



TERM 3 ISSUE 9 · SEPTEMBER 2023

# MONTESSORI MATTERS

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

As we welcome the transition from winter to spring, our school has also been blossoming with energy and enthusiasm as students embrace all aspects of their learning journey with brave hearts and curious minds. There have been so many wonderful events this term including the Cycle 3 Camp; Preschool and Reception Fun and Fitness Mornings; Primary Disco; Coffee with a Dash of Montessori parent education sessions; excursions and Rugby Carnivals to name just a few. One event I would especially like to highlight is the Visual Arts Evening.

### *Visual Arts Evening*

Our Visual Arts Evening was an opportunity for us to thank families for their patience during our building program. I know it has not always been easy to have to walk across the oval to get to the front office, but I have been so grateful for your support and understanding. And now, as we near the end of the build, we can be proud of our beautiful new school.

The evening was a wonderful success in so many ways, with a particular focus on a great feeling of community. Thank you to everyone for attending and embracing our art auction and your very generous bidding for the beautiful class artwork. We hope the successful bidders are enjoying these prized pieces! We were so pleased to be able to raise \$1300 towards bringing the elephants to Monarto.

A very special thank you to our auctioneers, old scholars, Noah, and Flynn who certainly ensured the auction was entertaining. Thank you also to our admin team and in particular Hannah, for their work organising the event; to our amazing teachers for inspiring their students and importantly, to our students. I was so proud to see all their gorgeous work on display around the school. Finally, thank you to Aphelion wines for providing the evening refreshments at cost price.

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**HEATHER MCINERNEY**  
**PRINCIPAL**

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### *Flourishing in Life*

Our purpose is to empower students to flourish in life. By flourishing we mean to lead a fulfilling and meaningful life. To do this, we seek to develop students who are agentic, competent and have a strong sense of wellbeing. When I walk around classrooms, I see this in action all the time.

Last week I spent some time in the Middle School during an Italian lesson. The students had chosen environmental issues to explore and were collaborating in self-selected groups to present their learning in Italian. One group, for example, had chosen to explore direct air carbon capture, while another group were exploring how buildings can become carbon neutral and a third group was developing a solution to ocean pollution. Their reports were being presented in Italian as websites, news videos, virtual reality worlds etc.

Student agency was apparent in their ability to make positive choices about their learning. Their competence was evident in the skills, knowledge, and attitudes they displayed. And they demonstrated sound wellbeing in their belief that they could work collaboratively to solve complex problems. This work demonstrates how we use multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary learning and collaborative engagement to ensure that the students' learning is rich and authentic.

I hope you all enjoy a peaceful and relaxing break and look forward to welcoming you back for Term 4.

Warm Regards,

Heather



## MONTESSORI MOMENT #6 - 2023

By Anna Golab

### *A look at the Practical...*

Each year we offer a series of learning opportunities for our teachers and assistants that give them a chance to revisit areas of Montessori theory and practice. This is important, especially during periods of growth and change.

One such example from this year was a three-day workshop on Practical Life. The importance of this curriculum area has been touched on before, as it forms the heart of Montessori. When a workshop comes to an end, one never quite knows where, or how the learning may manifest itself in the form of re-energised practice.

I would like to share my observations of one example, when two excited young people appeared at my desk with an invitation to join them for lunch.

It sounded too good to be true and curiosity won. I followed the pair down the stairs to find that one of the classrooms had been transformed into a restaurant, with tablecloths, coasters, china plates, glasses – you get the picture.

I was escorted to a seat, invited to select from the 'menu' and a young waiter promptly arrived to fill my glass filled with water. I sat with three companions who ranged in age from reception to year three. The conversation was lively and sustained, and the food, which had been prepared by the 'chefs' of the day, was nothing short of delicious.

Not only did these youngsters prepare and serve the meal, but the clean up team showed enthusiasm for their task, and went about it with quiet, competent pride.







## So, what is it all about?

Practical life is just that -practical! It is purposeful activity that helps develop motor control and coordination, and by promoting growing independence, concentration, and sense of responsibility it assists children in building confidence in themselves and promotes a sense of worth and an 'I can' attitude.

Practical life is grounding; it demands emotional control in order to achieve the goal – in this case serving lunch to over 30 peers and guests. It gives opportunities for creative problem solving: do we have enough chairs? how do we arrange the tables? do we need flowers on the tables? Discussions ensue, and finally, a general consensus is reached. Clearly, there's a lot going on and many skills being honed in the process.

For me, apart from sharing in an unexpected and most enjoyable lunch, it gave me an opportunity to see children working together, cooperating successfully, and having the gratifying experience of having done a job well, and knowing it!

It also reminded me that there's so much more to the simple routines in daily life.



## MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS

### Michaela Baracka



#### What are your hobbies?

Indoor plants, party planning, arts and crafts with my boys

#### Do you collect anything?

Indoor plants (nearing 250)

#### What is your best childhood memory?

Running around a field of red poppies which used to grow near my house.

#### What is your favourite holiday?

I'd like to think this is yet to happen.

#### What is one thing that instantly makes your day better?

Bear-hugs from my boys.





## PRESCHOOL

On Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st September the sun shone brightly for our annual Cycle 1 Fun and Fitness morning.

The morning was spent on the oval, moving around a range of sporting activities and games. Children from Year 6 set up and ran each activity station. They did a wonderful job of explaining the rules of each game to the children.

The parachute was a firm favourite as always, and squeals of delight could be heard as they ran under the parachute. The water relay was also a popular addition, luckily the children dried quickly in the sunshine!

It was great to have so many parents and extended family members join us for the event and join in with our fun dances at the end. The children (and their parents) looked so colourful in their team colours.

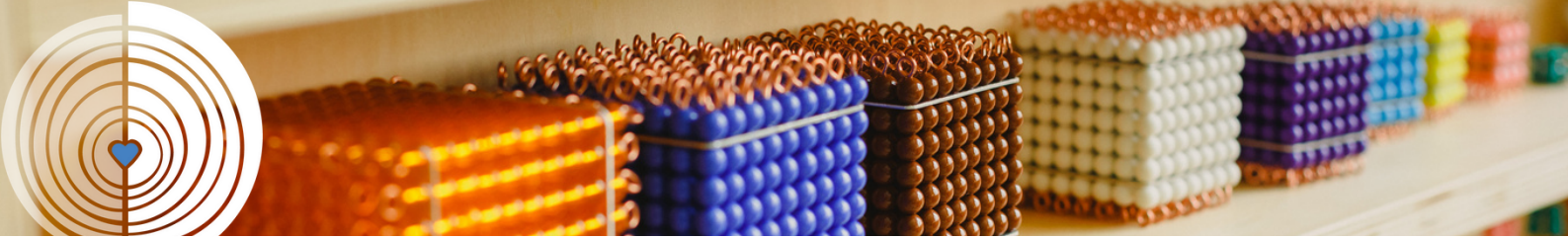
Thanks to the Middle School students who opened the Coffee Corner to provide hot drinks to staff and families. It was much appreciated.

On Thursday we sadly had to say goodbye to Stephanie Slavic, who is leaving Southern Montessori after 11 wonderful years. We wish her all the luck in the world as she starts a new career journey. Our new teacher, Bishuang joined us for Fun and Fitness, so had the opportunity to meet families and have some fun.

Kate Ball | ELC Director







## CYCLE 1 - RECEPTION

The children have been learning about Botany in Cultural Studies.

The have enjoyed conducting experiments, such as the celery stem experiment. This experiment allowed the children to observe how plants 'drink' water.

Another favourite was the root experiment. This experiment allowed the children to observe how plants absorb water and nutrients from the soil.

We have been writing class narratives this term as part of our literacy program. The children have been learning about the different parts of a story and have enjoyed brainstorming ideas to contribute to the stories.

Maria, Karen, Demi, Amanda, Rachel and Helen

Flappy The Turtle's Surprising <sup>①</sup>  
Day

A long time ago, there lived a funny, but cute turtle named Flappy. He swam way down deep near the Mariana Trench.

Finally his teeth were shiny and he flew back home around the volcano, over the outside pool and past the purple tree. When he got back to the old, stone castle he hugged his family and he lived happily ever after.

The end.





## CYCLE 2

### FAMILY LIFE: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

This term the Cycle 2 classes have investigated change over time. Learning has been guided by an essential question: In what ways has family life remained the same or changed, and what factors have contributed to this?

The study of history helps make sense of humankind. It also helps people understand the things that happen today and that may happen in the future.

This unit of work has been closely integrated with our writing for the term. *My Place* by Nadia Wheatley has provoked and inspired questions from the children about characters in the book and differences in their lifestyles, clothing, jobs and housing, but has also helped them to connect with things that remain the same such as families and friends, pets, parties and dreams.

In every chapter, 'The Big Tree' is featured on the map and tells how the character from that time period connects to the tree. The children have enjoyed hearing about the adventures in and around the tree.

- I love my palm tree. It is so big. I want it in my bedroom. I just love trees and plants. I am going to hug it and kiss it. (Charli R – Year 1)*
- I like the big tree because it stayed in the same place for generations. (Abel – Year 3)*
- My tree is as thick as me and very, very big, tall and covered with thin, flimsy leaves but I can't climb it. (Alex – Year 3)*

Reading about the characters' pets gave children a chance to write about their own pets.

- My cat is called Missy. She has stripes on her tail and on her back. She has a furry chest and pointy ears. I love her so much! (Fletcher – Year 2)*
- My cat is a tabby and his name is Coco. He has grey coloured fur, black spots and a white, fluffy chin and he cuddles up with me. (Archie – Year 2)*
- I love my dog. My dog is called Friz and he is the best pet ever! Friz has a fluffy white chest, black and brown fur. Oh! Don't forget his cute little nose and cute little ears and cute little everything else! (Selina – Year 2)*

The author of the book's message to her readers is key to our place in history: 'We all still need to feel that we belong to the land, and to each other'.

This unit of work has been interesting and has inspired respect for 'our place' and a hope that we play an important part in protecting our environment for the future.

Cycle 2 Team





## CYCLE 3

### CAMP

Cycle 3 enjoyed a trip to Glenhaven Park for their camp this term. Students were challenged with group activities such as orienteering and low ropes.

During low ropes students had to become safety spotters and protect their teammates from falling while they traversed obstacles two feet above the ground. This challenge was harder than it looked and was a training exercise for the high ropes as it involved some of the obstacles that would later be tackled 10 meters in the air while harnessed to a safety rope.

The highlight for many students was the giant swing; at over twelve meters high this was a daunting challenge for many. Part of the giant swing activity was a loudest scream competition which led to it being a very loud session for everyone involved, some of the screams were certainly involuntary.

Other entertainment included Archery, tower challenge and damper making; this included an interesting history lesson and a campfire safety talk and of course a delicious snack.



### LOOKING FORWARD

We now have the last week of term ahead of us, and in that time, we will be involved in a beach clean-up, a trip with the Middle school to tree climb at Kuitpo Forest and the finishing up of cultural studies and art projects.

The Cycle 3 Team





## CYCLE 4

### BANKSY EXHIBITION AND THUKERI DANCE EXCURSION

Middle School students have had the privilege of experiencing many excursions this term. In week 7, students enriched their understanding of art, culture, and creative expression when they visited the Banksy exhibition and participated in the Thukeri Dance workshop at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

#### ***Banksy Exhibition: A Window into Street Art***

Our students visited the Banksy exhibition, which aligned with their Creative Expression unit on street art. This excursion offered them a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of Banksy, one of the most intriguing contemporary artists.

At the exhibition, our students got up close and personal with Banksy's iconic works and thought-provoking installations. Beyond the visuals, they delved into the artist's life and his art's underlying messages. This firsthand encounter prompted deeper thinking about the art form they've been exploring in class.



#### ***Thukeri Dance Workshop: Bridging Cultures Through Dance***

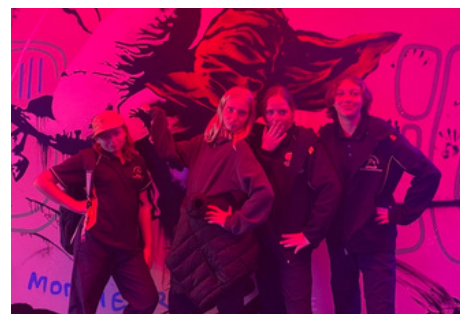
Our students and staff participated in the Thukeri Dance Workshop to prepare for our upcoming dance unit next term. This transformative experience combined contemporary and First Nations dance styles to create a unique fusion of movement, culture, and storytelling.

Students worked with contemporary First Nations dancer Melanie Koolmatrice, who shared the Ngarrindjeri Dreaming story of Thukeri through dance and movement.



Initially met with a bit of apprehension, our students embraced this opportunity to explore a beautiful art form that transcends words. The experience was both magnificent and a privilege.

As we look forward to the next term, we are excited to build on the lessons and inspiration from these excursions.



The Cycle 4 Team





# C O M M U N I T Y

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

### Trucks on Tour



#### TRUCKS ON TOUR ARE BACK AGAIN!

Trucks on Tour is a free community event hosted by the City of Onkaparinga. Designed to immerse children and their families in the workings of council's trucks and vehicles whilst capturing their imagination as they climb into, explore and watch them at work.

**WHEN:** Friday, 06 October 2023  
10:00 AM - 02:00 PM

**WHERE:** Wilfred Taylor Reserve (western car park), Wheatsheaf Road, Morphett Vale, 5162

[For more information, click here.](#)

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Friday 9am–5:30pm  
Saturday 9am–5pm  
Sunday 11am–5pm

#### FACEBOOK

To do this, simply search 'Southern Montessori School.' Choose the one with the school logo and click 'Like.' You will then be able to view all recent posts, relevant links and photos. You'll be kept up to date with student achievement, upcoming events and more!



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