



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

30th April 2019

The Beehive Montessori School

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 Association Montessori Internationale (AMI).

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

Welcome everybody to the 2019 Annual General Meeting:

Welcome everybody to the 2019 Annual General Meeting, thank you for taking the time out to attend.

The context of my report will be reporting to strategic objectives as stated in our Strategic Plan.

In 2018 we submitted to SCASA the recognition for alternative curriculum for Languages, Technologies and the Arts. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority Board has approved the recognition for these subjects until December 21st 2021.

We also wrote to Jennifer McGrath, A/Director General from the Department of WA Education in regards to a "new Standard 5.1 that requires a child not only to have

turned three years of age before being enrolled in school but also to be in the final year of his or her early education period, unless I approve otherwise."

We contacted her and requested a waiver from the requirement that a child must be in the final year of his or her early education period. This was very important to us because it meant we couldn't enrol any children after the 30th June.

Her response was *"I am satisfied as to the arguments in favour of a waiver for Montessori schools in Western Australia and am pleased to advise that the waiver requested is granted for a period of three and a half years."*

Staffing: Rita Bonnici left Beehive and was replaced by Ellen McCarthy who had worked previously at the school and holds an AMI Diploma 3-6.

Jessica Henke took a Study Loan Agreement to go to Bergamo to obtain her 6-12 AMI Diploma and will return in July 2019.

Lily Sheehan and Lauren Ebert-Day also accepted a Study Loan Agreement to attend an AMI Diploma 3-6 year olds in Casablanca as 2 summer schools, they are returning for their second session in May 2019 and will be completed by August 2019.

The school assists financially in the form of Student Loan Agreements and staff pay them off with service. This is an essential part of our succession planning to obtain well educated Montessori teachers. Beehive is acknowledged for their trained AMI Montessori Teachers.

The teachers finished their research with Curtin University with Digital Literacies and ICT. They were very impressed with our method of education and approach to technology and could see that the way we use computers is in the best interests of the children. They have delivered their research findings to the Board and they will deliver them to the parents at a Parent Education evening on 5th June 2019.

Three teachers, Bronwyn Hope, Kath Meisinger and Cathy Woodhouse presented at the Montessori Digital Age Symposium where they talked about the research they had been involved in and how technology can be incorporated in Montessori education. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to consolidate their information and it was well received among the Montessori community.

We have also began establishing with the help of Mark Scholmann a design and technology space for the older children, this will include coding, 3 D printing, green space, animation and other initiatives. I would like to thank the Scholmann family for much of the equipment for this initiative. I would also like to thank the Crichton family for donating furniture throughout the whole school that is being used.

At the end of 2018 we worked with Robyn McKean on Developmental Programming – No Screens. She is a Digital Process Officer Computer Science Research Group from the University of Adelaide. She was recommended to come to Beehive and work with us. Her work is funded by the Federal Department of Education through the National Innovation and Science Agenda. She was very excited about our approach to no screens in early childhood and our reluctance to putting screens throughout the school as a teaching tool. She presented to us educational tools that will assist in using technology in a productive active way.

We also hosted Meeting in the Middle an Adolescent Program forum that is held every year and this time it was held at Beehive. The teachers attending this forum verbalised how unique our Montessori program was and congratulated us to being true to the Method.

All staff attended Mandatory Reporting Session and Child Safety Workshop.

This year our annual staff research is 'The Flow Theory' presented by Cameron Norsworthy and Dr Susan Jackson. We spent 2 days at the beginning of the year doing professional development and they were making observations about Flow Theory in their classrooms.

Thee Montessori teachers Association sponsored Dr Laura Flores-Shaw to come to Beehive to conduct a teachers workshop based on Normalisation and Brain Development, she also presented a parent talk, and Montessori Brain based Education. Both of these events were both well attended by both staff and parents from Beehive and other schools.

We currently have 193 students' and 139 families at Beehive and 30 children in the Toddler Program.

This year the prediction of our enrolments are up by 11 children and we have a lot of interest in the early years as well as the primary school. Unfortunately we cannot enrol all the primary enquiries.

We have just completed a marketing Brochure for the Adolescent Program and I will be supplying them to student centred schools like Moerlina, Quintilian and Lance Holt and offer them a parent evening. This Brochure will also be given to every parent at Beehive.

It was decided last year that we would not demolish the old buildings and replace it with a new building. At the moment we have enough room for everybody in the school and we can use the old building as a space too. Beehive would like to improve its financial position before more building commences. Living in our new spaces is informing us what we need to build.

I am still working with the Department of Lands regarding the McCall Centre Lease, I am hoping to finalise this as soon as possible. During this process they discovered some contamination that was not a threat to children as it was deep in the earth but it needed to be remediated. This work has been completed.

We have begun our work on re-building Woodhenge, this work will be funded by fundraising monies over the past 5 years and I would like to thank all the parents and students that have assisted by offering capital gifts and organising fundraising events. Hopefully this will be completed by 3rd term.

Our school was refereed as a potential participator in the case study and illustration of practice development for the National Consistent Collection of Data on school students with disabilities. Representatives of Education Services Australia in Melbourne came to Beehive to video the school on the 6th November 2018. This was a very successful day and our school was considered to be one of the best in Australia in managing this data. I would like to thank Debbie and the teachers for their work in this area.

Our students performed very well in NAPLAN. A chart of their results is included here in my Report and is available for you to take this evening.

2018 NAPLAN RESULTS FOR THE BEEHIVE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Year		Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar/ Punctuation	Numeracy
3	National Mean	434	407	418	432	408
	State Mean	423	400	411	424	403
	Beehive School Mean	482	409	441	468	464
	% of children in top 20%	48%	9%	33%	33%	52%
5	National Mean	509	465	503	504	494
	State Mean	502	460	500	500	490
	Beehive School Mean	572	480	539	537	551
	% of children in top 20%	40%	30%	30%	30%	56%

The children performed higher than the national and state mean in every subject in years 3 and 5. Due to the small cohort in the Adolescent Program we are unable to give this information.

This year is an important year for Beehive Montessori School as it is our schools Re-registration. We have met with representatives from AISWA to go through the changes and the standards and to check if we had anything missing. The Standards change from month to month so it is a frustrating process. The school is well placed for this process and the focus throughout Australia for all schools in Child Protection. Over the coming months you will receive more information about how we are focussing on this.

Beehive in 2018 met with all its compliance regulations they were all submitted on time. I would like to thank Lisa Wieringa, Elisa Main and Debbie McCarthy for their diligent work in these areas.

This year I was approached to become a member of the Montessori Australia Foundation. It is also the umbrella for Montessori Australia that caters for schools and child care centres, the Australian Centre for Montessori Studies which is an AMI training Centre and the Montessori Children's Association which funds, establishes and supports Montessori school for Indigenous children. It is privilege to be part of this group and to further Montessori throughout Australia.

As you can see we have a very busy and fruitful year at Beehive, our international guests are very impressed with the level of education and commitment of all our staff and we have been recognised and applauded nationally and internationally. This kind of success does not happen randomly it is a committed group and community effort.

Thank you to the Board members:

Bettina Mangan (Chair), Deborah Hathway (Deputy Chair/Secretary,) Lindsay Boladeras (Treasurer), Martin Black, Ronald Crichton, Kate van Koesveld, Samantha Owen, Aaron Whitelaw and Linda Gladwell.

Thank you to Foundation members:

Liz Hollingdale (Chair), Lindsay Boladeras (Treasurer), Andrew Hull and Curtis McDonald.

Thank you to Beeliners and parent volunteers that have organised school events.

Thank you to teaching staff for the loving professional care they offer your children and the administration staff that assist in the smooth running of our school.

Thank you also to the children.