

# Overview of the Primary programme to be delivered at Barrenjoey Montessori School

## **Who will teach your child?**

With over 20 years in Montessori teaching this lady exudes both passion and diligence in her role as a teacher and demonstrates excellent communication skills with children, staff and parents. She has a profound knowledge of the Montessori curriculum and its implementation with continual reflection to ensure every child in her class is consistently engaged and learning to their optimum capacity. She is a very confident communicator at Parent Education Sessions and parent teacher conferences and shares her knowledge and experience providing parents with theoretical and practical detail. The teacher has extensive experience working with both 6 – 9 year olds and 9- 12 year olds and has mentored both new and more experienced teachers in primary Montessori schools. This teacher has an exceptional work ethic and over the years has created and resourced Montessori learning environments with extensive materials which have in turn been implemented by others into Montessori primary classrooms across Australia.

This teacher is also a qualified musician and linguist integrating this knowledge into the daily Montessori curriculum with passion and an infectious enthusiasm.

## **The first few weeks in the primary classroom.**

During the first few weeks there will be a wonderful opportunity for the children to discuss and establish the 'rules' and routines for this classroom. This will include extensions of the Grace and Courtesy lessons that your child is familiar with from the 3 – 6 environment.

The initial lessons come in the form of Stories – the Creation of the Universe, the Story of Writing and the Story of Numbers. These stories are just the beginning! Each story includes science experiments, creative work, language and research using books and digital technology. Each story has specific materials and charts that inspire and ignite interest in your child for yet further study – maybe using the time line of man, animals or plants or in the geographical area using the pin maps to study the flags or capitals of countries.

Your child will not be limited to learning just in the classroom. The 6 – 9 year olds need to 'go out' and so often in a large group the logistics prevent this happening but for your child this will be a reality. Cooking will start before entering the kitchen - recipes sourced, ingredients will need to be bought and when possible grown in the garden and even chefs might need to be consulted. The local community will be well used.

The art and science areas of the classroom will be in constant use as the children create their own models and repeat the experiments themselves (with adult supervision if appropriate). The formal study of art will include the history of art and the study of the formal elements e.g line, point etc.

The primary classroom has maths and geometry materials that are as amazing and specific as those found in the 3 – 6 classrooms leading your child to become accomplished at long division, division of fractions and have the opportunity to study angles, lines and measurements. They will continue to receive presentations and progress through the Montessori maths curriculum as an individual ensuring that they consolidate and construct at all times.

Your child will be maintaining a diary of their work to ensure that each day they complete some language, maths and handwriting practise. They will have a daily quiet reading time giving the teacher the opportunity to read with each child regularly but there will also be a time each day when the children are read to, exposing them to diverse genres of literacy.

Written language is inspired by the great stories with the children choosing their topics for research and producing projects that can then be presented to others – in varying classrooms.

Music will take the form of songs which might introduce rounds whilst the learning of an instrument will be introduced. The initial instrument will be the recorder. Drama is taught to ensure voice projection and movement is mastered leading to participation in short performances – either individually or as a group. Every opportunity to attend concerts or to invite musicians to the school will be accessed and Barrenjoey High School will be assisting us here.

The introduction of a 2<sup>nd</sup> language will be integrated into the weekly schedule with the emphasis being on exposure to another culture rather than the accomplishment of fluency in the chosen language. At this initial stage we will be able to consult with parents as to their preferred choice of language.

The formal curriculum covering physical education will see your child participating in diverse activities – be it yoga, circus skills, swimming, martial arts or basic skills. We have not as yet finalised the exact 'sport'.

Lunch time will be whole school events ensuring that there is the social opportunity for new and old friendships to be maintained and formed. The playground will become a place for unstructured play but after some time and as numbers grow supervision outside the school will provide a larger area for ball games etc.

I can guarantee that your child will be inspired by the teacher, the materials and the diversity of experiences. They will ask BIG questions and want answers. They will flourish in the Montessori 6 – 9 classroom with this passionate teacher who has the ability to ensure every aspect of your child's development is not only nurtured but also inspired.

Fiona Oct 2011