



NĪKAU SCHOOL

Nurturing young
minds naturally



PROSPECTUS



WELCOME

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

With great joy and excitement, we warmly welcome you to Nīkau School!

We deeply respect the significant responsibility you bear in making decisions about your child's educational journey. The choices we make now will profoundly shape their character and influence their future as adults.

At Nīkau School, we wholeheartedly embrace this responsibility and are committed to nurturing your child's natural tendencies and unique qualities. Our program aligns with your child's developmental needs and fosters their growth, supported by Montessori education and an outdoor classroom.

We strive to create an educational experience that you and your child will cherish forever. Our goal is to prepare your child holistically and nurturing their talents while ensuring your involvement and value as an integral part of our community.

In today's rapidly changing world, independent thinking and effective decision-making are crucial. Our programs are designed to foster these essential skills, enabling your child to contribute positively to the betterment of humanity.

Your child will have access to our Montessori curriculum, ample outdoor spaces and an atmosphere rooted in respect and etiquette. We invite you to reach out to us with any questions or requests, as we believe in maintaining an open and welcoming environment for all.

We are honored to be a part of the community and look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Please feel free to reach out to us or any member of our staff with your questions, concerns, or ideas. Our vision for your child's time at Nīkāu Montessori School is filled with meaningful experiences and growth.

Welcome to Nīkau Montessori School!

Warm Regards,
Nīkāu Education Trust



09 422 3298



www.nikau.school.nz



office@nikau.school.nz



70 Kokihi Lane, Snells Beach, 0920

THE MONTESSORI METHOD: A Journey Through the History of Montessori Education

Montessori education, an approach that values child-centered learning, hands-on exploration and individualised instruction, has revolutionised the field of early childhood education. Developed by Dr. Maria Montessori in the early 20th century, this innovative educational philosophy continues to influence schools and educators worldwide.

Origins of the Montessori Method

Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician and educator, pioneered the Montessori Method in the early 1900s. Her keen observations of children with special needs led her to develop a teaching approach that honoured each child's unique abilities and potential. In 1907, she opened the first Casa dei Bambini, or "Children's House," in Rome, where she implemented her groundbreaking educational principles.

Key Principles and Practices

Central to the Montessori Method are several fundamental principles. Dr. Montessori believed in creating carefully prepared environments that fostered independent learning and exploration. She emphasised the importance of self-directed activity, allowing children to choose their activities from a range of specially designed materials. These materials, known as "Montessori materials," promote hands-on engagement and enable children to develop essential skills through direct experience.

Montessori Education Spreads Globally

The success of Dr. Montessori's initial Casa dei Bambini attracted international attention. By the 1920s, the Montessori Method had gained recognition and popularity worldwide. Montessori societies and training centres were established, and Montessori educators spread the philosophy across continents. Dr. Montessori herself traveled extensively, giving lectures and training teachers in various countries.

Challenges and Revival

Despite its early success, Montessori education faced challenges in the mid-20th century. Political conflicts, including World War II and the rise of authoritarian regimes, led to the closure of many Montessori schools. However, the method experienced a revival in the 1960s and 1970s, fuelled by the educational reforms of that era and a growing interest in child-centered pedagogies. Montessori schools re-emerged globally, attracting parents seeking alternative approaches to traditional education.

Continued Growth and Future Outlook

Today, Montessori education continues to evolve and thrive. The International Montessori Foundation estimates that there are more than 20,000 Montessori schools worldwide, serving children from infancy through adolescence. The method's focus on fostering independence, self-confidence, and a lifelong love of learning resonates with parents and educators seeking a holistic approach to education.





Dr Maria Montessori
FOUNDER

EMBRACING NATURE'S CLASSROOM: A Journey Through the Philosophy of Outdoor Education

In an era where technology dominates our lives, the philosophy of outdoor education offers a refreshing approach to learning that reconnects students with the natural world. Outdoor classrooms, characterized by hands-on experiences, environmental exploration and experiential learning, have gained recognition for their ability to foster holistic development and inspire a sense of stewardship towards the environment.

Origins of the Outdoor Classroom Philosophy

The roots of outdoor education can be traced back to influential educational thinkers such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Friedrich Froebel, who emphasized the importance of nature in children's development. However, it was in the early 20th century that the concept gained prominence through the works of naturalists, environmentalists, and educators who recognized the educational value of the outdoors.

Key Principles and Practices

At the heart of the outdoor classroom philosophy are several key principles. It emphasizes the role of the natural environment as a powerful teacher, offering countless opportunities for observation, exploration, and discovery. Both the Montessori curriculum and Outdoor education encourages hands-on learning, fostering experiential connections with the natural world. It also prioritizes place-based learning, acknowledging the significance of local ecosystems, cultures, and communities.

Benefits and Impact

The philosophy of outdoor education offers a myriad of benefits to learners. Research suggests that outdoor learning enhances academic achievement, boosts creativity, and improves problem-solving skills.

It also promotes physical health and well-being by encouraging active lifestyles and reducing stress levels. Moreover, spending time in nature fosters environmental awareness, empathy and a sense of responsibility towards the Earth, nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards.



ABOUT US

WHO WE ARE:

We are passionate educators who share a vision for a holistic approach to a child's education. We believe that the Montessori philosophy combined with an outdoor classroom would provide an ideal balance to meet the children's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs.

Our dream is for children to leave Nīkau School knowing more about who they are and where they want to go with respect for themselves and the changing world around them.

NIKAU EDUCATION TRUST:

Joy Leigh



Joy lives locally with husband Aaron and 3 little girls Zoe, Evie and Frankie. She has a BEd (Primary) and worked as a Primary teacher since 2013. She completed her Masters Degree in Educational Leadership in 2015 and worked in various leadership positions. Joy has worked with educators around New Zealand to re-think education and is passionate about bringing the community together to share ideas and cultivate a learning environment with a culture of compassion, collaboration and individuality for our primary aged children.

Tia Wooller



Tia is a trustee for MMEF the AMI Montessori teacher training center in NZ and has supported many teachers through their training. Tia has set up and run a number of Montessori preschools, finally settling in Matakana and currently running Totara Hill Montessori preschool. She is passionate about seeing a Montessori Primary School established in our area.

Marguerite Vanderkolk



After training and working for a few years as a secondary school teacher, Marguerite realised she wasn't comfortable in mainstream education. Looking for different approaches to teaching and learning, she eventually became the principal of Auckland Metropolitan College (aka Metro). It was an alternative secondary school based on the Summerhill 'School Without Walls' educational model from the 1970s in Britain. Metro was way ahead of its time in New Zealand in the 1990s. Students who didn't fit into the mainstream settings thrived in that learning environment. Many of them were gifted and talented young people with parents who were open to alternative options for their children.

Jane Watson



Jane worked in mainstream education for many years before completing her AMI Montessori 6-12 Diploma in Bergamo, Italy. After working in a Montessori school in Switzerland for 3 months, she returned home to help establish the MMPT Montessori class at Matakana School where she worked as the lead teacher for 7 years. Jane has enthusiastically come out of retirement to help get Nīkau school established.



N.Ī.K.A.U. – Nurturing Individuals' identity, curiosity, collaboration, unity and resilience

N
I
K
A
U

Nurture identity: Embrace the uniqueness of each person, fostering a supportive and caring environment where everyone can grow and thrive.

Inspire Curiosity: Seek and Share inspiration, sparking creativity, curiosity and a love for learning among our school community.

Knowledge: Through hand-on, self directed learning, learning to be curious, independent thinkers and lifelong learners.

All-Together: Embrace unity and collaboration, valuing teamwork, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging as we work together towards common goals.

Unstoppable: Cultivate resilience, learning from challenges and setbacks, and developing the strength to persevere and adapt in the face of difficulties.

The outcomes of Education at Nikāu School

At Nīkau School's education program, we believe that children who progress through our comprehensive educational approach have the greatest potential to become resilient and capable young adults. Our students will:

- Foster Independent Thinking
- Embrace Social Responsibility
- Cultivate Creativity and Originality
- Value Autonomy
- Cultivate Confidence and Competence
- Excel in Academic Preparation
- Foster Spiritual Awareness

Our Montessori and Outdoor Classroom program nurtures these qualities and abilities in each child. By combining the principles of Montessori education with the enriching experiences of the outdoor environment, we create a holistic learning journey that empowers students to become responsible, creative, independent thinkers who contribute positively to their communities.



6-12 YEARS: THE REASONING MIND

Welcome to Nīkau School's 6-12 years program, where learning becomes a journey of exploration and wonder. This phase is not just a continuation of our 3-6 years program; it is a personalised educational approach that caters to the changing needs, talents, and skills of each child. At this stage, children are driven by curiosity, eager to explore the world around them and ask profound questions that lead to meaningful connections with knowledge.

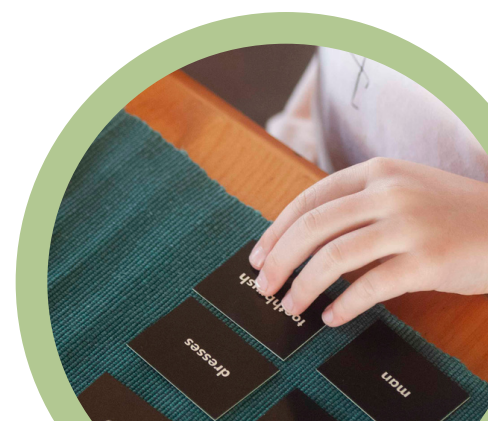
Building upon the early foundational skills at preschool, our students now utilise these tools to conduct research, prepare projects and presentations, and venture into their environment with increasing levels of independence. They become proficient communicators, developing a deep interest in topics they choose, engaging in critical thinking, and exploring theories about the world. We guide them to challenge themselves in all areas, mastering concepts beyond what is typically expected at their age. Along the way, we instil lifelong habits of learning and nurture an entrepreneurial spirit.

Our Montessori curriculum encompasses a wide range of subjects including science, history, the arts, literature, world culture, politics, economics, and philosophy. Through an integrated approach, we present these subjects to our students, encouraging them to think for themselves, conduct their own research, analyse information, and draw their own conclusions.

Our students are encouraged to pursue individually chosen research topics, honing their skills in library research, and preparing oral and written reports. We continue to utilise Montessori materials, facilitating hands-on learning experiences while guiding students towards abstraction and problem-solving using abstract concepts. The use of these materials enhances their ability to grasp abstract ideas and visualise complex concepts.

At Nīkau School, we believe in educating the whole child, balancing personal development with academic growth. Our classes are mixed age, allowing students to collaborate and learn from each other as they work towards shared goals. We strive to inspire their interest and curiosity through exciting lessons and stories, motivating them to explore further and actively engage their developing intellects in great work and significant projects.

We are dedicated to providing a comprehensive and enriching educational experience, empowering students to become independent thinkers, lifelong learners and responsible members of society.













"Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment."

- Dr Maria Montessori



At Nīkau School, we believe that Montessori education is most effective when there is consistency between the expectations at school and home. It is important for the Montessori philosophy to align with your family values and complement your parenting style. As parents, there are ways you can support and reinforce your child's development in conjunction with their experiences at school. Here are some suggestions:

-  Be a positive role model for your child by demonstrating the actions and behaviour you expect from them. Your actions serve as examples that children will imitate.
-  Read to your child frequently, even when they can read themselves, your tone and use of voices will inspire their reading skills. Take them to the library, it is still a great source of reference books and show them how to look for answers in books and not just technology
-  Encourage your child to work alongside you at home, involving them in household tasks appropriate for their age and abilities. Providing them with tools suited to their size and strength can support their manual dexterity and cognitive development.
-  Allow your child to spend as much time as they need on an activity they are engrossed in, without interruptions. This helps them build concentration and focus.
-  A recommended total screen time of no more than two hours a day is important for developing minds and young children eyes. Remember they will also have some screen time at home.
-  Your child may have limited home work, instead you will need to involve them in home life, writing the shopping lists, helping to prepare meals, learning to help with the washing and any other activities that happen as part of community life at home.
-  Children desire independence and we give them this by fostering their skills to become a grown up.
-  Your child should be responsible for preparing their own lunch and being responsible for organising what they need for their day.

Our aim is to assist every prospective family in making the best decision for their child's long-term education. Enrolling your child should be based on a mutual belief between parents and the school that it is a good fit for your family's values and goals.

We are excited to work in partnership with you as your child discovers the joy of learning the Montessori way. Please feel free to submit an enrolment application and reach out with any further questions you may have.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents who possess specific skills or interests are encouraged to support the Guide as needed in areas such as foreign languages, cooking, plant care, animal care, storytelling, or music. The enrolment form requests parents to indicate any particular areas in which they would like to contribute.

Moreover, parents are expected and encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Montessori philosophy and its application in the home. Parental voluntary assistance with the maintenance of the building and grounds is always appreciated.



MONTENESSORI ADVOCATES AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Montessori and outdoor classroom education has had a positive impact on many well known individuals across the globe. Here are some notable figures who credit some of their work and experience to having gone through education facilities that follow these philosophies...



Larry Page and Sergey Brin - The co-founders of Google, Larry Page, and Sergey Brin, both attended Montessori schools as children. They have often mentioned how their Montessori education fostered their curiosity, creativity, and independent thinking, which played a significant role in shaping their innovative approach to technology and entrepreneurship.



Jeff Bezos - Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon and one of the world's wealthiest individuals, attended a Montessori school during his early years. Bezos has spoken about how the Montessori method nurtured his self-confidence, problem-solving skills, and ability to think outside the box.



Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis - The former First Lady of the United States, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, received her early education in a Montessori school. Her Montessori experience is said to have influenced her interest in arts, culture, and her commitment to early childhood education.



Gabriel Garcia Marquez - The Nobel Prize-winning Colombian author, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, credited his Montessori education for stimulating his imagination and creativity. He once mentioned that the Montessori environment allowed him to explore different subjects at his own pace, which contributed to his development as a writer.



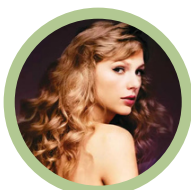
Anne Frank - Anne Frank, known for her diary documenting her experiences during the Holocaust, attended a Montessori school in Amsterdam before her family went into hiding. Her Montessori education emphasised tolerance, cultural understanding, and critical thinking, which resonated in her later writings.



Prince William and Prince Harry - The Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, and his brother, Prince Harry, both received Montessori education during their early years. Their mother, Princess Diana, chose Montessori schools for them, recognising the value of a nurturing and child-centred educational approach.



Beyoncé - The globally renowned singer and performer, Beyoncé Knowles, attended a Montessori school as a child. She has spoken about how her Montessori experience encouraged her to embrace her individuality, explore her talents, and develop a strong work ethic.



Taylor Swift - Grammy award winner Taylor Swift is a former Montessori student. As a youngster, she attended the Alvernia Montessori School in Wyomissing, PA, located outside of Reading.



OUTDOOR ADVOCATES



Sir David Attenborough - The renowned naturalist and broadcaster, Sir David Attenborough, has been an advocate for outdoor education throughout his career. His passion for the natural world was ignited during his childhood spent exploring and observing nature in the outdoors.



Barack Obama - The 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, has spoken about the transformative impact of his experiences in outdoor education. He has shared how outdoor activities like camping and hiking taught him important lessons about teamwork, leadership, and resilience.



Bear Grylls - The adventurer and television personality, Bear Grylls, is a strong proponent of outdoor education. He credits his time in outdoor programs, including the British Army's Special Air Service (SAS) and his experiences in the wild, for shaping his survival skills and fostering his passion for outdoor exploration.



Jane Goodall - The renowned primatologist and conservationist, Jane Goodall, spent much of her early career conducting field research in the African wilderness. Her immersive experiences in outdoor settings deepened her understanding of animal behaviour and the interconnectedness of ecosystems.



Amelia Earhart - The pioneering aviator, Amelia Earhart, developed a love for adventure and exploration through her outdoor experiences. Her passion for aviation was nurtured through outdoor activities like camping, hiking, and observing the natural world.



Richard Branson - The business magnate and founder of the Virgin Group, Richard Branson, has expressed how his outdoor experiences, including sailing and participating in extreme sports, instilled in him a sense of adventure, risk-taking, and perseverance.



Malala Yousafzai - The Nobel Peace Prize laureate and advocate for girls' education, Malala Yousafzai, has highlighted the transformative power of outdoor education. She has spoken about how her time spent outdoors, including hiking and attending summer camps, contributed to her personal growth and resilience.



NĪKAU SCHOOL

Nurturing young
minds naturally



www.nikau.school.nz
(09) 422 3298
office@nikau.school.nz
70 Kokihi Lane, Snells Beach 0920