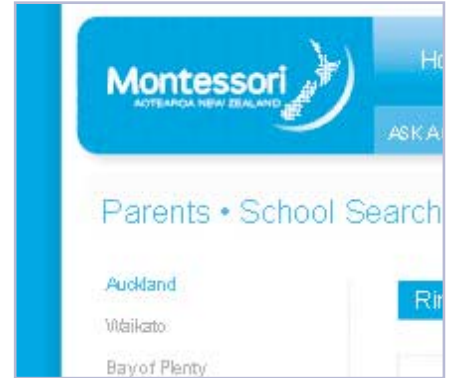


## Hello

Everyone will now be into the swing of the new school year; children and parents will be enjoying meeting old friends and making new ones. Staff will be getting to know new children and marvelling how much children have grown over the break! It is the start of a busy year for MANZ and I am looking forward to finding ways to support all members throughout 2009.



Executive Officer, Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand. *Ana Pickering*



### 3-6 workshop

MANZ is delighted to offer a new workshop for 3-6 teachers in 2009. Amy Kirkham, AMI trainer from Melbourne, will return to lead a two-day workshop on July 4-5.

The 2009 workshop will be of interest to both new and experienced Montessori 3-6 teachers and will focus on daily practices that create vibrant Montessori communities.

This workshop should not be missed if you wonder each day how to:

- use Montessori philosophy to inform daily practice
- encourage children to be active, engaged and making choices
- create a community of caring adults and children
- work in partnership with families
- prepare the environment to foster a child led community
- have faith in the child who is 'not yet there'
- find the balance between independence and responsibility

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### Help Lobby for Five Year Olds

MANZ was disappointed that the changes to 20 ECE announced by Anne Tolley, Minister of Education, on January 31 did not include extending the 20 ECE funding to five year olds in early childhood centres. Funding for five year olds has been a focus of MANZ lobbying for several years. Before the 2008 Election National announced that if it got into government the 20 Free ECE funding would be extended to five year olds; this has not happened. MANZ has requested a meeting with the Minister of Education, the Hon. Anne Tolley, and will continue to lobby on this issue.

If your Montessori ECE centre or primary school would like to add your voice to MANZ in requesting that National honour its election promise to extend 20 ECE to five year olds - please write to

The Minister of Education  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

It would be very helpful if you could also copy your letter to MANZ, so we can keep track of any lobbying by MANZ members.

### New MANZ Website

A new website for MANZ will be launched in late March, 2009. We believe it will be the most innovative Montessori website in the world!

The new website will update the 'look', information for parents and professionals and provide new functionality, making it the Montessori website of choice for parents in NZ and overseas.

One aim of the site is to make 'accessing Montessori' even easier for parents around NZ. MANZ member schools are being offered the opportunity to have a bigger presence on the MANZ website; members can opt to have a School Profile page that includes additional information for parents, school photo and logo and link to Google Maps.

Currently fewer than 30 percent of MANZ member schools have their own website and many websites are out of date. The School Profile page is an opportunity to increase your web presence with little effort or cost.

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## School Openings in 2009

Three new Montessori early childhood centres have opened for the start of 2009 - Montessori @ Mosgiel, Otago, Montessori @ Taradale, Hawkes Bay and Birkenhead Point Montessori, Auckland. A brand new Montessori primary class, Mahurangi Montessori Primary, has opened in Warkworth and the Montessori primary class formerly at Long Bay Primary, Auckland, has moved to the Corelli School of Arts in Browns Bay and renamed the North Shore Montessori Primary. Wa Ora Montessori School in Lower Hutt has also started the first cohort of students in its adolescent programme.

Congratulations to all the staff and parents involved in establishing these Montessori early childhood, primary and adolescent classes.

*Pictured from top:*

*Montessori @ Taradale, Hawkes Bay, Montessori @ Mosgiel, Otago, Montessori @ Mahurangi Primary, Warkworth, Birkenhead Point Montessori, Auckland, and North Shore Montessori Primary.*



## 3-6 workshop *continued...*

- balance the individual needs of each child in the context of the whole community individual needs while considering the whole groups
- create a dynamic learning environment that provides challenges for children when they are ready
- establish respectful limits on behaviour and incorporate grace and courtesy lessons
- ensure Montessori is a living part of the centre all day, every day, indoors and outdoors

Registration flyers and information will be sent to all members by the end of February.

Unfortunately the cultural workshop led by Janet McDonell from Washington cannot go ahead this year. Janet is unable to travel to Australia and NZ in June, because of family commitments. I hope to get her down under another year as there was a lot of interest in her cultural workshop.

## New MANZ Website *continued...*

Member schools will be sent information next week about the School Profile content, cost and layout. This is an exciting opportunity to promote your centre or school. If you have any queries please email MANZ. We hope many members will take this opportunity and have a School Profile on the new MANZ website when it is launched in late March.



## MANZ President to Attend Taumata Whanonga 2009 - Behaviour Summit March 2009

MANZ was delighted to receive an invitation to attend the Taumata Whanonga in March. The summit is limited to 150 invitees, so it is fantastic that MANZ is seen as having an important voice on the issue of behaviour management at early childhood and primary level. The summit is organised by the MoE with support from NZEI, NZ Principals' Federation, Secondary Principals' Association, PPTA and NZ Secondary Principals' Council. Before attending MANZ will be seeking your feedback on issues around behaviour Montessori ECE and primary settings. Jan Gaffney will attend the Taumata; her role as MANZ president and principal of early childhood, primary, and now adolescent programmes, enable her to make a significant contribution to the summit.

## Montessori on Immediate Skill Shortage List

The MANZ submission to the Department of Labour Review of Occupational Shortages Lists in November 2008 has resulted in some changes which come into effect on March 2. The occupation Early Childhood (Pre-primary School) Teacher (Montessori Teacher) (241111) now requires only a Montessori diploma 0-5 years min Level 5) as the recommended standard for work permit applicants with an offer of employment. Prior to this DoL was also requiring an early childhood diploma. The areas of shortage have also been increased to cover Auckland/Upper North Island, Waikato/Bay of Plenty, Central North Island, Wellington, Canterbury/Upper South Island, Otago/Southland. How helpful this change will be to centres trying to employ Montessori teachers from overseas remains to be seen!!

## High School Closures

Many of you may have read in the media about the closures of the two Montessori high schools - Athena Montessori College in Wellington and Montessori College of Auckland. Despite sacrifices and efforts by both schools, enrolments for the 2009 year were not sufficient to keep the schools open.

## International Interest in Montessori Voices

Montessori Voices magazine is attracting interest from the Montessori community internationally. Articles published for the first time in Montessori Voices are being republished in Montessori International magazine (UK) and Tomorrow's Child (USA). The support from NZ professionals and parents to develop a unique and fresh look at Montessori has been fantastic and MANZ looks forward to bringing more excellent content in 2009.

## Montessori Australia Council

The Montessori Association of Australia has recently restructured, been renamed the Montessori Australia Council (MAC) and is affiliated to the International Montessori Council. The new MAC website can be found at <http://www.montessori.edu.au/>

Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand • PO Box 2305,  
Stoke, NELSON. Executive Officer: Ana Pickering  
Freephone: 0800 33 66 12 • [eo@montessori.org.nz](mailto:eo@montessori.org.nz)

## Notices

### •Leadership Retreat for Montessori 3-6 Leaders

MANZ will send details of the planned leaders' retreat by late February. Workshop leaders, programme and venue are currently being finalised. The retreat will be held in the second half of the year.

### 2009 MANZ Primary Retreat Silverstream Retreat, Upper Hutt

Friday April 3 6pm - Sunday April 5th, 4pm.

Please remember to register your primary teachers by 6 March. Registrations received after 6 March pay an additional \$100.00.

## MANZ 2009 School Membership Subscriptions

### Full Year Payment Dates

If you wish to pay the MANZ school subscription per year follow this schedule.

**Family numbers emailed to MANZ**

**by Monday February 16, 2009**

**Invoices sent: Monday February 23, 2009**

**PAYMENT DUE: MARCH 23, 2009**

### Term Payment Dates

If you wish to pay the MANZ school subscription per term follow this schedule.

#### TERM 1, 2009

Family numbers emailed to MANZ by

Monday February 16, 2009

Invoices sent: Monday February 23, 2009

PAYMENT DUE: MARCH 23, 2009

#### TERM 2, 2009

Family numbers emailed to MANZ by

Monday May 11, 2009

Invoices sent by: May 18, 2009

PAYMENT DUE: JUNE 18, 2009

#### TERM 3, 2009

Family numbers emailed to MANZ by

July 27, 2009

Invoices sent by: August 3, 2009

PAYMENT DUE: SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

#### TERM 4, 2009

Family numbers sent to MANZ by

October 19, 2009

Invoices sent by: October 27, 2009

PAYMENT DUE: NOVEMBER 27, 2009