



## 2021 AGM – Principal’s Report

As Western Australia continued to slink under the COVID radar, our school continued to thrive during 2021, and this was evident in a number of areas:

- Consistent enrolment numbers
- High rates of student retention
- Improvements to the physical environment
- Unabated and growing interest in Montessori education
- Expansion and improvement of programs
- Leadership development
- A thriving school community

The growth of our school during 2021, along with substantial retention led to introduction of a third lower primary classroom, which continues to thrive. Adjustments to the upper primary and pre-primary spaces were also necessary to accommodate students. The long awaited and much anticipated upgrade to the ‘undercroft’ was completed in time for the academic year. This development provided a dedicated space for the adolescent program. The space includes a kitchen, courtyards, additional toilets, two break out spaces, and one multiple-purpose area.

Several other upgrades were undertaken to enhance the building and grounds. This included a long-desired roll out of air-conditioning for all the classrooms – helping to create a more comfortable environment in which to learn. In conjunction with the City of Joondalup, the School contributed to the upgrade of the car parking in Montessori Place. The staff carpark was also extended to ease congestion. The Out of School Hour Care (OSHC) program provided by Camp Australia was relocated to revamped ‘Studio’.

In addition, with anticipated increase in numbers for the senior-secondary, the Capital Planning Sub-Committee, headed up by Warren Miller, along with the Finance Sub-Committee, headed up by Hannah Zhang, dedicated much time to planning a new International Baccalaureate Building, along with securing the finance and government grant for the proposed build.

Within the existing learning program, a revamped approach to both the Creative Expressions and Physical Expressions was successfully implemented. These initiatives required the engagement of dedicated specialist teachers who drove impressive student engagement. Furthermore, the running of these programs allowed time for classroom staff to be involved in planning and preparation for their lessons and classroom.

Aiding the overall student experience, the ‘club’ concept also took hold. Before and after school experiences included the popular chess club, netball club, art club, and running club as being some of the further opportunities available for interested families.

Leadership development and succession planning is an important aspect of any school. As such, during 2021 staff were again provided an opportunity to put forward for ideas for leadership projects. From this initiative came a review of our school’s revamped academic reporting. We were delighted to have appointed our first Program Coordinator, Kate Tottle. Towards the latter stages of the year a second Program Coordinator, Sue Hoolohan, was appointed. Both have busily attended to various initiatives and curriculum needs of the School.



The introduction of a Marketing Administrator who oversaw the implementation of the rebrand, revamped website, and other marketing activities was a first. Also, for the first time, the School appointed a Health and Safety Representative.

The School had many interested visitors during our regular Principal's Tours and Open House during 2021. The School's growth has required us to start waiting lists at various levels, and we even had our school also had our first in utero enrolment. Due to the pandemic, many families have begun to reevaluate what is important to them and how their children would like to be educated. As such, Montessori education is being sought after in greater numbers than previously experienced.

The Engagement and Communication Sub Committee oversaw four magnificent events starting with the whole community Wanjoo Concert and concluding with the inaugural and highly successful School Fete. The other mainstay events like Scitech and disco, was remarkably successful. The work put in by all involved in each event was truly impressive. I am grateful for the talents of Annette Advani in overseeing these events.

A significant attraction of our school is our natural bushland. Every visitor to the School comments on its beauty. Its maintenance and upkeep do not happen by accident. There is ongoing, significant, and much appreciated work undertaken by the Bushland Subcommittee. Laila Miller's commitment to this aspect of the community is understated. Thanks also goes to the Risk and Compliance Sub-Committee who have dedicated much time to ensure our school meets compliance needs.

I am grateful to the staff who shown committed service to the School over short and long term and have moved on during or at the end of 2021. This included Adin Livnjak, Brittany Watson, Debbie Engelbecht, Emma Seeber, Kristian Pekic and Lena Streiff-Kosok.

We have a wonderful school, one with a long, rich, and interesting history. We have an impressive staff who are highly skilled. At the centre of everything, we have amazing students with many gifts to offer. Our community is second to none and is something I am proud to be a part of. As the longest running Montessori school in Australia, we must continue to be a shining light and be active in contributing to the greater Montessori community.

Des Reuben  
Principal