2015 Annual General Meeting Principal’s Report

The Beehive Montessori School

Strategic Plan
2013 – 2016

Mission

The Beehive Montessori School aims to provide an environment that helps the developing child move towards their fullest potential. By respecting and nurturing individual needs and abilities, we encourage an enjoyment of learning, intellectual, physical, spiritual and emotional growth, independence, and a sense of community responsibility.

The Beehive Montessori School is an educator of children and adolescents according to the Montessori Method with a particular reference to the guidelines of the AMI (Association Montessori Internationale).

We respect the Whadjuk Nyungar people as the traditional custodians of the land on which the school is situated.

Welcome to the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

I would like to welcome you all to the 2015 Annual General Meeting. Thank you for attending.

On reflection 2014 was a very successful year in the schools development, we increased student numbers and we commenced Stage 2B of our building programme. The 3 junior primary classrooms, their courtyards and the first stage of the junior primary playground is anticipated to be completed by the beginning of Semester 2. This means that we will be able to relocate 100 of our youngest members of the school. This is a significant step in our building programme as up to now the focus has been on the community building the Piazza, Hall, Library and Administrative building. The classrooms are unique and reflect, not only the Montessori method of education and its principles and practices but also our commitment to sustainability.

The building pad for Stage 2C has been laid and it is expected that we will commence building the 3 middle primary classrooms and music room. The junior primary playground will also grow in stages as it will include artworks and playground constructions that will take time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the building
project, the members of the Building Committee, Chaired by Lindsay Boladeras, and the Capital Gifting Committee Chaired by Michael Hollingdale. I would also like to recognize the efforts of David Delahunty and Dimitri Kapetas from EHDO, and Adrian Murphy, MOJO.

It is also time to acknowledge the generosity of our community; last year through community events we raised $50,103.00 and $163,878.00 over the last 3 years. We have also had consistent annual pledges and one off gifts from parents, past parents, grandparents and staff that have amounted to $225,000.00 with another $163,000.00 promised. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to think about supporting our capital gifting program, you will be part of our schools legacy for the years to come and more importantly you will help us provide the children with the best possible facilities for a small independent school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board, (John Bird, Lindsay Boladeras, Bettina Mangan, Deborah Hathway, Michael Hollingdale, Julia Burns, Alex Hams and Hannah Fitzhardinge for the second part of the year and Jessica Henke for representing the staff.)

The Board is an integral part of the success of The Beehive Montessori School, they act as governors steering the ship through the development and adherence to our Strategic Objectives and state and federal compliance necessary for our school registration to the education act. The Board has been very supportive of the staff and their professional development, the families and the children and me personally. Without the integrity, professionalism and hard work of our Board, the school would not have the highly regarded reputation throughout educational bodies in Western Australia and nationally.

I would like to thank the other contributors in our community:

- Finance Committee
- RAP Committee
- Junior Primary Playground Committee
- Beeliners who are behind every school event, developing community spirit within their classrooms and most importantly offering support to the teachers. This group is headed by the Queen Bee, Judy Loader, who retired at the end of last year. Her contribution to the school was enormous and appreciated by all. Cathy Woodhouse (Grapes) has embraced the opportunity to contribute to our school by becoming the new Queen Bee and I look forward to working with her in this role.
- Volunteers who assist in our uniform shop, organize school social events and work with the children in the classrooms

It is important at this time that I acknowledge the hard work of our highly trained, experienced and committed staff, both in education and administration. It is my observation and strong belief that these people are very highly committed and work tirelessly and to the best of their ability to provide an excellent nurturing, educational setting that has the ethics and values entrenched within it. We are very fortunate that they are part of Beehive and they play an integral part in preparing global citizens and leaders of the future. To the children, thank you for your joyous effort, your perseverance your care for each other and the environment, without you there would be no school.
On a personal note, as you know last year my health was challenged with a diagnosis of cancer and treatment and I was only able to work part-time. During this time the school had an opportunity to show its depth and diversity. Debbie McCarthy in her role as Assistant Principal, Bronwyn Hope in her role as a Coordinator for the primary school and Lisa Wieringa as Administration Manager stepped up and did an excellent job. I would like to acknowledge the staff and the parents for their care and support for me. It is also important that I acknowledge the Board for their care and understanding of my situation as well as their concern for the day to day running of the school. For me, all in all, this showed me that the succession planning that we have in place for the school’s future is strong, healthy and certainly active.

Finally I would like to acknowledge John Bird for his contribution to The Beehive Montessori School; he has been serving the school in various capacities since 1996. He was our first male Beeliner and was the Treasurer and active member of the Finance committee for many years and a member of the School Board in various capacities. Since 2007, John has been on the Board as my nominee, I chose to do this because of his longstanding involvement on the Board and his understanding of the challenges that we faced regarding leases, zoning and relationships with various government departments. Without his guidance, support and experience I would not have been able to achieve what was necessary to build a new school. Although John is stepping down as Chairperson this year, he will still be my nominee on the Board for the next 12 months and assist the new Chair in the handover of the role. Thank you John.

Rhonda Sheehan
Principal