



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
TO THE
SCHOOL COMMUNITY
FOR THE
ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2010

Overall School Context

As I present my report to the Canberra Montessori School community I would like to thank parents for giving us the opportunity to provide a Montessori Education for their children. Maria Montessori's legacy of peace, freedom and independence is alive and well at our school. Everyday at CMS we have the opportunity to watch children choose their work in meticulously prepared environments. As they learn, our children develop self confidence, independence and a true love of learning. It is truly a joy to behold. Our school provides education to students from 18 months of age in our Parent Toddler Program to the end of Level 6, at age 12.

Teacher Standards and Qualifications

In 2010, the Canberra Montessori School employed 30 staff. Ten class directors, twelve classroom assistants, four specialist teachers and four administrative staff.

All of our classroom directors have a Montessori Teaching Certificate (1 in progress), in addition to early childhood and university degrees. Our classroom assistants are a talented group of individuals most of whom have Certificates and Diplomas in early childhood education. None of our teaching staff were Indigenous in 2010.

Enrolment

At the end of 2010 the school enrolment was as follows:

Parent Toddler Programme: 49

Cycle 1: 133

Cycle 2: 45

Cycle 3: 31

Attendance

The attendance rates at our school in 2010 were as follows

Cycle 1 93.3%

Cycle 2 95.2%

Cycle 3 95.4%

At CMS, parents are asked to call ahead if their child is going to absent. If a child at the school is absent without a phone call, the office will follow up with the family. Parents are asked to fill out a form when their children are absent specifying the reason for absence. Students that are absent for 10 days in any term must be reported to the Principal of the school.

NAPLAN Testing

CMS Grade 5 and 7 students participate in NAPLAN testing and the results are posted on the My School website. Although Montessori does not emphasize formal summative evaluation, we do look upon testing as an important life skill and therefore nothing to fear. As a smaller school with small cohorts of children at each level the average results can be misleading but we are very proud of our student's effort on the activities. Un-highlighted numbers denote scores at the National Average, Green highlights are above the National Average and Red highlights are below.

2010 Results	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
Year 3	422	420	387	443	434
Year 5	554	464	479	499	493

<http://www.acara.edu.au>

Parents

Parents are encouraged to become active members of our school community. Our Fundraising and Social committees are a great way to contribute to the school and our calendar is punctuated with various ways to get involved and learn more about Montessori education. An important liaison for the school is our network of class parents. Each of our classrooms has a parent that serves as a vital source of information for families and the class parent group meets each term with the Principal as a means of consultation on issues affecting the school. In 2010 a parent survey was conducted and the results were used in planning future initiatives at the school.

Finance

School enrolment increased by 7% in 2010 and as such the school ran at a small surplus. The projections for the future are very solid and our retention rate, especially in moving from Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 was very strong. Revenue to the school comes in various forms please see the breakdown below for details:

School Fees	1,505,518
Capital Fees	38,200
Fundraising	54,560
Membership fees	9,520
Grant Income	864,836
Donations	17,385
Enrolment	1,430
Other	2,032
Interest	11,608
Total Revenue	2,505,089

Sincerely,

Jack Rice
Principal
CMS