



**ROCKINGHAM
Montessori SCHOOL Inc.**

REFLECTIONS NEWSLETTER - ISSUE # 1 2018

Our Mission

To provide a Montessori environment in which the needs of the whole child are met in a nurturing, safe and caring school, by encouraging independence, mutual respect and self-discipline so that students are prepared to take their place in the global community.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 20 Feb
Open Day

Thursday 15 March
Parent Education Evening



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NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Vanessa Aikins

Welcome to our 2018 school year and I hope all families had a wonderful summer break. On Tuesday 23 January the school bus along with many staff cars headed to Albany for a wonderful opportunity to link with Parklands School which is a Montessori School in Albany. The teachers and Education Assistants from RMS stayed at Camp Quaranup and enjoyed two days that were Montessori professional learning focused on the maths curriculum from ages three to eighteen. This was such a valuable opportunity to not only hone our craft but build connections amongst ourselves and other Montessori experts.

I would like to welcome John Bird as our new Business Manager. John comes to RMS with a great wealth of knowledge, expertise and passion for Montessori and I am delighted to have him join our wonderful administrative team. John first enrolled his children at Beehive Montessori and then became the treasurer and more recently the Chair of the Beehive School Board over a ten year period. John is a chartered accountant and has vast experience in all areas of administrative and financial leadership.

I warmly welcome Kirsty Bell as our new Program Coordinator in the Adolescent Program and look forward to expanding our arts program with Kirsty's skills and expertise in the areas of fine arts and digital media. We welcome Heidi Holland for one day per week into her role as Physical & Health Education Teacher, and are very pleased to have Gurmayll Kaur now covering Bahasa classes across both the Primary and High School. Sarah Clegg will now be working across the whole school in her role as The Arts and Occupations teacher along with Leela Cheary who will now also be taking keyboard classes in the Adolescent Program. Francine Palmer our school councillor will now re-join us at the commencement of term two not term one as previously advised and in the interim we welcome Lydia Surmin to this role.

In the Primary School Asti Jorgenson has increased her time allocation to three days per week with the Program Coordinator position taking two of these days and DOTT coverage for the third day. We warmly welcome Vanita Sutherland as our new Starfish classroom teacher who has joined us from Perth Montessori School. Vanita is well known to many of our teachers as she has attended observations and training here at RMS and she has had many years of Montessori experience both in WA and abroad. With the prescribed 1:10 ratio in the National Quality Standards for the Early Years Learning Framework now fully in place in the Children's House, we see the expansion of Shelley Diamond's Education Assistant role. Shelley will now be working across both the Seahorse and Dolphin's classes each morning along with her existing role in the Adolescent Program in the afternoons and we also welcome Carla Darcy as the new Penguin's class Education Assistant for the morning sessions.

Unfortunately the Salvation Army site where Casa Baldivis was located was sold very quickly and as a result the Adolescent Program has now moved the Occupations Program to the PCYC on Emma St next to the Primary School site and the horticulture program is utilising the Primary School facilities. We are currently working with the City of Rockingham to gain council approval for a new playgroup facility and hope to have playgroup up and running within a few weeks. Over the summer break the new sheds for the Children's House outdoor area were installed and a new set of storage cabinets were also installed in the Turtles, Seahorse and Dolphins classrooms, along with skylights for the Dolphins and Sea Lions classrooms. The children also received a special surprise seeing the cubby houses that were installed in the Children's House and Primary playground areas.

I am delighted that so many families have already expressed their interest in the new music lessons that will be offered this year across the whole school. If you were unable to make the two parent sessions that were offered at the primary school site please contact [EDU-Music](#) SMS only 0448 793 610 or email admin@edumusic.education to register your interest or find more out about these individual lessons.

This year we are introducing our Montessori Morning Chats which will be led by Deb Dwyer and will be held in the Primary School staff room. Deb will lead discussions on various Montessori topics to expand your understandings of Montessori practice and philosophy and we welcome families of all levels of understanding about Montessori to join in. Our Montessori Morning Chats for term one will take place on 1 and 29 March at 9.15am.



NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL Continued.....

You will shortly receive information regarding a change in our before and after school clubs programs. When the clubs program commenced many years ago we had very small numbers of children attend however with Nat's brilliant management the numbers have increased significantly and we are now in the process of registering clubs as an Out of School Hours Care program. I would like to thank Amy Short from Our Place OSHC who has partnered with us to offer this service through our school. The hours of care will be extended and holiday programs will be available on the school site. I am also delighted to inform that Nat and Braith along with the other familiar faces who support clubs currently will continue to run the OSHC and so your children will still be able to still enjoy our wonderful Montessori approach in the new OSHC.

At our recent Adolescent Program Parent Education evening we presented information on both the Safe Schools Program and the [Family Zone Program](#) that we will be implementing across the Adolescent Program and whole school respectively. We will be holding another information evening for Family Zone on Wednesday 14 March at 6pm at the Upper Primary Parent Education evening and all families are welcome to attend this presentation. For more information on signing up to Family Zone please contact Debbie Bird our Adolescent Program receptionist on APadmin@rms.wa.edu.au

Wow what a lot of information! Our School is continually aiming to meet the needs of all of our families and I welcome your feedback at any time for suggestions on how we can optimise the learning environment for all children. Feel free to email me at reception@rms.wa.edu.au or make an appointment to come and speak face to face.





ROCKINGHAM Montessori SCHOOL

Finance, Administration & Community Spirit News

Finance

I arrived at RMS mid-January and am gradually finding my feet here at this excellent school, having taken over from Queenie Massie who has moved to Bluegum Montessori. The Principal, admin people and teaching staff at RMS have been welcoming, supportive and extremely tolerant as I find out how things work (so like them, please bear with me). I have a background as a Chartered Accountant in practice, commerce and government, and our children (now adult) attended Beehive Montessori in Mosman Park where I was Treasurer and then Board Chair for many years.

I can see that my major contribution at RMS is my motorbike parked near reception – it's clearly an object of fascination to many children! I'm really looking forward to contributing (in other ways as well) as the school develops.

Best wishes

John Bird
Business Manager

Administration and School Banking

Please note School Banking day is changing to Wednesday mornings.

Community Spirit

The next 'Community Spirit' meeting will be held Thursday 15 March in the Staffroom @ 8:45am.



Adolescent Program

Welcome to the 2018 school year. What an industrious start we've had in the Adolescent Program. While the students and staff have got down to business very quickly it has been our Community Meetings that have provided some wonderful highlights for us. In the Adolescent Program our Community Meetings are very important. All staff and students sit in a circle facing inwards, with everyone given equal opportunity to present thoughts and ideas about an assortment of items relating to events and issues of school organisation. Expressing appreciation and gratitude are also an important feature of Community Meetings.

Recently Kaitlyn Todd (year 11 in 2017) returned to school for a day to say her good-byes as she had been accepted into her dream course a Tourism program at TAFE. Without exception, every student and staff member in our community circle was able to generously show their appreciation for Kaitlyn and her amazing contribution to the school over several years. It was touching to listen to so many people, staff and students alike, warmly express their gratitude for the beautiful, bright and bubbly personable approach that Kaitlyn would carry into the school environment every day. Many students were able to recount incidents where Kaitlyn had gone out of her way to help them. Many others shared their appreciation for Kaitlyn's outgoing nature and for the inspiration that she provided them by grasping and making the most of opportunities for adventures and learning outside of school. Such expressions of appreciation and gratitude give everyone a boost; the giver, the receiver and all those around them. It was a wonderful occasion. We all wish Kaitlyn our best as she goes off to brighten up other training and work places.

Our Middle School students and staff will be spending the first few days of term two at Nanga Bush Camp. The camp is promising to be very exciting with a variety of activities being organised including bush walking, rafting, abseiling among other activities. Also, being planned at present is the Senior Student Odyssey (July 16 – 27). We are planning an extensive two-week road trip through inland WA to the Kimberley Region, spending a few days at Mowanjum, an Aboriginal community near Derby, returning south via the coastal highway. It'll be a 'school on the road' experience supplemented with some wonderful eye opening experiences that can only be found in North Western Australia. Mining, agriculture and indigenous culture will be common themes throughout the trip.

With regard to the curriculum in the Adolescent Program there have been a few changes for 2018. In Middle School, we have altered our delivery approach for Humanities subjects. Due to the requirements of the Australian National Curriculum, we no longer offer the students Humanities electives. Instead we have developed a set of curriculum modules that students engage in over three years, giving them comprehensive coverage of all aspects of the Australian Curriculum. At present, there is a common focus on sustainability in humanities classes.

In Sam's Humanities class, the Crocodilos are looking at the history and politics of key environmental movements, and how cultural and historical factors impact the ways we care for the environment, our social obligation to do so, and how we manage conflicting interests.

In Andrew's Humanities class, the Orcas are looking at Global Energy Use, and how current and past practices of scientific and technological developments have impacted on biospheres and ecological systems, and the depletion of resources and climate change.

In Katherine's class, the Narwahls are participating in a variety of 'action learning' activities and exploring local, national and international efforts by others with a focus on the United Nations Sustainability Goals.

In Senior School, some students are engaging in part time courses at various TAFE campuses. Completing a VET course being a requirement for secondary graduation has provided extra impetus for our students to go beyond the school to access programs that relate to their future pathways and passions. "Going out" to learn is an important feature of Montessori Adolescent programs. To this end our students are also seeking and participating in internships at various workplaces in the local area and further afield. If you are able to offer a workplace opportunity please contact Deb on APadmin@rms.wa.edu.au

You may be aware that Casa Baldivis is no longer available to us. In order for our students to continue to gain hands-on experiences in workshop, kitchen and garden environments we have moved those activities to the PCYC, adjacent to the Primary School. The newly refurbished PCYC facilities are outstanding, very spacious and superbly maintained. Conveniently located, neighbouring the Primary School, the facilities are particularly suited to our needs. This move is very promising. Watch this space for some exciting produce and products from our industrious students in their Middle School Occupations groups and Senior School Materials and Design classes.

Kindest regards

Tony Gillespie
Deputy Principal Adolescent Program

School Community News



Protecting students

At school, at home
and everywhere
In between



Rockingham Montessori School is proud to partner with Family Zone



Removes adult content
for safe searching.



Manage use of social apps
and in-app purchasing.



Set routines for what they
can access, when - plus
give devices sleep times.



Family Zone app and
router works across every
device, everywhere.

Family Zone is a complete online cyber safety solution that protects your kids at school, at home and where they are out and about.

Simple to set up, easy to use, and supported by a team of cyber experts, if your kids are online you need Family Zone.

For more information visit:

familyzone.com/rmswa



Smartphones at school: To ban or not to ban?

The national conversation around cyberbullying gathered intensity this week with calls for a total ban on smartphones in schools making front-page headlines across Australia. [Read more ...](#)

School Community News

CONTACT US:

Jamie-Lea Franklin (Program Manager):
admin@edumusic.education OR SMS only: 0448 793 610.
Elicia Petite (Principal): elicia@edumusic.education

If you prefer to speak with us please text us on the number above and request a call back. The Edu-Music office isn't manned full-time but we always do our best to be available when you need us.



Expressions of Interest - MUSIC LESSONS!

- Edu-Music are excited to be offering your child the chance to learn a musical instrument this year at Rockingham Montessori School, during school hours. Depending on available places, your child can choose to learn:

- Piano
- Guitar/Ukulele
- Vocals/Singing
- Music Appreciation

- Flute
- Violin
- Clarinet
- Saxophone

'Music has been proven to improve your child's numeracy, literacy and left/right brain coordination. For the best results enrol your child now, and be consistent over the coming years - the results will speak for themselves.'

If you are interested in your child learning a musical instrument this year, don't miss out - places are limited. Fill in the form below and send to admin@edumusic.education or hand into the School Office.

Have a question? Email admin@edumusic.education or text message: [0448 793 610](tel:0448793610) and Jamie-Lea our wonderful Program Manager will do her best to answer any question you have.

Please note: all administration and payments are handled by Edu-Music, so please direct your queries to us via these contacts. Lessons are \$27 per class.

We look forward to starting your child's musical journey at Rockingham Montessori School!

Parent Full Name:

Mobile:

Email:

Child1 Full Name:

Class: D.O.B.:

Instrument preference:

Child2 Full Name:

Class: D.O.B.:

Instrument preference:

School Community News

Coles Sports for Schools 2018



Coles Sports for schools is back again for 2018.

This is a fantastic program where the school and students benefit by receiving fantastic sports equipment.

We have a collection box at reception for all your vouchers. The campaign runs through to 3 April.

The more vouchers we receive the more our school benefits.

School Banking

Get ready for a Super Savers adventure with School Banking.

This year in School Banking, your child will join the Dollarmites on a Super Savers adventure, developing strong savings skills.

School Banking encourages children to learn the value of saving and rewards those who demonstrate a regular savings behaviour.

New Super Savers reward items.

Introducing an exciting new range of reward items with two released every term.

Available in Term 1:

- Twister Power Handball
- Secret Scratch Notepad.

Your child can redeem one of these rewards, while stocks last, after making 10 School Banking deposits.



Remember, with the CommBank Youth app, it's easy for your child to monitor the Dollarmites tokens they earn when making School Banking deposits and track their savings. Available to download from the App Store on any iOS+ device.



A chance to win a family trip to Hawaii.



Students who truly are Super Savers will have the chance to win a family trip to Honolulu, Hawaii, staying 7 nights at the Sheraton Waikiki Resort, plus AU\$2,000 spending money.

To enter, students simply make 15 or more School Banking deposits before the end of Term 3 2018, and they will automatically enter the Super Savers Grand Prize Competition.

To find out more about School Banking, or explore fun activity sheets for your child, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

This is a promotional competition. The 'Super Savers Grand Prize Competition' (Promotion) is conducted by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (ABN 48 123 123 124) of Level 3C, 11 Harbour Street, Sydney NSW 2000. The Promotion starts at 0am AEDT on 22/01/18 and closes at 11:59pm AEST on 29/09/18. Entry is open to Australian residents aged 4-13 years only who have made 15 separate School Banking deposits into their CommBank 'Youthsaver' account during the Promotion period. Eligible entrants will be automatically entered into the draw. Maximum 1 entry/person. The first eligible entry randomly drawn will win a trip to Honolulu, Hawaii, USA for two adults and up to three children (aged 17 years and under), including 7 nights accommodation and \$2,000 AUD spending money, valued at \$17,666 AUD. Terms and conditions apply. The draw will take place at 12pm AEDT on 10/10/18 at the address above. The winner will be notified by telephone and email, and will be published online at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking and in The Australian on 17/10/18. Winner must claim the prize by 5pm AEDT on 15/10/18 or the prize will be redrawn. The prize will be awarded to the winner's nominated parent or guardian. Conditions apply to accepting the prize. Full terms and conditions available from commbank.com.au/schoolbanking. Authorised under NSW Permit No. LTPS/17/18318, ACT Permit No. ACT TP 17/01989 and SA Permit No. T17/1878.

Community News

Parenting Seminars



Government of **Western Australia**
Child and Adolescent Health Service



FREE PARENTING SEMINARS

You are invited to attend the Triple P Seminar Series. You will learn practical, positive and effective ways to deal with common behavioural problems and ways to help your child achieve their best at school and in the future.

Parents are encouraged to attend all 3 seminars:

- 1 *Children's behaviour – the tough part of parenting*
- 2 *Raising confident children*
- 3 *Raising emotionally resilient children*

The next **FREE** 3 week Series is held:

When: Wed 21, 28 March & 4 April 2018
Location: Darius Wells Library, Kwinana
Booking: www.trybooking.com/TCFK
Available: Booking start 14 February 2018

Please phone 1300 749 869 for more information.

To find other available programs visit our website
www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Triple_P

Community Spirit

2018 RDNA NET 5 to 7 year old PROGRAM



10 week program

* Term 1 - Wednesday 7th February - Wednesday 11th April 2018

* 4.00pm to 5.00pm @ Mike Barnett Sports Complex

* Cost - \$90.00,

(includes a pack designed and distributed by Netball Australia delivered to your home address).

*Online Registration

- for more information visit rdna.wa.netball.com.au



The home of Netball in Rockingham