



## **ACTING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**30th March, 2020**

### **The Beehive Montessori School**

#### **Our Mission**

Nurturing independence so our children find their place in, and contribute to, a better world.

#### **Our Vision**

To provide excellence in Montessori Education

#### **Values**

Respect

Compassion

Curiosity

Responsibility

Individuality

### **Welcome everybody to the 2020 Annual General Meeting:**

Wanjoo, I would like to acknowledge and show my respect for the Whadjuk Nyungar people as the traditional custodians of the land on which the school is situated.

Welcome everybody to the 2020 Annual General Meeting, and thank you for taking the time out to attend in these very unusual circumstances.

The past year has been a significant one for Beehive, with the resignation of our long-time Principal Rhonda Sheehan. Rhonda was Principal of Beehive for 22 years, and her passion for Montessori education is recognised across Australia. Under her

leadership, the School grew in size and stature, to become one of the leading Montessori schools in the nation. Celebrations are planned to commemorate Rhonda's amazing career, however are on hold currently due to risks of COVID-19.

Jessica Henke returned from Bergamo, Italy in July 2019 after studying for her 6-12 AMI Diploma. She is now the teacher in La Casa della Pace.

Lily Sheehan and Lauren Ebert-Day completed their AMI Diploma for 3-6 year olds in Casablanca in August 2019.

The school assisted these staff members financially in the form of Student Loan Agreements, which are then paid back with service. This is an essential part of our succession planning to obtain well educated Montessori teachers. Beehive is acknowledged Australia wide for our well-trained AMI Montessori Teachers.

In Term 3 2019, Serena Zen left her position as the Italian teacher and was replaced by Elisa Da Tos who settled into Beehive life very quickly.

Teachers were involved in action research regarding 'Flow', with parent Cameron Norsworthy conducting professional development in this area and following up with teachers to determine:

- Why Flow is important in learning
- What it is and how do we find it
- Why and how a Montessori environment facilitates Flow

The action research was completed at the end of 2019, with a parent information night proposed for early 2020. Unfortunately, this was postponed due to the risks associated with COVID-19.

All staff attended our annual professional development on Child Protection and Mandatory Reporting, Anaphylaxis, and Asthma first aid, and reviews of the Staff Code of Conduct and the School's Child Protection Policy. In addition, staff attended a variety of professional development including, Fire Extinguisher training, print making, snake handling and many more.

All teachers and teacher assistants also attended professional development on the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum. This has now replaced Protective Behaviours WA as the School's child protection curriculum throughout the School.

The Montessori Teachers Association of WA 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 well attended by both staff and parents from Beehive and other schools.

The School went through a re-registration process with the Department of Education in 2019, which involves sending extensive documentation to the registration panel and culminates in them visiting the School. Their visit entailed a tour of the School, meetings with Board members, staff, parents and students. We were very pleased to be informed that Beehive had been granted registration for a further 5 years, the longest registration period possible.

Our marketing campaign, which includes new signage and promotion of our Open Days, resulted in an increased number of enquiries and some additional enrolments. In 2019, work began on a new website which will be launched soon. This will not only look better but will be more readily be viewed on devices.

Negotiations continue regarding the lease for the site of our Adolescent Program. During 2019, the main McCall building was being badly vandalised, so the water and electricity were turned off. Unfortunately, this also affected the Adolescent Program building, necessitating a move to the old building until services can be returned. The adolescents are currently downstairs where they have ample space and a kitchen, and easy access to their gardens and other facilities.

The building of Woodhenge was completed and is much loved by the students. Thank you to all the parents and students who fundraised over a number of years to enable this to happen. We are also grateful to Upper Primary for the use of their sushi fundraising money to install monkey bars in the primary playground. This was completed early this year, and they seem to be very well used.

Our students performed very well in NAPLAN as they usually do. A chart of the 2019 results are included in the Annual Report, and this will be available on the website. These results do not provide information that the teachers don't already know through the assessment processes we have in place throughout the School.

The introduction of Transparent Classroom as the School's record keeping and programming method has made this task much more efficient for the teachers and makes that information readily available for parents. Parents can log in to view their child's progress, and see any photos and comments that have been added. Feedback has been very positive.

We currently have 198 students' and 139 families at Beehive and 42 children in the Toddler Program.

As you can see we have a very busy year at Beehive, and we have met all our compliance requirements. I would like to thank everyone involved in this process, but in particular Lisa Wieringa and Elisa Main for their diligent work in these areas. The 2019 Annual Report will be tabled at the AGM and will then be available on the School's website.

Thank you to the Board members for volunteering their time to serve the School community.

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

Thank you to Foundation members:

Liz Hollingdale (Chair), Lindsay Boladeras (Treasurer), Andrew Hull, Katie Dickson and Isabella Boladeras.

Thank you to our Queen Bee and the Beeliners for welcoming all our new families and assisting with school events and communication.

Thank you parents, for giving us the privilege to educate your children, and for trusting and collaborating in that task. Thank you also to those who have volunteered in the many tasks and events that are part of school life.

Thank you to the teaching staff for the loving and professional care they offer your children and to the administration and other staff who assist in the smooth running of our School on a daily basis.

Thank you also to each and every student at the School. You are why Beehive exists, and we are currently missing you very much during this period of social isolation. We look forward to your return once School is able to resume.

Debbie McCarthy

Acting Principal