

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Barrenjoey Montessori School in Northern Beaches Set To Open a New Primary School in 2012

Avalon, NSW, Australia, 07 November 2011

Barrenjoey Montessori School, located in a magical spot behind the sand dunes of Avalon, will be offering families of the Northern Beaches the opportunity to extend their Montessori schooling beyond the pre-school and kindergarten years. The school will now offer a Montessori education for children 18 months to 8 years of age from 2012.

Chairman of the Board, Cameron Zabel, explained, "The school is in an exciting stage of growth. In 2011, we nearly doubled our capacity for pre-school and kindergarten students with the opening of a beautiful new classroom. At the same time, we brought our toddler program, for children aged eighteen months to three years, to our campus in North Avalon. In 2012, the school enters the next stage of expansion, opening its doors to a new primary school classroom purpose-built for students aged six to nine."

The new classrooms were built with the benefit of a Building Education Revolution (BER) grant. The Hon Rob Stokes, MP for Pittwater and the indigenous Elder, Uncle Max, officially opened the new building in May this year.

Principal Fiona Campbell, who joined the school in 2010 after running Montessori schools in New South Wales and Queensland, commented, "At Barrenjoey Montessori School we focus on providing an environment where each child can develop intellectually, emotionally and socially, leading to contented, confident and motivated individuals. Students graduating from Montessori primary schools are noted for their confidence, their compassion, their ability to think outside the box and their respect for other members of the community – near and far," Ms Campbell continued.

The school, which has been operating since the 1980s, has a strong reputation for a child centred approach to education as articulated by the pioneering educator, Dr. Maria Montessori. The primary school classroom will provide an enriched programme based on the internationally recognised Montessori curriculum, with full approval by the NSW Board of Studies.

The school is currently enrolling for 2012 and invites prospective parents to contact the school on (02) 9973 1422 to arrange a personal tour. An Open Morning will also be held on Saturday 26 November from 9am -11am.

About Barrenjoey Montessori School

Barrenjoey Montessori School, established in Newport on Sydney's Northern Beaches in 1985 by a group of interested parents, has a strong reputation for a child centred approach to education. In 1990 its ongoing success resulted in a purpose-built school, located behind the sand dunes of North Avalon. Due to an increase in families choosing Montessori as their preferred schooling option, the school was expanded in 1997 and then again in 2010. The school is now able to offer a Montessori education to children from 18 months to 8 years of age.

About Montessori Education

Montessori is the philosophy and method of education developed by Dr Maria Montessori based upon the natural development of the child. Dr Montessori was the first woman in Italy to earn a degree in medicine, and was a pioneer in progressive education. She recognised the value of early education and through careful research and observation, developed a structured system of education that nurtures a child's natural curiosity, abilities and positive attitude to learning, allowing children to learn at their own pace. Specially designed activities assist the young child in developing skills in language, maths, geography, science, music and arts. The Montessori program aims to develop the 'whole child' – assisting their intellectual, social, emotional and physical development.

Maria Montessori's first classroom in Italy began over 100 years ago. Since then, Montessori has become one of the world's largest educational movements with over 10,000 schools in more than 120 countries.

Famous Montessori graduates include: Larry Page & Sergei Brin (Founders of Google), Jeff Bezos (Amazon Founder & CEO), Prince William and Prince Harry, Jimmy Wales (Founder of Wikipedia), Anne Frank (WWII Diarist), Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Nobel Prize Winner for Literature,) Julia Child (Chef & Author), Will Wright (Creator of "The Sims" video game), David Blaine (Magician), Peter Drucker ("The Father of Modern Management"), and Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, among many others.

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