



AGM Report from the Principal The Beehive Montessori School Monday 29 April 2024

Principal's Report for the year ending 31 December 2023

Thank you for attending the Beehive Annual General Meeting tonight. My role is to recap on the year that was and report to you under our Strategic Plan pillars of Secure Future, Educational Excellence, Educational Environment, and Community Citizenship.

Secure Future

At the end of 2023, our enrolments counted in at 214 students from 138 families. 69% of 3-year-old enrolments came through 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 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, and James Townsend as Secretary. I would also like to make special mention of the Building committee, chaired by Kazia Klopper, who were very active this year in ensuring our building programs, demolition and playground redesign, all occurred in a timely and cost-effective manner.

A big thank you to Lucy Clarkson-Fletcher who also volunteered her time as staff representative in 2023. A second voice and perspective from the staff on the ground is invaluable, and I would like to acknowledge her dedication here.

Educational Excellence

I'd like to thank all our teaching staff for their ongoing ability to provide excellence in Montessori Education during 2023. For many staff this meant hosting student teachers and paying forward their expertise as we hosted AMI students in our 3-6 classrooms, as well as in our 6-9 and 9-12 classes. At the end of 2023, we saw two of our longstanding teachers retire- Anthea Brignoli and Lorraine Martis, who have worked at the Beehive for 27 and 33 years respectively. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their lifework and the positive impact they have had on countless students' lives.

In 2023 we also welcomed some new staff. Holly Swaldi joined our Junior primary team as a 3-6 teacher, we welcomed Carolina Bertoncello as our Italian specialist for the primary school, Yasmin Ismail and Rowena Fleming joined our EA team in Middle primary; and Sally Howard joined our EA team in Junior primary.

Educational Environment

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



Our new playgroup building was opened in Term 3 of 2023 and has been well enjoyed as a light, bright and highly functional space for the youngest members of our community ever since.

We also built a block of primary gender-neutral toilets, and this allowed for the demolition of the older buildings on our site at the end of 2023, to make way for the creation of a larger primary playground.

Construction commenced in 2023 on a new Adolescent Program Building - consisting of a maths/science room, an English/Humanities room, kitchen and dining area, toilets, a mud room and outdoor under cover area.

As well as striving to provide optimal learning spaces for our children, we once again ran school camps in 2023, to enlarge the scope of children's educational experience. Our MP students headed to Swan River, our UP students went to Dwellingup, and our Adolescent students headed to Coral Bay, with our year 9 graduate group attending a camp in Tasmania.

Community Citizenship

The social calendar for 2023 was busy as usual. The Sundowner, and Family Fun Day occurred in Term 1. We once again hosted the greatest shave event at the Family Fun Day, where we were able to raise over \$5,000 dollars for the Leukemia Foundation. Well done and thank you to our students Jasmine D'Silva, Piper Hope, Orson Yaman and staff member Debbie McCarthy who took part in this worthwhile fundraising event.

We hosted the school Disco in Term 2 - thank you to our Alumni student Boab Brooking for once again entertaining our primary and Adolescent Program students as DJ.

Thank you to Jen Lowe and her committee of helpers who organised the Beehive Quiz Night in Term 3. Proceeds from this fun night were split between Sister Kate's – an Aboriginal not-for-profit, charitable organisation and as funds towards the construction of our primary playground.

Also in term 3 was the Bush Dance and the Adolescent Program Performance of Romeo and Juliette. 2023 was the first time we ran a matinee show for Shine aged care community which was a success.

Term 4 featured Sports Day, under the guidance of our super organised sport teacher Jasmine Royle and Grandparents Day gave the choir opportunity to perform. This event was particularly well attended this year and we received a lot of positive feedback from our grandparent community.

The school bands had a fabulous opportunity to perform once again at Clancy's and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Robyn Matthews for all her hard work in organising external opportunities for performances like these.

For the first time ever, we also hosted a parent theatre performance of Pinocchio. A special mention must go out to Carrie Sunderland and the cast for entertaining our community so spectacularly. Funds raised from this event totalled \$7,000 and this was donated to the Perth Children's Hospital community group 'Kids Cancer Support Group'.

We rounded out the year with a retirement party for Anthea and Lorraine, which gave us the opportunity to welcome many Alumni back to Beehive, and another fabulous end of year concert performance at the Octagon theatre at UWA.

In terms of our Parent Education opportunities – In 2023 we experimented with blended Orientations to JP and Primary, by having the theory online and the practice in open classes at the end of the day. The Adolescent Program parent events were well attended in 2023, especially an exhibition of some of the great projects they work on in the hall after school which was a success for students and parents alike. In the Hall we also hosted the Museum of Montessori Materials events, featuring the language curriculum.

We also engaged with external provider, Kaylene Kerr, from e-safety, to deliver 'cyber safety & digital wellness' parent education.

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 thank the Beeliner community led by Tennille D'Silva for all their grassroots support of the school.

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 your collaboration in creating the wonderful community that is Beehive.

Bronwyn Hope - Principal