



## REFLECTIONS NEWSLETTER - Edition # 1 2019

### 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

Thursday 21 February  
**Community Spirit Meeting**

Thursday 28 February  
**New Parent Education Evening**

Monday 4 March  
**Labour Day Public Holiday**

Tuesday 5 March  
**OLNA Begins**

Thursday 7 March  
**Montessori Morning Chat**

Wednesday 13 March  
**Parent Ed Laura Flores-Shaw**

Thursday 21 March  
**Community Spirit Meeting**

Thursday 4 April  
**School Photo Day**

Thursday 9 May  
**Whole School Sports Day**



### What's in this edition....



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## NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL



**Vanessa Aikins**

I welcome all new families to our School and am delighted that all our beautiful children returned full of excitement for a fabulous new school year. I would like to welcome to staff Jodi Kerslake as our new Program Coordinator in the Primary School and Dugongs class teacher. Having worked with Jodi through her position in the Adolescent Program at Treetops Montessori I am really looking forward to her joining our team and we are delighted to have Jade Cowderoy return to staff to cover Thursdays in the Dugongs class. Welcome also to Deb Lynass as our new Sealions teacher who after a two-year stint in mainstream education has followed her heart and talent to return to Montessori. Deb is an experienced elementary teacher from Perth Montessori School and we are delighted to have her join the Lower Primary team where she is once again working side by side Vanita. Welcome to Ariana Taffurelli who has joined the Seahorse and Dolphins class as the half day Education Assistant. We are delighted to be able to support Arianna with this part time position whilst she completes her Montessori Institute 3-6 Diploma. Arianna comes to us with several years' experience teaching in Reggio Emilio early learning centres both here in Perth and Italy.

Internal staffing changes to cover Nat's maternity leave include Paul moving to Penguin's as the fulltime EA, Shelly picking up the fulltime Seahorse EA role and Stella increasing to four days in the Adolescent Program. Julie Cowley has now moved into administration three days per week undertaking the role of marketing and enrolments and although commencing in week 6 last term, we officially welcome Sandy McNeill to staff as the EA in Turtles for two days per week. Our administration team has also seen some changes with Dee moving in to share an office with Neil and Julie is sharing with Gina. The beginning of the year is always a busy time and a time of change however each of the classes and advisory groups have had a wonderful start to the year.

Our school year started with a staff retreat to Margaret River to work with the staff of Margaret River Montessori School. We were looking at Montessori language programming with our sessions delivered by Peter Erskine, one of Australia's renoun Montessori trainers. This was combined with sessions on Catering for Differentiation and Dyslexia delivered by Kylie Bice from Growing up Greatness. It is vital for our teachers to maintain and expand their Montessori professional networks and one of the highlights for our staff was being able to observe classrooms of various cycles and discuss material selection with teachers of the same cycle. Professional learning is a key priority in our School to ensure staff are fully trained in contemporary practices.

Over five weeks of the Summer break, Kirsty and Scarlett from the Adolescent Program undertook the Montessori Orientation to Adolescence training at Templestow College in Melbourne. This intense and inspiring training program enabled our staff to link with teachers from across the globe and a direct quote from Kirsty during the training to me was "We are Montessorian's. You have our souls xxx" (As if we ever needed to question this!) From personal experience this training was the best professional development I have ever undertaken, and I am delighted that over my time at RMS I have worked with such dedicated staff who see the benefit of lifelong learning. This year we have sixteen staff members who are working towards completing Montessori qualifications and/or Education degrees. We can proudly say that RMS has significantly swelled the ranks of fully trained Montessori EA's, teachers, Program Coordinators, Deputy Principals and Principals who have remained within our fold or who are now interstate or internationally spreading their honed craft to so many lucky children.



## NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL cont....

Now for our families training! I am really excited to announce that we have Laura Flores Shaw joining us from America at RMS on 13 March to present a Parent Education session with the theme of “Montessori and Differentiation of the Self”. Laura is a fabulous speaker and I encourage all families to attend and to invite friends from the wider community. Whilst we will not be charging RMS families to attend, this opportunity will be a fundraiser for the school and so I encourage you to invite anyone who is interested in how their child can develop into their best self and live a full and healthy life. Please view the [flyer](#) for more details.

On Saturday 16 February, our school management team along with the school board met at the Karnup campus to review the School’s strategic plan and to update the progress made to date. This collective team will meet regularly through the year with all stakeholders across the school to provide opportunity for feedback and suggestions for ongoing improvement of our school. A reminder to all families one of our key priorities is attendance and punctuality. We urge families to also be mindful at drop off times that in order to maintain a smooth transition from parent to teacher that this is drop off time only and the teacher will have a process in place for the class communications in the morning. Our teachers are also always happy to speak with parents/guardians at pick up time.





## Administration News

### Parent Education

In addition to the parent education evenings running on various days this week in each class, we also have a New Parent Education Evening and Montessori Morning Chat occurring this term. Please see the dates below and the flyers on pages 11 & 12 for more information.

- Thursday 28 February 4-5pm
- Thursday 7 March 9-10am

New Parent Education In Dolphins Classroom  
Montessori Morning Chat on the Staff Verandah

### School Tours

We have had several parents asking how they can take a tour of the Adolescent Program and are pleased to announce we now have a booking online system via our website [www.rms.wa.edu.au](http://www.rms.wa.edu.au). Please visit the home page and click on the 'schedule a tour' button located at the bottom right of the screen. This will give you a Primary or Adolescent site option and then a selection of dates available to choose from.

### Administration

Please remember to notify the office if your child is absent. Notification is to be made via emailing:

Primary School [Reception@rms.wa.edu.au](mailto:Reception@rms.wa.edu.au) or phoning the office 9528 2118

Adolescent Program [APAdmin@rms.wa.edu.au](mailto:APAdmin@rms.wa.edu.au) or phoning the office 9500 7660



# Playgroup

Welcome back everyone. We are delighted to see so many new families joining our sessions this year.

Many children got straight back into work on the first day cleaning windows, watering plants and mopping water spills enthusiastically! Some children are in the process of toilet training which is always a much discussed topic within our group. It is a natural and gradual process that develops at the child's own pace. The current combination of warmer weather, along with easy care summer clothing seems to be the perfect time for many families to engage in the process. Some as young as 14 months are already well on the way towards independence without as much as an accident or two a week. Recently a parent showed me what a disposable potty is. A durable, biodegradable, folding cardboard pot (with a bio plastic bag insert) that fits into your bag to go!

There are some spaces still available in our group, you are welcome to bring along a friend for a free trial on your next visit.



Orla Dinneen  
Infant Toddler Program Leader

# Children's House

## Children's House Program Coordinator News

A warm welcome from all the staff in Children's House. I hope all families have had a fantastic summer break. It is wonderful to see everyone again after a long holiday. We would like to welcome all new children and families. We would also like to welcome Arianna to our children's House team. The children have settled well into the classroom and have started getting back into their work-cycles and routines. In our Montessori classrooms an important aspect of children's development is building "Independence".

The journey that a child takes towards independence is a huge part of Montessori education. Indeed, it is part of each plane of development and is one of the basic tendencies of humans, along with exploration, work, mastery, and perfection. Naturally much of the material in the Montessori classroom calls for independent work; "Never do for a child what he can do for himself."

It's helpful to continually ask yourself, "Could my child do this?" If the answer is yes, then let them. You'll have to plan your day differently to allow more time for different tasks, but the results will be worth it. Another way to foster independent thinking is this: instead of asking your child to do something ("Please put your bag and hat away"), you ask them a question that prompts the action. For instance, "Is there something you forgot to do when you came inside?" Let them be the one to think of the necessary task.

### Helpful Ideas:

- Allow them to carry their own bags to school instead of you doing it for them.
- Let them help you pack their lunch so that they know what they will be having.
- Assist them in packing their own bag for school so that they can remember to put their hat and belongings inside.
- Do not do things for a child which they can do themselves.
- Allow them to put on their shoes themselves.

"Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed" Maria Montessori

The easiest way to help children master everyday tasks is to teach them as separate skills through the activities of Practical Life. Learning these tasks as "work" means that the child is ready to apply them to real life situations whenever necessary.

A child who is encouraged to be independent will usually be confident and self-assured. This is a good thing, but it means accepting that this kind of child will likely have strong opinions and ideas. Independence should be balanced with the grace and courtesy also common in a Montessori classroom. Opinions should be expressed politely, and the needs of others should always be taken into account.

It is important to be aware of sun safety during the hot summer months. Please make sure to apply sunscreen in the mornings. Also remember to send in a **broad-brimmed hat** or **legionnaires hat** to protect your child from the sun. Remember to "Slip, Slop, Slap". Please ensure that your child has proper supportive footwear for outdoor play and sport if they are staying for the afternoon sessions.

<http://www.blog.montessoriforeveryone.com/encouraging-independence-in-children.html>

Ayesha Meer  
Children's House Program Coordinator

# Children's House

Children's House Program Coordinator News photos



# Adolescent Program

## Middle School News

We are now in Week 3 and the Middle School students have been buzzing in the environment working diligently and enthusiastically. In our Advisories we have welcomed new students into the space and our eldest have been contributing and supporting others with their leadership skills. We have appointed our new management roles and classes are off to a fantastic start.

Humanities and Languages have now combined to further support the Montessori methodology by allowing more of a class curricula approach. We have delved into the Ancient Egyptian Civilisation and students are developing their knowledge through a wide range of experiences and resources. The introduction to Seminar has been met with enthusiasm as each Advisory tackles and explores a range of short stories from different genres and authors.

We have welcomed Jade back to the environment as she busily works with Mark to develop our Physical Expression program. Tanya, Beau and Gurmayll continue to lead our Music and Indonesian classes, adding additional layers to an already broad Creative Expression curriculum. In addition to the current Occupations program of Senior School Science, Kitchen and Factory the students are now involved with a Montessori Market looking at small business opportunities within the community. Something to definitely keep an eye out for!

This terms calendar is sure to be busy for the students, as they are involved in incursions, excursions and a wide range of learning. We welcome those interested in seeing the adolescent environment to visit at the Adolescent Program as we journey into what is going to be a thought-provoking term one.

*"I've had many more enlightening lessons at RMS this term so far, for example, Seminars have majorly helped with my speaking and self confidence." Kaleb (Crocodilos)*

*"RMS is great because you get to enjoy piano, guitar and have breaks. Most importantly there are no bullies and it is a great place to learn!" Lachlan (Orcas)*



*"The Market class is really fun, I have really loved working on the business." Isabella (Orcas)*

*"I've really enjoyed Kitchen this term as we're helping people in the community a lot more." Tahlee (Crocodilos)*



*"RMS is great because no one judges you with your beliefs and the teachers give you great help." Jamie (Narwhals)*



Kirsty Bell  
Adolescent Program Coordinator

# Adolescent Program

## Senior School News

### Successful transitions

There is a special energy in the air. It's a period for transitions between cycles of learning. 30% of Middle School students and 50% of Senior School students engaging in a transition of sorts: some new to the school, many transitioning from MS to SS. Our school environment is filled with excitement and wonder about the new phase of learning for each student.

*"I find it very pleasant. I've come from another school and the AP is a more peaceful, less stressful place to learn. Coming here has made learning enjoyable again for me". (Briah, new to Mantarays)*



*"It's very peaceful in Senior School and much easier to get work done. I've noticed that the work is harder but I can see it will help me prepare for my future. I'm really excited about my LTI soon". (Taj, new to Wobbegongs)*



Change can be a challenge for some: a new environment, a new peer group, new teachers, lots of new learning, each on their own journey. As the largest age-related transition group in the history of the Adolescent Program, the newly transitioned students have adapted smoothly to their new program in Senior School. All enjoying the calm and the quiet and filled with anticipation about new opportunities for Learning Through Internships (LTI's) and this year's Odyssey.

**Tony Gillespie**  
**Deputy Principal**

# Student Alumni

## Alumni News

### Lilly Rogers

Since graduating in October Lilly has taken a gap vacation in the eastern part of NSW's Riverina region in the rural town of Tooma where she is nannying for a family with three children. Lilly applied for WA uni's only and her preferences included; Early Childhood Studies and Teaching, Business in Business Law, Human Resource Management and Forensics.

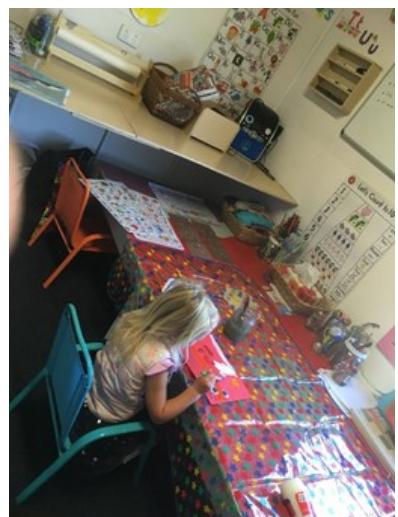
Lily states – “Quite a mix I must admit. I'm loving it out here on the farm. The kids love having me too. The children are home schooled, so I plan lessons and teach them in their own schoolroom, which used to be a farm workers house many years ago! The ages of the children are 5, 4 and 2. My boss is due for the 4th child anytime soon.

I have been perusing horse riding on the farm, my horse here being Lil, a paint palomino, a rare breed. She is estimated to be around 23 years old and was once close to being put down due to illness. She is a star, reminding everyone that you can bounce back from illness and live life; she loves to canter in the mountains!

Everybody I meet, I tell them about Montessori and how the two week Odyssey inspired me to explore the rest of Australia. Being here in Tooma is like being in another country at times! Accents and IGA's being things reminding me I am in this wonderful country! I will let you know when I hear from University's. Missing Montessori's wonderful teachers!”....

“I'd like to inform you on some very exciting news! I have accepted a place at Murdoch University for a Bachelor of Criminology/ Bachelor of Science in Forensic Biology and Toxicology.

I could not have gotten this far if it wasn't for RMS!”



# In School Events

## Community Spirit

### COMMUNITY SPIRIT MEETING

21 February 2019

8:45 am



#### Proposed Discussions for Thursday meeting

##### In this issue:

- Events
- Major events
- Minor events
- Other options
- General discussions

#### Major Events

Review one major event per Term - looking at budget, timing, themes, sponsorships, social event teams for each term. Some direction from the school regarding values and communication.

#### Recycling and Nature

How we can support the existing recycling processes in the school so our children value the world and how we live in it. There has been a lot of feedback regarding this subject so will have another meeting / team to keep this going.

#### Mini Events, Fundraising, Group events, other idea

We are looking at creating small groups that can focus on a particular theme or event over the year. The focus of which will be achieving from these functions strong connections amongst our school and community, allowing for a more creative community within the school.



"ALONE, WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;  
TOGETHER, WE CAN DO SO MUCH"

HELEN KELLER

# In School Events

## Principals Morning Tea

At RMS our Principal Vanessa, invites the children/students on a Thursday morning to enjoy morning tea with her in her office. Students from Lower Primary through to the Adolescent Program are welcome and come into reception to book a date to attend.

Each Thursday morning the table is set with a lace table cloth, fine china teacups and side plates. The children take their seats in Vanessa's office and a silver tea service is brought in complete with teapot, milk, sugar, healthy home baked goodies and flowers. A photograph is taken as a memento and signed by Vanessa who personally delivers it to each student to say thank-you for joining her.



Vanessa says this is the most enjoyable half hour of her week as she is able to give lessons in grace and courtesy as well as connect personally with each child in the school to oversee their health and well being.



# In School Events

## Montessori Morning Chat



## Montessori Morning Chat

You are welcome to join Deb (Dolphin Directress)  
for coffee and a chat specifically about

### Obedience & Development of the Will

**Where:** On the staff verandah near Jellyfish classroom – please walk through quietly as class will be in progress ☺

**When:** **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 9:00 – 10:00am**

Please feel free to bring your questions and ideas too!  
Find out more about the wonderful education method you have chosen  
for your child.



# In School Events

## New Parent Education Evening

### New Parent Education Afternoon

*"Nurturing the Spirit of the Child"*

Parents and Caregivers are invited to attend this informative hour on:

- school readiness
- what to expect in the early days
- the three hour work cycle, and;
- parent communication

Attending this session will allow you to 'get your feet wet' in the world of Montessori. You will also have the opportunity to meet other new families and be better prepared for a smooth transition into school life.

**When:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February

**Time:** 6pm – 7pm

**Where:** Dolphins Class Room

As crèche will not be available, could you please make alternative arrangements for your children to be looked after during the presentation.

Kind regards

Deb Dwyer

Rockingham Montessori School



# In School Events

RMS Defence Families

## Defence families Support

Is your family part of the defence community?

Would you like to get to know the other defence families attending RMS?

We would like to meet you! Please contact Ferne to organise a suitable time for everyone to get together:

[ferne.mcnamee@griffithuni.edu.au](mailto:ferne.mcnamee@griffithuni.edu.au)



# Community News

## Free Parenting Workshops



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:** Starting Tue 26 Feb 2019  
**Location:** Kwinana Darius Wells Library  
**RSVP:** Bookings are essential and places are limited.



**Please visit [healthywa.wa.gov.au/parentgroups](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/parentgroups) to book your place.**

To find other available programs visit our website  
**[www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/parentgroups](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/parentgroups)**