rotary Park. We were fortunate that Lower Secondary students Zoe and Kate had offered to play a few songs before and after the formal part of the graduation. Thank you also to Cam for making the beautiful cake for the occasion. 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, 2022 and beyond.

Perth Homeless Support Group

You may have noticed that this year our CAS IB students are not organising donations for the annual Christmas Appeal by the Salvation Army. Instead, they have organised a collection for the Perth Homeless Support Group.

A big thank you must go to all staff and parents/guardians for their dedication and support of the IB students and programme. Thank you for a smooth and steady 2021 and all the best for 2022, I hope you enjoy a relaxing summer break.

Katharina Stillitano
International Baccalaureate Coordinator





What is Theory of Knowledge?

Theory of Knowledge (TOK), was introduced in the International Baccalaureate (IB) in 1967. Going into detail about what TOK is could easily fill all the pages of this Newsletter, however, the shorter version goes like this: whereas most school subjects revolve around the question, “What do we know?“, TOK focuses on “How do we know it?”

By introducing TOK as a compulsory subject for the older student years, the IB showed remarkable foresight; it came some forty years before most of us encountered the first conspiracy theories spread through social media, nearly a half century before we were told that we live in the Age of Fake news, and well over a half century before we started to question what is or what is not scientific knowledge related to COVID19.

It was then, in the 1960s, when the IB students, but also the IB teachers, were asked to think critically about the information they give and receive, in day-to-day life, but also in the subject areas. The IB participants have also been encouraged to consider their own biases, both personal and cultural, when forming or rejecting knowledge. Through this evaluation we can become not only better knowers, but also better people. It is here where IB's TOK, intentionally or not, aligns with the principle of social harmony outlined by Dr. Maria Montessori.

Returning to the TOK day, which traditionally takes place after the IB November exams, allows the IB teachers to have more “How do you know it?” focus in an otherwise “What do you know about it?” cramped syllabus. It also allows uninterrupted time for longer activities, such as the one captured in the photo below. In this research, the students scrutinized the Therapeutic Touch Therapy, whilst tackling a range of questions, such as: What is the difference between science and pseudo-science? What is good evidence, and how much of it is needed? What is the difference between knowledge and belief?

I was long thinking about a quote with which to end this short article. And I settled on one that travels to the heart of TOK:

“The greatest obstacle to progress is not the absence of knowledge but the illusion of knowledge” – Daniel Boorstin.

Jaromir Kulir
Theory of Knowledge Teacher





School Updates



Drop Off and Pick Up Times

Just a quick reminder that the School drop off time is no earlier than 8.30am and that pick up time for our pre-primary, lower primary and upper primary students is 3:00pm.

Our lower secondary and International Baccalaureate students finish at 3:15pm and 3:30pm, respectively.

If you need to access before or after school care, please contact [Camp Australia](#).



Sibling Enrolment

If you need to enrol siblings of children that are already enrolled at our school, you need to complete our Sibling Application Form as soon as you can so that you can secure a spot for your child as we have limited places. You can access the [Sibling Application Form](#) on our website.



Absences

We would like to remind you that application for extended absence, for reason other than sickness, should be made in advance, in writing to the Principal.

In addition, if a child is absent for any reason, including illness or contagious disease, parents/carers should contact the School Office either:

1. Via School Stream: use the form within the app
2. Via email: admin@themontessorischool.wa.edu.au
3. By telephone: 08 9409 9151
4. In person at the School Office

If your child is unaccounted for by 10:00am, the School Office will contact you to seek clarification on the absence.



How to communicate with the School?

We mainly use SchoolStream to communicate with you, for the exception of the occasional email, but how are you supposed to communicate with us?

Well, here's the answer!

For all your administrative as well as teaching enquiries, please contact us via:

1. Email: admin@themontessorischool.wa.edu.au
2. Telephone: 08 9409 9151
3. In person at the School Office

As always, please do let us know if you have any questions!



2022 Term Dates

The students will come back to school on Monday, 31 January 2022.

Please note that 2022 Term dates are now available on our website as well as on the SchoolStream Calendar.

But here is a quick look:

- Term 1: 31 January to 8 April
- Term 2: 26 April to 1 July
- Term 3: 25 July to 23 September
- Term 4: 10 October to 15 December

www.themontessorischool.wa.edu.au/parents/term-dates



Testimonials

We are always looking for current parents at our school to share their Montessori School Kingsley journey stories with us, so that we could put these on our new website. If you're keen, let us know:

- What made you decide to send your child(ren) at The Montessori School Kingsley?
- What is the best thing about being part of this school's community?
- What is something that you didn't know before your child(ren) started at the Montessori School Kingsley that you now find amazing?
- What would you say to someone considering sending their children to a Montessori school?

If you are keen to share your story with us, email us at: marketing@themontessorischool.wa.edu.au.



School Office Holidays

Please note that the School Office will be closed from Wednesday, 22 December to Friday, 15 January. We will be back at work on Monday, 17 January.

We hope you have a fabulous school holidays!



SchoolStream

You can also stay informed about our upcoming events but checking out our calendar on the SchoolStream app. All families need to have access to this app as it is our main channel of communication. Visit our website for more details:

www.themontessorischool.wa.edu.au/parents/schoolstream-app



What's on?

Discussion Nights - 2022

Our discussion nights are short talks given on some aspect of Montessori education or philosophy, followed by a discussion amongst staff and parents.

We encourage our parents to attend these events to hear the talk, ask questions and to meet with teachers and parents.

Next year, we are going to change the format of these talks to ensure our audiences get the most out of the discussions.

Term 1: Monday, 14 March

- Parent/Expert Panel

Term 2: Tuesday, 24 May

- Deep Dive into the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Term 3: Monday, 5 September

- Montessori Questions – more details to come later.

Term 4: Tuesday, 8 November

- Montessori Questions – more details to come later.

Open House 2022

Once per term, we open our doors to the public so that prospective families can observe for themselves how a Montessori education works.

- Term 1: Monday, 28 February
- Term 2: Monday, 23 May
- Term 3: Monday, 15 August
- Term 4: Monday, 17 October

We always need volunteers on these days, so feel free to let us know if you're keen to share your experience with prospective families.

Classroom Observations

We welcome parents and visitors (one adult per class) to observe in our classrooms and we encourage you to observe in your child's class at least once per year.

To have a good view of the natural activities and atmosphere within the classroom, as well as to minimise disruptions to the children as much as possible, we request that observers remain seated and refrain from engaging with the teachers and the children.

Observation times may include lunch, so let us know at the time of booking your observation if you would like to schedule lunch with your child.

Classroom observation bookings are available in **one-hour sessions**, in pre-primary, lower primary, upper primary and lower secondary classes

- Morning only: 9:00am - 10:00am
- Morning observation followed by play and lunch: 10:30am - 1:00pm
- Lunch and afternoon observation: 12noon to 2pm
- Afternoon only: 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Bookings Essential

To book any of these events, please call our School Office on 9409 9151.

We recommend you check our website to confirm the dates ahead of your interested event.

www.themontessorischool.wa.edu.au/events





Parking

We appreciate all your efforts over the last few weeks in ensuring that you familiarise yourself with new rules we've implemented since the installation of our new footpath and additional parking bays.

We understand that parents are often in a rush when dropping of their children and our continued efforts are to ensure that the students (and parents) are safe. We've had a few close calls with children nearly getting hit over the years, with a couple of incidents recently, as well as many fender benders. As such, we are working towards changing our community's behaviours.

We've had a lot of questions about parking over the last few weeks, so we thought we should clarify what to do and what not to do when it comes to parking around our school.

Parking on Montessori Place

Parking on Montessori Place is only for the families who:

- Have children in the pre-primary classrooms;
- Are parents/carers of young children (under the age of three);
- Are expectant mothers.

We wish to remind you that parking outside the School gate is STRICTLY reserved for parents/carers of young children (under the age of three), as well as for our expectant mothers (these are the four bays immediately outside the gates).

Lower Primary Students and Older

For students who are in lower primary and above (and you do not have children under the age of three), we recommend that you park in nearby streets, such as Wandearah Way, Talbot Drive or Goollelal Drive.

Or, if families are comfortable (usually from upper primary), we ask that they kiss-and-go in the cul-de-sac (not outside the School gate).

Parking on Nearby Streets

When parking on nearby streets, we ask our families to not park on anyone's verge/yard as we need to be considerate to our neighbours.

Chatterbox

If you are eligible to park on Montessori Place, but intend on either grabbing a coffee from the Honkey Nut Café, chatting with other parents, or going into the School Office for any reason, we ask that you park on nearby streets, allowing for parents who are dropping off or picking up to do so as per usual.

No U-Turns

If you park on Montessori Place opposite the School, you must go to the top of the cul-de-sac and park on your way down the hill, i.e., please do not cross in front of oncoming traffic into a parking place as this is a dangerous practice.

Crossing Montessori Place

Anyone who parks on Montessori Place across the street uses the new footpath and crosses at the crosswalk (we are working on getting zebra lines painted), as walking up behind parked cars is not safe since reversing vehicles often can't see people walking behind them, especially little ones.

Disabled Parking

Some of our parents regularly park in the disabled bay and, as you are aware, this is prohibited unless you have an ACROD permit – so please don't park in this bay, unless you meet the requirement.

Grace and Courtesy

The grace and courtesy lessons, which we teach to our students, are designed to ensure the needs of everyone in the setting are respected while promoting social harmony, and this extends to our parents and community, and does include parking.

As such, we ask that you be kind and respectful to other families as well as our staff who assist with the parking area at drop off and pick up times.

Share the Rules

As some of you have relatives or friends dropping off or picking up your children, we ask that you share these rules with them.

Alternative to Driving

In the interest of sustainability, we encourage our families to carpool, children and parents ride to school or, for those who live nearby, walk to school.





Volunteers' Corner



Induction for Open House Volunteers

Since there has been, and continues to be, many developments at our school, Des has kindly offered to run an Induction for those interested in volunteering at our Open House next year, to ensure that our volunteers have the latest information. Our Open House are run once per term with the help of our wonderful parent volunteers.

The Induction Session is likely to take place in January, around Week 3 of Term 1 and should take about two hours.

So, if you are keen to volunteer, please let Julie know via email at:

personalassistant@themontessorischool.wa.edu.au



Laundry Volunteers

We'd like to say a BIG thank you to our laundry volunteers for Term 4:

- Cherise Trovato
- Natalia D'Alesio
- Jessica Clark
- Peter Cardy
- Cristina Campion
- Amanda Zavros



Volunteers Morning Tea

Today, we invited our volunteers to attend a morning tea, a small gesture to say thank you to all who spend countless hours volunteering at our school.

As a thank you to our volunteers, we enlisted the help of our upper primary students to put together a video thanking all of our wonderful volunteers.

If you missed it, you can view the video [here](#).



Twilight Fete Volunteers

As you know, our inaugural Twilight Fete was hugely successful and we could not have done it without the help of all who volunteered!

Thank you to all our event sponsors from both our school and local community for helping to make this event a success!

In addition, we want to thank all our community who so eagerly participated in the event, making it not only a lot of fun, but also a lucrative event for the School and enabling us to work on our playground upgrade next year!



Communication & Engagement News

Our parent volunteers and class representatives work together to put on engaging and memorable events for our school community each year”.



Thank You 2021 Class Representatives

Each of our classrooms have a Class Representative who is a liaison between the teachers and the parents/carers. They also manage our school events and are aware of just about everything that goes on at our school.

We would like to thank our 2021 class representatives:

- PP1: Kate Tait
- PP2: Carrie Walsh
- PP3: Melinda & Phil Shreeve
- LP1: Jo McFarlane
- LP2: Clare & George Eksander
- LP3: Amanda Weall
- UP: Chloe Bond
- LS: Maryke Koster Hansen

Special thanks to Annette Advani, our fearless and highly organised coordinator who makes it all happen.

We'd also like to thank Kasey Kirov, Nova Arnachellum and Kate Durey for their contribution and assistance with whole-school community projects this year.

2022 Class Representatives

Chloe Bond will be coordinating the Class Representatives in 2022 and will provide more information on how parents and carers can connect with one another next year.

The following legends will be your class representatives next year:

- PP1: Kate Tait
- PP2: Carrie Walsh
- PP3: Emma Laver
- LP1: Jo McFarlane
- LP2: **Vacant**
- LP3: Amanda Weall
- UP 1 & 2: Chloe Bond
- LS: Wanda Anderson

In addition, the following people sit behind the scene and make the magic happen:

- Class Representative Coordinator: Chloe Bond
- Events Coordinator: Kate Tait





2021 Events

Our 2021 events thus far have been nothing short of amazing! Here is a bit more information on what we've done so far and what is yet to come! These fantastic events would not be possible without the support of our wonderful school community who volunteer their time and services to help create great memories for our kids, thank you!



Wanjoo Concert - Friday, 19 March

Our families had a fantastic time at the Wanjoo Family Concert, which was our first community event for the year.

Thank you Gina Williams & Guy Ghouse for an amazing evening!



Scitech Family Night - 13 August

Our last Scitech Family Night was our biggest night ever, with 380 people attending, 137 pizzas ordered.

This is our flagship event so if you've missed out this year, make sure you attend next year!



School Disco - Friday, 21 May

What a huge night, our most attended disco on record! On the 21st May Warwick Hall was filled with 125 kids of all ages, plus their families, having a great time enjoying the tunes and games from Bop Till You Drop, face painting, bake sale and fancy dress photo wall.



Twilight Fete - Friday, 10 December

The Montessori School Kingsley opened its gates to both our local and school communities for a family friendly evening of market stalls, entertainment and food, and it did not disappoint!

Thank you so much to all our volunteers as well as our sponsors!

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding our community and fundraising events, have a chat to your friendly class representative or contact: communityevents@themontessorischool.wa.edu.au



2022 Events

It's going to be difficult to top on 2021 events but we will certainly endeavour to do just that! Check out what we've got planned for our school community.

Term 1: Performance by AKWAABA - Traditional Ghanaese Drumming and Dance Workshop

- Saturday, 19 March

Held at our school, Kofi will open the event with a one-hour workshop, providing 20-25 instruments for guests to take turns in being involved in the drumming and dance circle. After a short break he will offer a 30-40 minute performance (including his drumming students and dancers).

Term 2: AQWA Family Night (www.aqwa.com.au)

- Friday, 20 May

Join us as our school enjoys exclusive hire of AQWA for the evening, you'll have access to all the aquariums and exhibits, along with the option to pre purchase dinner with your entry ticket.

Term 3: Scitech

- Friday 12 August

We look forward to returning to Scitech for another evening of science and fun, exclusive to our school families. Like always there will be an option to prepurchase dinner with your entry ticket.

Extras

- Entertainment Book: ongoing throughout the year
- Family Mini Photo Shoots: October/November

In line with the Engagement and Communication Sub-Committee scope, all the events we hold are not fundraising events. They are community events designed to bring us together and strengthen our school community, while providing amazing memories for our families, with a little bit of fundraising on the side.

60th Anniversary

Our School is turning 60 next year!

We have big plans to celebrate as a whole-school community throughout 2022.

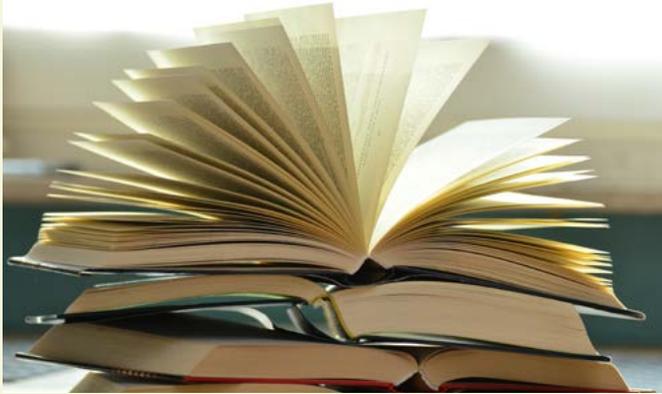
Join us as we reflect, honour and appreciate the rich history of our school.





Parent News

At our school, we have an amazing parent and carer community who care and support each other. Here are some news from these legends!



Book Club

Do you love books? Our parents have been running a book club for over two years and meet about once per term. If you're keen, join in for some fun and bookish discussions!

Anyone interested should speak to either Melinda Shreeve or Nikky De Oliveira, during school drop off or pick up.



Lake Goollelal Walk

Every Friday during term, some of our parents take a walk around Lake Goollelal. The 6km+ walk in our beautiful surroundings is the perfect addition to your exercise routine.

Sometimes there's only a couple of people and other times, there's a dozen. So, if you're keen to join the group, make sure to wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and bring a bottle of water.

Human babies as well as fur babies are welcome!



Exercise in the Park

Each Monday of the school term, Holly Carruthers helps members of our school community with a free fitness class. It starts at 8:50am and runs for 45-60minutes.

The session, which takes place at Barridale Park, includes a combination of stretching, body weight, cardio and strength work, and all fitness levels are welcome.

The park does have toilet and children (that are not in school yet) are welcome, under parent supervision.

Bring a mat, water bottle and, if you have them, some hand held weights of 3kg to 5kg.

Please note that Holly is not a personal trainer, she is just an enthusiastic member of our community.



Running Club

Thank you to all the students, parents and carers who participated in Running Club this year. We had so much fun running around our obstacle course and bushland tracks with you.

The purpose of Running Club is to increase student fitness levels in a fun and safe environment, while actively engaging with one another and interacting with our natural bushland.

Running Club will be offered again for eight weeks during Autumn 2022.



The Montessori Playgroup Update

Our second term at Timberlane Park Clubrooms has absolutely flown by! We all feel at home in our new space, and I am pleased to announce that we have secured our annual lease from the City of Joondalup for 2022.

This term, we have enjoyed some summer flavours in our cooking activities, with simple strawberry cheesecakes and orange juice making being a delicious highlight for both parents and children. Our seasonal craft was also a success, with paper-plate sun-catchers ready to hang in celebration of the warmer weather and longer days.

We celebrated the end of term with a shared plate morning tea, and were excited to have Kate from East African Coffee bringing her van down to Playgroup at the end of term for us to shout all our wonderful parents and grandparents a free coffee.

Due to popular demand, we are now running our teacher-facilitated sessions every weekday morning from 9:15am to 11:15am at The Playgroup Hall, Timberlane Park Clubrooms, in Woodvale.

Our program is open to children aged 0-4 years, whose parents have an interest in Montessori Education and a commitment to actively engage and participate with their child in the prepared environment.

If you would like to know more, please contact Jo McFarlane, Playgroup Coordinator

Email: admin@montessoriplaygroupkingsley.com
Phone: 0413 299 647





Contact us:

18 Montessori Place Kingsley, WA 6026
Post Office Box 194, Landsdale, WA 6025
Phone: 08 9409 9151
Email: admin@themontessorischool.wa.edu.au
Website: themontessorischool.wa.edu.au

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