



AGM Report from the Principal of The Beehive Montessori School

Principal's Report- Annual General Meeting Monday 1st May 2023
for the year ending 31 December 2022

Thank you for attending the Beehive Annual General Meeting tonight. Part of my role is to recap on the year that was and report to you on 2022, which I will do under our strategic plan pillars of secure future, educational excellence, educational environment, and community citizenship.

Secure Future

Student numbers at Beehive is a bit of a moving feast, as we welcome children into our classes throughout the year, as they turn 3. In December 2022, our enrolments counted in at 215 students. 62% of 3 year old enrolments came through children who have previously been at playgroup and many of our enrolments continue to stem from personal recommendations through our parent body.

I was once again strongly supported by the board and guided by their strong governance and continued diligence in ensuring that we comply with all legislative and regulatory requirements. I would like to acknowledge the longstanding and ongoing commitment of Ron Crichton as chair, Samantha Owen as deputy chair, Aaron Whitelaw as treasurer, James Townsend as secretary and Lindsay Boladeras, Don Surjan, Serena Grant and Sam Medway as general board members.

A big thank you to Lucy Clarkson Fletcher who also volunteered her time as staff representative in 2022. A second voice and perspective from the staff on the ground is invaluable, and I would like to acknowledge her dedication here.

Educational Excellence

The opening of state borders in early 2022 made for a rather nerve-racking start to the academic year. Fortunately for us, we only saw one classroom closure and move to online learning in term 1, and despite having rolling absences of staff and students alike, at no point did these overwhelm our school logistically. I'd like to thank all of our teaching staff for their ongoing dedication to Montessori excellence during this trying time, and for their flexibility and team work.

I would like to acknowledge the valuable Debbie McCarthy in her ability to step into any Junior Primary classroom, during this time, and maintain fairly seamless education for our youngest students whenever one of our JP staff went down.

In 2022 we welcomed a number of new staff. We introduced 3 new education assistants into junior primary classrooms, 2 new assistants into middle primary, new part time

The Beehive Montessori School Inc.

Curtin Avenue, Mosman Park, WA 6012. PO Box 81, Mosman Park, WA 6012. ABN: 30 855 464 402

Tel: 08 9383 1283 Email: admin@beehive.wa.edu.au beehive.wa.edu.au



specialists for Sport and Italian and for the first time added a part time psychologist to our staff.

Elise Elliot, Aria Ciampini and Julia Jimenez added a breath of fresh air to our junior primary classrooms and it is a joy to see a new generation of passionate educators in our mix, who have found Montessori for the first time. We also welcomed Maria Fahy and Patrick Truman Healy back into our school as middle primary assistants, as prior staff member and student respectively.

Jasmine Royle joined us as a sport specialist this year, and her passion for early years sport education, and sport in general have made her a fabulous asset to our school. Bridget Baker and Marianna Piantavigna also filled in for Elisa da Tos who was on extended leave, as our Italian teachers.

The addition of Ellen Wilson, a school psychologist, to the team of professionals, has been of great benefit to children, staff and the parent body, in having another skill set to help ensure we are caring for our students as holistically as possible.

For the first time ever, AMI Montessori 3-6 training was offered in Western Australia last year, a course which will finish halfway through 2023. I would like to personally thank all of our teachers, particularly in Junior Primary, for sharing their classrooms, their wisdom and their dedication with the numerous practicum students who have come through their rooms. Paying it forward in this way is an important and valuable way of contributing to the future of Montessori education in our state.

Educational Environment

I have never been so glad of a well ventilated, seaside educational environment as I was last year! Our buildings served us well, and we continued to upgrade classroom furniture in a number of rooms across the school, as well as purchasing outdoor furniture and umbrellas to improve accessibility to outdoor learning environments.

Our building program continued to evolve in parallel to our ongoing discussions with various government departments with regards to our land and lease arrangements as Ron has covered.

We were lucky enough to run school camps in the second semester of 2022, to enlarge the scope of children's educational experience. Our MP students headed to Ern Halliday, our UP students went to the swan valley, and our adolescent students headed down to Denmark.

Community Citizenship

Social events such as the Sundowner, and Family Fun Day were inevitably cancelled or postponed in Term 1, and yet some beautiful new events emerged for the first time. We hosted the greatest shave event, and this was an amazingly moving event for our children where we also managed to raise over \$5,000 dollars for the Leukemia Foundation. Well done and thank you to our students Jasmine D'Silva, and Polly Price as well as Ellen McCarthy & Debbie McCarthy who took part in this worthwhile fundraising event.

We also hosted a number of community art events later in the year; thank you to Vanessa Margetts and Desi Canning who organised community Weaving workshops as part of the larger reclaiming the void art project. Local renowned artist and muralist Kyle Hughes - Odgers spent time as Artist in Residence with our upper primary students, thanks to the commission we received from Arte Ricca in 2021. This culminated in a beautiful mural which faces east, towards the bike path.

Our online Parent Ed for the adolescent program was very well attended last year, and we were able to run in person events for parents from Term 2 in the form of Orientations to JP and Primary, as well as the Museum of Montessori Materials events, featuring both maths and geometry curricula.

Semester 2 was jammed packed as we made up for lost time. We hosted the school Disco, the Bush Dance, Family Fun Day, grandparents Day, and the Adolescent Program Performance. Our school choir performed at The Mosman Park Bowls club for seniors week, and the school bands had a fabulous opportunity to perform at Clancy's once again. I'd like to thank Robyn Matthew for all her hard work in organising external opportunities for performance like these. Sports day also went ahead in Term 4 under the guidance of our sport teacher Jasmine Royle and we rounded out the year with another fabulous end of year concert performance back at our regular venue the Octagon theatre at UWA.

It takes a lot of behind-the-scenes logistical work to run a school. A massive thank you to our Admin team in Debbie, Elisa, Lisa and Crystal, for their ongoing dedication to keeping Beehive running, and for all the hard work they put in.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Foundation members: (Chair), Lindsay Boladeras (Treasurer) Andrew Hull, Elisa Main, Eric Chantelat, and Isabella Boladeras for all their ongoing contributions.

Lastly, thank you parents, for collaborating with us in the important work of educating your children. It takes a village to raise a child, and I am very thankful to be a part of the village we call Beehive.

Thank you.

Bronwyn Hope
Principal