



Annual General Meeting 2024

Principal's Report for the 2023 academic year

Introduction

In 2023, several long-term initiatives of the School began to materialise and advance. The Board dedicated significant effort to further developing the School's strategic plan, refining our vision and values through an extensive process.

A notable addition to our program was the introduction of the International Baccalaureate Careers-related Programme (IBCP), offering our students additional pathways and bolstering retention through Year 12. This initiative also strengthens our relationship with the International Baccalaureate, complementing our nearly 30-year history of delivering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP).

In support of our younger students, staff across the School received training in the structured synthetic phonics program, Sounds Write, grounded in the science of reading. This was a significant undertaking by the School and has brought tangible results already.

Expanding our capabilities in record-keeping and standards tracking for Montessori education, Transparent Classroom was extended to lower primary, with plans for further expansion into upper primary.

The implementation of the learning management system Managebac, for students in Year 7-12, continued throughout the year, accompanied by staff training to maximise its benefits.

Additionally, professional development in areas such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Positive Partnerships, Montessori adolescent theory, the Keeping Safe Curriculum, ongoing compliance training, and a range of other learning opportunities further enriched our educational community.

Buildings and Grounds Improvement and the Upper Secondary Building Project

To enhance our school's environment and meet the needs of our students, several improvements were implemented:

- Installation of a 35KW solar power system to meet the energy demands of the entire school.
- Creation of a Lower Primary alcove, providing a dedicated space for reflection and regulation.
- Installation of filtered water taps in the Heritage, Pre-Primary, Lower Primary, Upper Primary, and Lower Secondary buildings.
- National Broadband Network fibre installation to significantly improve upload and download speeds, benefiting both secondary education and administrative functions.
- Cloud Migration – No physical server.
- Painted the school.
- Acquisition of a storage shed.
- Exploration of temporary housing options, culminating in the purchase of a demountable set to be installed in 2024.
- Signed contract to upgrade our building security system including a public address system for installation in 2024.
- Ongoing maintenance and beautification.



Furthermore, following a rigorous selection process, a builder was selected for the Upper Secondary Building, and a contract was finalised in late 2023. These initiatives, among others, reflect our commitment to improving infrastructure and creating an optimal learning environment for our school community.

Enrolments

Throughout 2023, our student enrolments stabilised to align with our available physical space. The School consistently maintained an average of 199 students. We observed strong retention across all levels, including our secondary program. The increasing waiting list underscored sustained interest in our school and Montessori education, pointing towards a robust and promising future for our community.

Graduates

We were delighted with the pathways our graduates pursued, as each student successfully achieved their first-choice career path. We eagerly await the development of their careers and look forward to their contributions to the community.

Communications and Marketing

The School created several educational and promotional videos with the theme 'Day in the Life of...' for showcasing on our online platforms.

Staffing

The School welcomed new additions Ashlea Fuller, Jacob Horsey, Arianna Taffurelli, Winnie Peng, Jo McFarlane, Lesley Winter, and Aishling Whittle, further strengthening our team. Hemali Vasandee returned from maternity leave briefly before relocating northward a few months later. Additionally, we bid farewell to Sue Hoolohan, Chantal Mare, Peter Zylstra, and Anja Cirkovic as they concluded their employment with the School.

We were delighted to support several student teachers over the year. As such we wish Khia Mulligan, Janice Aloysius, Sinead Fogarty, Marie Lineham and Saisha Kannan the best as they pursue their teaching careers.

Community

Our Community Event Volunteer Group organised a series of successful events throughout the year, including the African Drumming Group, Landsdale Farm event, and the highly popular SciTech night.

The school also welcomed numerous distinguished guests, including Montessori school leaders, International Montessori trainers, Steiner school leaders, AISWA leadership, IB leaders, and others. They all praised the beauty of our school and the exceptional culture of our students.

After a hiatus, the senior students resumed their traditional bi-annual trip to Thailand, which also included participation in the Montessori International Congress. This Congress brought together hundreds of Montessorians from across the globe.

Closer to home, our IB students organised the annual Combined Montessori Schools Formal at AQWA. The evening was filled with excitement, music, and dance, showcasing the vibrant spirit of our student community. Just about the whole school attended the All Montessori Schools Picnic at Kings Park.



Thank you

Thank you to the Board, the Board sub-committees, the sub-committee conveners, the administration team, the staff, and most importantly, our students, who are the driving force behind our efforts.

I feel privileged to have been a part of such a proud and supportive community, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to its growth and fulfill its potential. It is inspiring to work alongside dedicated professionals, exceptional students, and a committed Board, all striving towards the success of our outstanding school.

Des Reuben
Principal