BLUE GUM
Montessori School

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Prospectus

‘An education for life.’

Welcome to Blue Gum Montessori School



Blue Gum Montessori School was established in 1983 and is a Primary School for 3 to 12-year-olds, situated in the beautiful landscape of the Bibra Lake Wetlands.

The School is governed by supportive parents, external experts and managed by a Principal. Teachers are handpicked and school support staff are dedicated to providing specialised assistance and enrichment within a caring community environment.

The School has a holistic approach to education, supporting children in their quest to become world citizens. Each class has a range of ages and abilities where social skills and peer coaching are supported in a strong culture of pastoral care.

Our Mission

We embrace Montessori practice to create an environment that inspires engaged, independent, and community minded students.

Our Vision

To be a thriving Montessori School that cultivates a passion for lifelong learning.

Our Philosophy

The Blue Gum Montessori School celebrates the uniqueness of each child and supports the natural phases of their development.

We value community life and actively foster the partnership between children, parents/carers and professional staff.



Our Values

At Blue Gum Montessori School we value:

Excellence

We provide a contemporary Montessori education, supporting student individuality and phases of development.

Care and Wellbeing

We care for self, each other and the environment.

Love of Learning

We provide an environment that inspires a love of learning.

Inclusivity

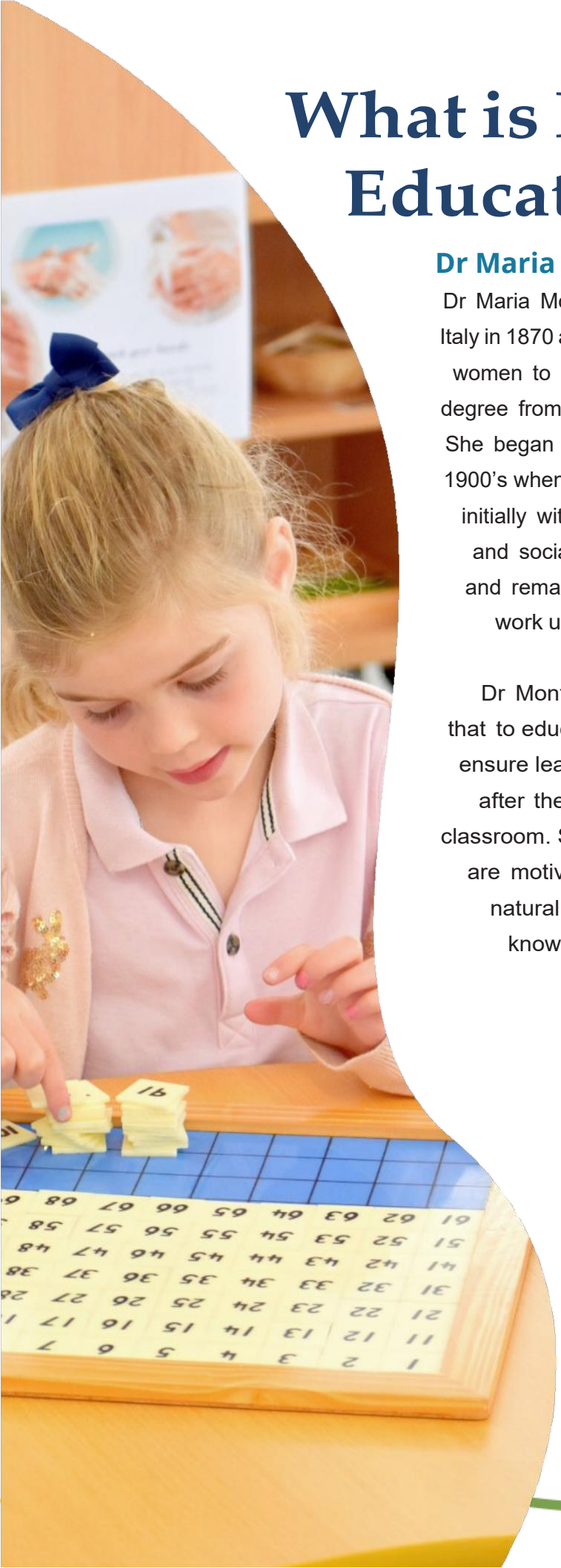
We are a respectful and inclusive community.



“The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind.”

Dr Maria Montessori





What is Montessori Education?

Dr Maria Montessori

Dr Maria Montessori was born in Italy in 1870 and was one of the first women to be granted a medical degree from an Italian University. She began her work in the early 1900's when she became involved initially with caring for culturally and socially deprived children, and remained dedicated to her work until her death in 1952.

Dr Montessori truly believed that to educate individuals is to ensure learning continues long after the years spent in the classroom. She believed children are motivated from within by a natural curiosity and love of knowledge. Dr Montessori surmised that learning is stimulated by an inner need and carries for the child its own motivation and rewards. She therefore, felt that the goal of education should be to cultivate this natural desire to learn. The Montessori classroom provides the ideal environment for this to occur.

Sensitive Periods

One of the most important aspects of Dr Montessori's studies into childhood development is the recognition of 'sensitive periods'. These are periods of intense satisfaction for learning particular skills, such as grasping or releasing or removing or replacing an object. Dr Montessori believed that it is easier for the child to learn a skill during the corresponding sensitive period than at any other time in their life. The Montessori classroom therefore has a wide variety of equipment that allows the child to freely explore their particular interest as it arises.

The Absorbent Mind

We now know from modern research that 80% of a child's mental development takes place before they are 8 years old.

In her book. ‘The Absorbent Mind’, Dr Montessori wrote that ‘the most important period of life is not the age of university students but the first one; the period from birth to the age of six... for that is the time when ‘man’s’ intelligence itself... is formed’. The Montessori classroom, and the equipment used, are all designed to encourage and nurture the child’s absorbent mind and enthusiasm for learning.



The Montessori Method

The Montessori Method aims to develop each child’s:

- Concentration
- Coordination
- Persistence
- Self-discipline
- Orderliness
- Desire to learn through discovery
- Awareness of the natural world
- Independence
- Initiative
- Creative self-expression
- Self esteem

Montessori schools provide children with a prepared environment in which they may gain experience through activities and movement. We know that movement and activity are natural functions and that learning comes through them. To this end, the Montessori environment is arranged to allow the children to move as they work.

Materials

The highly specialised materials used by children in a Montessori school are designed to allow the child to readily see and correct their own mistakes. The general aim of all activities is to provide the child with concrete experiences to help them classify the impressions they receive from their senses - touching, tasting, smelling, seeing and hearing.

The child is encouraged to use precise terminology to explore and to classify through the use of materials graded from simple to more complex. The objective is not the transmission of knowledge for its own sake, but rather the development of learning skills as resources upon which the child can draw when seeking to master their environment.

Role of the Teacher

The role of the teacher in a Montessori classroom is very important. The teacher does not teach in the traditional sense, but guides the child’s progress, helping them to learn. The teacher is specially trained to observe and respond to the needs of the individual children and to direct the whole group. They are concerned with the total development of the child on all levels - physical, social, emotional, moral and intellectual. They will recognise a child’s readiness to move on and in this way acts as a link between the environment and the child’s need. The teacher is responsible for the content and the order of the environment.



Our Curriculum

The Curriculum

Blue Gum Montessori School is granted special permission to implement the Montessori National Curriculum. This Curriculum compliments Montessori pedagogy and, in many areas, is more rigorous than a traditional one. The presentation of materials emphasises a complete understanding of the skills and concepts underlying any task, rather than just covering the curriculum.

Like all Western Australian Independent Schools, Blue Gum Montessori School is required to meet the standards outlined by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) and comply with the non-government registration standards.

The Montessori Curriculum is organised into a spiral of integrated studies, in contrast to a traditional model in which curriculum is compartmentalised into separate subjects, with given topics considered only once at a specific grade level. Lessons are introduced simply and concretely and are reinforced several times over successive years in increasing degrees of abstraction and complexity.

Each classroom has its own library of resources. In addition, students have access to guided research material via Technology resources and the School Library/Resource Centre.

All classes throughout the school are grouped by three age levels: 3-6 years, 6-9 years and 9-12 years. This arrangement is a cornerstone of the Montessori Philosophy. The mixed ages allow a child to work with older children in one subject, younger children in another, and still have social interaction with children in their own age.

Mixed age groups permit younger children a series of models for imitation, and older children have opportunities to motivate and to mentor and allow the development of respect and kindness across the school community.



Our Classes

Infant Toddler Community

Our playgroup is open to parents/carers and their children aged 1-3 years. The focus is on children working independently on self-chosen activities with assistance from their parent/carer. It offers a prepared environment overseen by an experienced Montessori Coordinator.

Our Classrooms

When you walk into a classroom, you will see happy, busy children working purposefully. The classroom teacher takes great care to create a classroom that is beautiful and enticing for the child. Each piece of equipment is carefully and thoughtfully chosen to assist the child in directing their learning.

The Montessori classroom is a child's world, geared to size, pace, needs and interests of the children within it. It is structured to allow freedom within clear limits. The materials and resources are arranged to enable easy access by the child. Children have a choice of working at a desk, on mats on the floor, in the outside environment, and with other children. Education occurs both in and outdoors.

Junior Primary: Cycle 1

In Junior Primary, children continue the learning they have begun at home in a more structured way. Recognising that children are curious, enthusiastic and eager to learn, the classrooms are equipped to provide stimulation and challenges.

There are five defined areas, focusing on the children's interests and their developmental needs.

- Practical Life - encouraging independence through learning to care for oneself, others, their classroom and the environment.
- Sensorial - developing the sense of sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell. The exercises of the senses provide children with keys to exploring the world and develop a basis for creative expression and abstract thinking.
- Language - building on the language skills already developed, there is a focus on the development of vocabulary, the use of language and an exploration of the phonic sounds of the English language.
- Mathematics - development of mathematical concepts through the manipulation of concrete materials.
- Cultural – helping children develop an awareness and appreciation of the world around them.

The classes have a flexible structure which allows the Junior Primary children to develop at their own pace. The Blue Gum Montessori School approach encourages self-awareness and the development of independence. Children benefit from the care of specially trained teachers and older students in the School become valuable role models.



Middle Primary: Cycle 2

In the Middle Primary classrooms, children are presented with a wide variety of materials that both consolidate and enhance the concepts they were introduced to in Junior Primary. The materials in Middle Primary, whilst still sensorial or concrete based, are designed to help children think in the abstract, imagine and reason. Selected Junior Primary materials are used again, however, with extensions they become known by subject names such as Geometry, History, Grammar, Language Study, Science and Mathematics.

Middle Primary children awaken to group dynamics. Social skills gained in Junior Primary are now developed and directed toward understanding group social behaviour and emotional regulation.

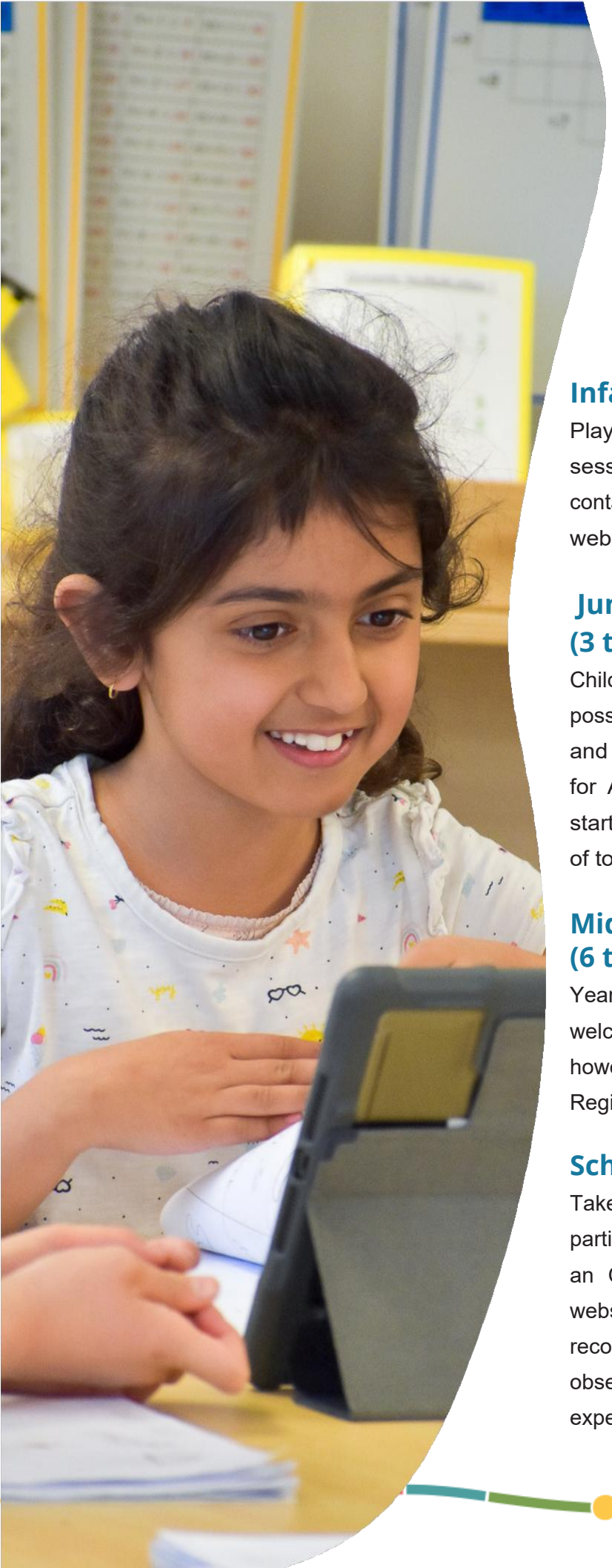


Upper Primary: Cycle 3

Upper Primary offers a continuation and deeper exploration of the previous areas of study, while supporting the students' social development that culminates in the special leadership role of Year 6. Montessori materials provide a way to model and demonstrate the increasingly complex concepts throughout the curriculum. Dedicated studies in the integrated areas of the sciences and humanities inspire students interest, engage their intellect and advance their knowledge. Students incrementally take responsibility for organising their learning, under the careful guidance of their teachers. The opportunity to develop learning habits and a positive self-image as a learner prepare students for the challenges of life beyond Primary School.

Upper Primary children inherently seek and enjoy more social responsibility, and community connection; Blue Gum Montessori School provides them with opportunities to further develop leadership skills and initiative through the Year 6 Leadership Program. A highlight of the School year is the Year 6 Graduation which embodies the Montessori values by celebrating the journey and achievements of each graduating student as they reflect on their journey in our community, and look ahead to their bright future.





Blue Gum Montessori School Enrolment

Infant Toddler Community

Playgroup enrolments are renewed each Term and sessions are offered during the School Term only. Please contact Administration on (08) 9417 4060 or visit our website for session times and enrolment forms.

Junior Primary (3 to 6 years-old)

Children are encouraged to commence school as soon as possible after their third birthday. Our waiting list is strong, and it is recommended that you complete an Application for Admission before your child is two years old. The starting date of School entry is subject to the completion of toilet training.

Middle Primary and Upper Primary (6 to 12 years-old)

Year 1 is a great time to start a Montessori education. We welcome applications from students in Year 1 to Year 6 however they are strictly limited. Please contact the Registrar for the current availability of places.

School Information

Take a closer look at Blue Gum Montessori School by participating in a School Tour, a Classroom Observation or an Open Evening. Registrations are available on our website or by calling (08) 9417 4060. We highly recommend parents or caregivers attend a classroom observation to understand how the Montessori approach is experienced in the classroom.

Enrolment Process

Apply

- Submit an ‘Application for Admission’ form available from our website or the School Registrar; registrar@bgms.wa.edu.au.
- Ask about a FastTrack enrolment interview if you are seeking an immediate start.

Interview

- Families of applicants attend an Entrance Interview with the Principal. This meeting with the parents/caregivers and child is an opportunity to discuss enrolment.
- Our belief is that it is vital to build a relationship of understanding and trust based on shared values that supports each unique family journey at Blue Gum Montessori School.

Enrol

- An Offer of Enrolment is made subject to the Entrance Interview and the availability of a place.
- Enrolment documentation is completed and the Enrolment Fee is paid to secure enrolment.

Begin at Blue Gum Montessori School

- Confirmation of enrolment and all the information needed for a successful start to School is provided.
- The class teacher meets with the parents/caregivers and child for a personal introduction prior to the first day of school.

“Inspire and enrich the child to grow into confident, happy and purposeful contributors to a global world.”

Dr Maria Montessori





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