

AGM 2022

Principal's Report for 2021

A very warm welcome to you all and thank you for attending tonight's AGM.

Besides the general items of an AGM, this meeting is a great opportunity for all stakeholders to understand the affairs of the school as well as the plans for the forthcoming year. 2021 proved to be a little better than the previous year although Covid restrictions were still in place the intensity eased. Routine cleaning, sanitizing and mask wearing continued and the school began to run a little more like normal. We had a disruption to the start of the 3rd term due to unrest and looting. School was delayed by a week and time was made up by adding days onto the end of term and shortening the October holidays.

Montpelier Pre Primary School

Montpelier has the reputation of being a small, nurturing, family environment. The management committee and staff are committed to ensuring and providing the children, not only with a sound education, but also with emotional intelligence and life skills that they need to grow and develop.

Montpelier is owned and run by way of a management committee, by the parents of the school. It is a non-profit organization and so relies hugely on parental involvement and the fees they pay.

Montpelier prides itself in maintaining high standards in foundation phase education so may I take this opportunity to thank the staff for their ongoing standard of excellence in caring and teaching the children in their care

Pupil Numbers

One of our distinguishing factors as I've mentioned is that we are a small school. Small numbers allow for more individual attention that is not possible in a large school. We aim to keep classes between 15 – 20 pupils per teacher and in some cases as with the rabbit and Teddy class a teacher and an assistant per class. So, although our fees may be at a slight premium to other Pre-Primary's, you cannot compare the value that Montpelier offers.

In 2021 we had 68 pupils. Not all were full time with some parents preferring 3x a week. Full time classes resumed with no on line learning taking place.

Staff and Staff development—

I am a member of SAHISA which is the South African Heads of Independent Schools Association and attended the first meeting of the year via zoom.

The second meeting was at St. Charles in Pietermaritzburg and we were able to meet in person. However, in August the SAHISA AGM was held on the zoom platform.

Due to the schools' financial restrictions, I decided not to attend the annual SAHISA conference in PE but it was then cancelled due to rising Covid cases again.

In October I attended a very informative ECD workshop also on the zoom platform.

All the Durban North teacher development meetings were cancelled.

Florence Jele continues to run the aftercare efficiently. Caring and nurturing the children in her care. Aftercare numbers have remained constant.

Visitors and outings---

In February Heather Tomlinson from Puppet World presented a puppet show on Body Image and again in August her topic was the Olympics.

In March Educate and Fascinate presented their show on Creepy crawlies and in November we had their Christmas show.

Hooked on Books visited us in August dramatizing 4 lovely books.

In November we had a show from Drama Dynamics called the Elf Explorer.

Maintenance and Improvements

In January we employed a painter to paint the interior of the school so it is all a uniform colour and much improved.

Due to petty theft a new sand pit cover had to be ordered and fitted.

The blinds on the deck needed attention due to age and wear and tear and needed repairs.

The partitions between the toilets in the children's bathroom were replaced with brick, plastered and painted.

Fund raising and marketing

The annual Easter raffle was well supported and we were able to have 3 baskets of goodies to give away.

Movie night and tuck shop day brought in a small amount but always enjoyed by the children.

Comrades walk had to be cancelled.

A Golf Day was hastily but together in October and proved a success even though it was a small field of players and brought in over R12000.00

My school card brings in extra funds each month.

Happenings and productions

Valentine's Day was celebrated with a dress up day in red. On Monday 3 September we dressed up to celebrate spring.

The Busy bee reunion sadly had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

Mother's Day concert and tea took place as did a Father's Day concert but sadly we cancelled Grandparents Day due to the rising numbers of Covid infections again.

In November the Windermere Library invited the Busy Bees to attend a story telling session under the trees in Mitchell Park. This was followed by a very informative walk around the zoo area.

A graduation dinner for the Busy Bee children leaving the school was held at the end of the 4th term. This was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. The leaver certificates were handed out after the children sang a few favourite songs for their parents.

We were able to put on a Christmas show which we split over 2 evenings at St. James church hall so as to reduce numbers and not have the stress of rain. We charged R20 for adults and R10 for non-Montpelier children to watch the Christmas concert and this added much needed funds as well as the large whole school photo which is laminated to make a place mat

Father Christmas's visit was also cancelled.

Weekly extra murals

Montpelier offers many and varied extra mural activities for the children to participate in. Namely, Pottery for those more creative.

Build em Brix which provided mathematical and architectural skills

Ballet for the creative girls.

Puzzle club which was run by Miss Powell Rees, provides invaluable extra attention to fine motor and cognitive skills.

Soccer for energetic boys and some girls

Busy Ballers for ball skills and movement.

Management Committee

I would like to thank all the members of the Management committee for their support and valuable contribution that they have made during the year. Special thanks to Mary Ann McCormick and Kevin Smit for their leadership and belief in me. Some remain, others move on with their children.

Once again may I thank the staff for their support and to the parents. Your participation and involvement in your child's school is necessary especially in an independent parent's association such as ours. I encourage you to get involved in events I look forward to a challenging and productive year ahead.