

# *Statutory Annual Report 2015*

*July 2015 – June 2016*

Montessori International College  
880-932 Maroochydore Road  
Forest Glen QLD 4556



**MONTESSORI**  
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

## A Message from the Principal

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2016 Annual Report of Montessori International College. Its primary purpose is to inform the School and the wider community of the School's progress during the year. While the report mainly reflects the activities the School engaged in during the year, it also contains information about further directions both in the immediate and more distant future.

The School produced noteworthy successes across a range of endeavours during the 2016 reporting period. In the past year, the School has developed a reputation which places us as one of the top Montessori schools in Australia. Internationally, the school is being recognised for its unwavering commitment to building a Montessori School with remarkable learning environments and exceptional staff.

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*"We hope to take what we learned and broadcast the seeds to grow more schools like yours. Thank you for your gift of land, school, and people".*

David Kahn, Executive Director North American Montessori Teachers Association

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The children and adolescents continued to share their unbounded wonder and curiosity, demonstrating cheerfulness in everything they do and their enjoyment for the many opportunities they have for the rich learning experiences within and outside of the learning environments.

The stability of enrolments and staff and student retention reflect the broad satisfaction felt by the community towards the School and its ongoing provision of a Montessori education which is personalized, challenge based, dynamic and relevant.

It is a source of great pride to be able to say I work at Montessori International College and it continues to be a great source of personal and professional pride for us all. The Annual Report provides us with the opportunity to contemplate our accomplishments and focus on the next stage of our progress.



## Who We are

Montessori International College is an independent, non-denominational Montessori school developing a reputation for providing ways of working that ensures students have the skills to shape their own futures and the futures of their communities. The school caters for children from pre-kindy to Year 12.

Montessori International College is situated on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. It is 54 acre school campus which is like no other. The natural environment rich in biodiversity provides the context for discovery, research and problem solving.

Our students enjoy a learner-friendly education. They experience 'hands-on', multi-dimensional, broad-based learning and the support of a caring and inclusive community.



## Our Philosophy

The Montessori approach to learning is grounded in the knowledge that children are individuals with their own strengths, weaknesses, interests, temperaments and learning styles. Learning at Montessori International College fosters personal liberty and independence. The task at hand sees our students shift effortlessly between independent, interdependent and collaborative problem solving, work and study. Embedded in our philosophy is the recognition of the successive stages of human development from birth to adulthood. This knowledge informs how the teachers support the development of social, intellectual and ethical independence. Our approach enables and inspires our students to become passionate learners, independent thinkers and prepares them to take their place as active, effective citizens and leaders.



## Achievements

Sye Luckie was selected for the Sunshine Coast Representative Team (under 12 years) for Queensland Junior Cricket.

Teisha James selected to represent the State for netball.

Ava Green, Alenka Krpan, Ariana Krpan, Gemma Koda, Shianne McGregor, Sophie Simkin and Samara Robertson each gaining awards for their dramatic performances at the Sunshine Coast Junior Eisteddfod.

At 14 years old Tom Alle, Cyrus Kimball and Charlie McGrath were the youngest team members of 2016 Generation Innovation.

Past students Harry McGrath and Oliver Massey represented Australia in the 2016 World Outrigger Sprint Titles. Ellen Massey awarded the 2016 Mayor's Telstra Technology Award.

The North American Teachers Association (NAMTA) in July 2015 selected Montessori International College as 1 of 4 schools worldwide to be a Centre for Adolescent Studies. These 4 schools form an international cluster and are recognised by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) and North American Teachers Association (NAMTA) as best practice in emerging programs for adolescence. The 3 other schools are the Hershey Montessori Farm School (Ohio), Colegio Montessori de Chihuahua (Mexico) and Montessorikolan Lara fur livit (Sweden).

In January 2016, the North American Teachers Association (NAMTA) made history by presenting the AMI Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies (12-18) for the first time in Australia. This highly regarded preparation for teachers of adolescents was held at Montessori International College. The inaugural Orientation in Australia attracted 32 participants from across Australia as well as New Zealand, Indonesia, China, Taiwan, Japan, Philippines, Russia, Czech Republic, Reunion Island, United States and Canada.

Eight teachers from the College successfully completed and were awarded their AMI Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies Certificates.

The construction of the new 3 classroom modular senior primary learning hub, complete with kitchen, breezeway, male and female and ambulant toilets, and air-conditioning was completed in time for the start of the 2016 school year.

In May 2016, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council selected the College campus to be part of a series of case studies developed to illustrate best practice Clean Technology solutions.

Award Winning Design – The new campus building project was awarded 'Best Education Facility over 5 million dollars' and 'Excellence in Sustainable Building' categories in the 2015 Master Builders Construction Awards. The buildings were also nominated and featured in the Built Environment Category of the Premier's Sustainability Awards.

The new campus at Forest Glen was officially opened on October 29, 2015.

In September 2015, the College successfully hosted Meeting in the Middle. This is a 4 day professional learning forum for Montessori adolescent teachers in the field.

The Inaugural Artist in Residence program was held during term 3, 2015.

The early years' playscape was extended in January 2016.

The Year 6 students travelled to Canberra for their annual tour.

In term 4 2015, the children in the Wandi Class were awarded third prize in the 'Be Kind to Animals Week' competition.

The Colleges' third Springfest was held in October.

A promotional film about life in the adolescent community and senior phase was completed.

Our MIC Parents' Association (MICCA) hosted a Mad Hatter's Tea Party attended by mothers, grandmothers and aunts.

MIC hosted a Parent Information Evening on Cyber Safety.

Hands-on creativity and imagination were provided a place to play at Imagineers in November 2015.



## NAPLAN Results

I will re-iterate as I do every year. MIC will never 'teach to the test'. Yes, I am talking about NAPLAN. Deep and profound learning does not occur via a homogenous schedule. The Montessori approach is an attitude to learning not merely an acquisition of knowledge. Academic excellence is not the prime objective, but rather an attitude to learning as a part of life itself. The college does its best to minimise the interference to learning caused by the NAPLAN tests each year and in spite of these efforts, our students perform well, although our small cohorts sitting the tests make any generalisation about the results meaningless. A summary of the results is available via My Schools Website.



## Our Students

Our student retention rate averaged across the whole school was 97%. Surrounded by nature, our students are happy; they feel connected to and proud of their school community. Under the guidance and care of their teachers, students at Montessori International College become valuable contributors to their own learning and look to the future with confidence and optimism.



## Our Staff

At MIC, we believe that our teachers are one of our greatest assets. We are very proud of our staff and recognise their commitment to creating meaningful learning experiences for their students. In 2015, the average staff attendance rate was 95.9% while the retention rate was 95%.

The Professional Learning attended by staff was part of the School's Professional Learning Plan which aims to provide staff with the opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and their craft while at the same time encouraging participation in broader areas of interest.

Staff attended a wide array of conferences and seminars many of which were Montessori related but others dealt with such topics as Leadership, Self-Improving Schools, First Aid, Asthma Awareness, Snake Awareness, Risk Management, Anaphylaxis, Early Years Learning, Futures in Leadership, Leading Great Teachers, Enhancing Learning Understanding Neurology, Supporting Creative Renewal, Teacher Performance and Development, Cultures of Thinking, Child Wellbeing Obligations and the Broader Duty of Care.

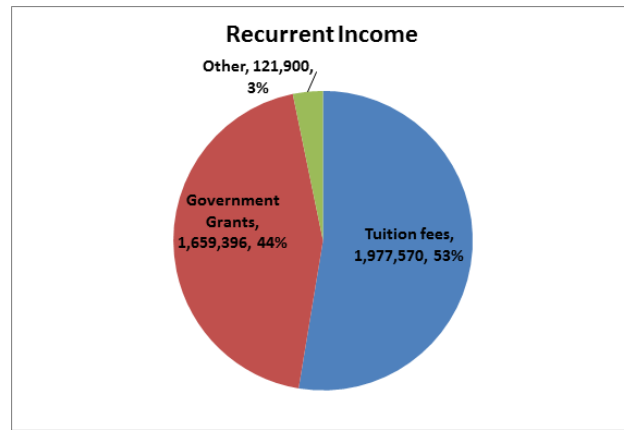
Our staff are highly trained professionals with 86% of the teaching staff having a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. More importantly, each Guide (teacher) is drawn to this work by a deep reverence for children and a fascination with learning. They enjoy working in a close and supportive community. There were a total of 23 academic staff and 18 support staff employed at the College during the 2015 – 2016 reporting period.



## Financial Operations

The Finance and Administration team is responsible for providing information and process systems to all layers of the School and continually strives for efficiencies to best utilize the resources available to the School whilst meeting all statutory and compliance needs.

The College experienced further growth in its financial position within 2014/2015 reporting period which was underpinned by growth in enrolments and careful management of school finances. In 2015 the College's income exceeded \$3.7m. The pie chart below provides information regarding the Schools' major sources of funding.



Due the size of the new campus managing Grounds and Maintenance has become significantly more complicated. The College manages its own water supply and waste water treatment plants as well as fire control systems. Asset management is another are of operations which has required attention.

The College now manages its own water supply and waste water treatment plants as well as fire control systems that it has never had to consider in the past. With the resultant increase in classroom and other buildings due to enrolment increases the College has further enhanced its asset management plans to ensure a regular maintenance system is in place to best maintain these assets. The College also manages over 11 hectares of natural rainforest and is developing community links to manage these natural assets.

The College invested significant funds in its IT Infrastructure and systems during 2014/15 including wireless access points across all classrooms on the campus, introduction of the Learning Management system, laptop and tablet rollouts to staff and classes.

Risk Management has also become a priority. The College invested in an online compliance program to support the staff in their understanding and knowledge of policies and procedures affecting them as educators. The College is committed to further developing the online Risk Management system into the future.

The safety of children and staff is paramount and with the new campus came a review which has resulted in developing an extensive security system which includes campus fencing, improved evacuation and warning systems. Planned for later in the year is the installation of CCTV surveillance and swipe card security.

