

Monti Connect

Important Dates

31 Aug - 4 Sept	MS Camp
31 August	Maria Montessori's Birthday
1-2 September	Bush Babes Matt Sessions
4 September	Senior School Formal in Perth
8 September	Primary Campus - Sports Canival - UP & MP
9 September	Community Lunch at AP
14 September	School Council Meeting
17 September	Djilba Kin Group Activity
18 September	Interschool cross country - TBC
18 September	Metricup Campus Open Day & fete sundowner
24 September	AP - Meelup Beach excursion
25 September	KAIGI _ Caring for Country
Each week	Going Out Program - MP & UP
Term 3, Week 9	Next Monti Connect newsletter published

Discover our Metricup Campus



We would like to acknowledge the Wadandi / Pibulumun Traditional Owners of this land on which we live, work and play, and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

Monti Connect

Term Dates 2026 and 2027

Please note change of Pupil Free Day Term 4 2026 now Friday 13 /11/26

Term Dates 2026

Term 3 Student Dates: Monday 20/7/26 to Friday 25/9/26 (10 weeks)

Public Holidays: none.

Pupil Free Days within term: none.

Term 4 Student Dates: Tuesday 13/10/26 to Thursday 10/12/26 (9 weeks). Office open until 18/12/26.

Public Holidays: none.

Pupil Free Days within term: Friday 13/11/26 (Official Reporting Day). 

Term Dates 2027

Term 1 Student Dates: Monday 1/2/27 to Friday 9/4/27 - (10 weeks).

Office open from Monday 18/1/27.

Public Holidays: Monday 1/3/27 (Labour Day), Friday 26/3/27 (Good Friday), Monday 29/3/27 (Easter Monday).

Pupil Free Days within term: none.

Term 2 Student Dates: Tuesday 27/4/27 to Friday 2/7/27 (10 weeks).

Public Holidays: Monday 7/6/27 (WA Day).

Pupil Free Days within term: TBC (Official Reporting Day).

Term 3 Student Dates: Monday 26/7/27 to Friday 24/9/27 - (9 weeks).

Public Holidays: none.

Pupil Free Days within term: none.

Term 4 Student Dates: Tuesday 12/10/27 to Thursday 9/12/27 (9 weeks).

Office open until 17/12/27.

Public Holidays: none.

Pupil Free Days within term: TBC (Official Reporting Day).

Monti Connect

Enrolments News

A Reminder from the Enrolments Officer

As our school continues to grow, we're continually refining our application and cohort planning processes to ensure every family has the best possible opportunity to be considered for future places.

One of the common conversations I have goes something like this...

"Oh, we thought you already knew we wanted 'Little Jimmy' to come to MRMS!"

Or...

"We assumed because 'Big Jimmy' is here, 'Little Jimmy' would already be on your radar."

As we begin planning our student cohorts further in advance than ever before, it's becoming increasingly important that families let us know their intentions early. While siblings receive priority consideration during our placement process, priority doesn't guarantee placement, so having those conversations early gives us the best opportunity to include your child in future cohort planning.

So, please don't assume I already know your plans — I would hate for a family to miss out simply because we didn't know they were hoping to continue their Montessori journey with us. While we may know your family has younger children, applications for enrolment are not formalised until we have completed application forms.

Bush Babes & Junior Primary

(0-3 Playgroup & Early Entry through to Pre-Primary)

Has your family grown? 🧒

Whether you've recently welcomed a new baby, have a toddler keeping you busy, or you're simply starting to think about the years ahead, I'd love to hear from you.

If you're considering Margaret River Montessori School or our Bush Babes Playgroup for a younger child who isn't yet on our waitlist, now is a great time to submit an application or simply get in touch. Even if enrolment still feels a long way off, I can talk you through the process, answer any questions and make sure you have the most up-to-date information. Our application process has evolved over the years, so it may look quite different from when your older child joined us.

A quick reminder that Bush Babes and Junior Primary are separate application processes. Bush Babes is not a prerequisite for Primary School, nor does participation guarantee placement. It is, however, a beautiful introduction to Montessori, our educators and our wonderful school community.

And for a little insider information... our current waitlists extend from 2026 through to 2029 for Bush Babes and from 2026 through to 2032 for Junior Primary.

Adolescent Program

(Year 7)

Do you have another child at a different primary school? 🧒

Many of our current families have another child happily attending a different primary school before considering MRMS for Year 7. If that sounds like your family — especially if your child is currently in Years 4, 5 or 6 — now is the perfect time to get in touch.

If you're considering the MRMS Adolescent Program, I'd love to chat with you about what the next few years might look like and make sure your child is included in our future planning.

While siblings receive priority consideration, priority doesn't guarantee placement. Places available for students joining from outside our Primary School are limited each year, making early applications especially valuable.

Another little insider tip — we have Year 7 applications in place for entries all the way through to 2033, so there are some families readily planning ahead.

If you're ever unsure whether it's "too early" to get in touch, the answer is no! I'd much rather hear from you early, answer your questions and help you understand the process than have you miss an opportunity because you thought we already knew your plans or that it was too early to discuss.

Whether you're planning for a new baby, a younger sibling or a future Year 7 student, I'm always happy to chat. - Jerika Keen Enrolments Officer

Monti Connect

Playgroup News

The Bush Babes love coming together to sing, move and share the joy of music. It is part of our morning rhythm each week at playgroup, giving the children and their grown-ups an opportunity to connect through song, practice listening, take turns, play instruments and tune into the foundational elements of music. Some children challenge themselves to jump with two feet, while others watch their older peers following actions they might try when they are older. These opportunities allow older children to build confidence and model new skills, while younger peers observe and naturally build motivation as their gross motor skills develop.

This week to celebrate book week we read *Gymnastica Fantastica*, by Briony Stewart, and challenged ourselves with some of the tricky movements that the protagonist tried in the book. We twirled, shook and looped ribbons, pausing to prompts in our favourite 'stop and go' song.

While the ribbons were new for the children, the routine of our circle time is familiar, offering a comfortable space for them to find wonder in something new.



Monti Connect

Junior Primary News

What a wonderful few weeks we have had in Junior Primary! Our classrooms have been filled with opportunities to connect, explore, create and learn together.

Week 6 has been a particularly exciting week as we celebrated Book Week. The children have been learning the chorus of the Book Week song, exploring the value of books and enjoying special guest readers, including teachers from Jarrah and Acacia who visited Marri and Banksia to share stories.

We also participated in the Great Book Swap, contributing to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, and enjoyed dressing up as characters from our favourite books. It has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and passion for reading!

We have been privileged to observe and participate in the spectacular Land Art in the wetlands, while learning through stories and conversations about Noongar culture and connection to Country.

As we move through Djilba, the children have noticed more water in the wetlands and enjoyed watching ducks and searching for tadpoles. We now have some tadpoles in our classroom and look forward to observing their life cycle before returning them to the wetlands. We wonder how long it will take for them to become frogs!



Monti Connect

Junior Primary News

Our full-time students have continued their gardening afternoons with Susan, Atlas' mum, pulling weeds, planting seedlings and creating natural pest deterrents. The children were delighted to discover lots of slaters underneath the orange peels after the weekend!

We are very grateful to Susan for sharing her gardening knowledge and inspiring curiosity and care for our garden.

Our Junior Primary children are fortunate to enjoy unstructured play from 8:15–8:30am each morning before beginning their three-hour work cycle. This time supports social connections, communication, physical development and provides a lovely opportunity to practise Grace and Courtesy by greeting adults with eye contact and a cheerful “Good morning.”

Our supplies of boys' and girls' underwear, socks and pull-up/tracksuit pants (sizes 3–6) are running low. Donations would be greatly appreciated.

It is a privilege to share in your children's learning, growth and discoveries each day.



Monti Connect

Middle Primary News

Walking Through History: Year 1–3 Visit to Mammoth Cave

Last Friday, our Year 1–3 students ventured south to Mammoth Cave, where they experienced an unforgettable morning of learning beneath the surface and among the wildflowers of the South West.

A guided tour through the cave brought the children face-to-face with evidence of an ancient world. Mammoth Cave is home to more than 10,000 fossils, including the remains of megafauna that lived tens of thousands of years ago. Seeing these fossils within the cave helped students connect with the deep history of the landscape and imagine a time very different from our own.

The learning continued above ground during a wildflower walk, where local Wadandi guides shared knowledge of Country, plants and the ways in which Wadandi people have cared for and lived sustainably within this region for thousands of years. The Wadandi people, known as the Saltwater People, have an extraordinary continuing connection to the Capes region, with knowledge and custodianship passed through generations.

For our children, experiences such as this offer something that cannot be replicated within the classroom. Walking on Country, listening to local knowledge, observing native plants and exploring a living landscape allows children to build a relationship with place. They begin to understand that sustainability is not simply a concept to study, but a way of living that involves respect, responsibility and care.

The excursion also beautifully connected with Montessori's emphasis on Cosmic Education—helping children develop an appreciation for the interconnectedness of people, place, history and the natural world. From ancient megafauna to contemporary custodianship, the day offered a powerful reminder that we are part of a much bigger story.

We are grateful to the Wadandi guides who generously shared their knowledge and helped our children see this remarkable part of Western Australia through a deeper cultural and ecological lens.



Monti Connect

Middle Primary News



Our Patch: Learning from Our Wetlands

This week, our Year 3 students stepped beyond the classroom and into our local wetlands as part of Our Patch, our nature conservation program. This hands-on fieldwork gave students the opportunity to become scientists, observing, questioning, investigating and collecting evidence about the health of their local environment.

Working in small groups, students first made visual observations and predicted whether the wetland was healthy or unhealthy. They then sampled the water for aquatic macroinvertebrates—tiny creatures that can tell us a great deal about water quality. Using nets, identification charts and careful observation, students identified and recorded the different species they found before gently returning them to the wetland.

What made this experience particularly valuable was the opportunity to test their predictions using real evidence. Students discovered that some macroinvertebrates are more sensitive to pollution than others, helping them understand how living things can act as indicators of ecosystem health. Their observations and data will contribute to ongoing monitoring of the wetland and help build an understanding of how we can care for and protect these important environments.

Fieldwork is a powerful part of a Montessori education. When children learn with the natural world rather than simply about it, abstract ideas become tangible and meaningful. They develop curiosity, careful observation, independence and respect for the interconnectedness of living things.

Through Our Patch, our Year 3 students are beginning to see themselves not simply as learners, but as capable contributors and caretakers of their local environment. What better classroom could there be than the living world right outside our door?

Monti Connect

Newsletter

2026 - Term 3, Week 7

Upper Primary News

Bats on Boodja - Our Patch Takes Flight!

Bats on Boodja – Our Patch Takes Flight!

There has been plenty to celebrate in Upper Primary recently, with our Year 6 students busily working on their Our Patch project with Nature Conservation Margaret River Region. This year, the students have chosen to shine a spotlight on some of the most fascinating and often overlooked residents of our local environment – bats!

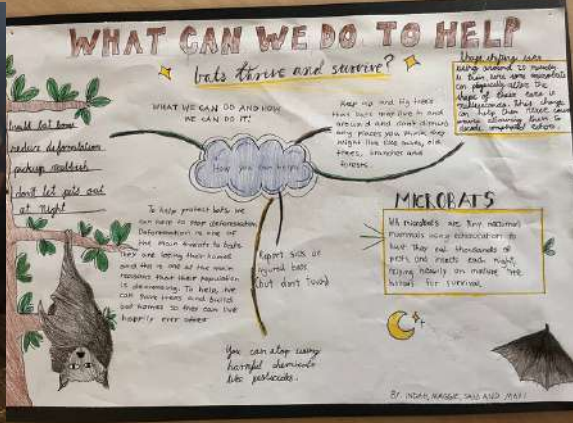
Under the project name 'Bats on Boodja', our Year 6s have been developing their understanding of the incredible biodiversity of Wadandi Boodja and the important role that bats play within our local ecosystems. Through research, discussion and hands-on learning, students have been building both their scientific knowledge and their understanding of the cultural significance of caring for Country and protecting our local environment.

This week, the project ventured beyond the classroom as the Year 6s took their learning to the Margaret River HEART, where they participated in a science-fair-style morning alongside other Year 6 students from schools throughout the region. They proudly displayed their work and had the opportunity to speak with members of the wider community about Bats on Boodja. It was wonderful to see them confidently sharing their knowledge with an authentic audience!

Projects like Our Patch provide such rich opportunities for learning beyond a single curriculum area. Throughout the project, students have needed to research, question, collaborate, problem-solve and create. They have worked together to decide how best to communicate their message, created pieces for their exhibition display and developed their public speaking skills as they prepared to explain their learning to people outside our school community. Seeing the students take ownership of their knowledge and become advocates for our local environment has been a particularly rewarding part of the project.



Upper Primary News



The whole of Upper Primary has been inspired by Bats on Boodja, with our Year 4 and 5 students joining the Year 6s in exploring why these incredible little critters deserve our protection. This has linked beautifully with our current persuasive writing focus, with every Upper Primary student now working towards a persuasive text arguing why we need to protect bats on Boodja. Students are drawing upon their growing scientific knowledge to develop convincing arguments, select evidence and persuade their readers that these tiny nocturnal neighbours are well worth looking after.

From scientific research and environmental custodianship to persuasive writing, collaboration, creativity and public speaking, Bats on Boodja is a wonderful example of how learning can connect across the curriculum – and out into the real world.

Well done to our Year 6s for representing Upper Primary so confidently and enthusiastically at the HEART. We are very proud of you!

Monti Connect

Adolescent Program News

It has been an action-packed few weeks around our campus, full of hands-on learning, community connection, and exciting upcoming events across all learning cycles!

Hands-on Learning & Community Connections

- **Drug & Alcohol Education:** Our students took part in an interactive workshop examining standard drink sizes. Using food-coloured water, students measured out standard portions to visually compare volumes across different types of beverages, making for an eye-opening math and health lesson!
- **Whale Encounters:** Last Friday, we were fortunate to host Fabri and Julien from Encounters for a captivating presentation on marine life. We learned that Blue Whales possess a heart the size of a small car, while Humpback Whales sing complex songs that can travel thousands of miles through the ocean! We also explored the unique callosities that identify individual Southern Right Whales.
- **Land Art with Wadandi Knowledge Holders:** Facilitated by Elaine Clocherty, our Artist in Residence project is officially underway. Guided by Wadandi Elders and artists Mitchella Hutchins and Vivian Brockman-Webb, students heard traditional stories about local birds and learned the intricate craft of twisting native reeds into strong rope. Students are now working together to choose a bird that best represents our school community.
- **Councillor for a Day:** A small group of civic-minded students visited the Augusta Margaret River Shire offices to step into the shoes of local representatives, learning how community decisions and municipal governance work from the inside out.
- **Fencing with Farmer Pete Wright.** Thanks to Pete who has been coming out to help the students engage in fencing work to the north of the school.
- **Interschool Carnivals!** Students recently competed in touch rugby in the Lightning Carnival and at the Cross Country carnival. We managed to win the A grade touch rugby tournament against strong competition. It was awesome to see how well everybody in the team supported each other, did their part and helped contribute towards the great result. Special shoutout also goes to India who ran 5th in the Open Girls 5km cross country race! She looked to be the youngest entrant in the race!

Senior School Updates

New Big Picture learning cycles are officially under way! Our Senior School students are currently pursuing projects across a remarkable range of disciplines:

- Carpentry & Woodwork
- Music Production & Stage Setup
- ICT & Computer Programming
- Diesel Mechanics & Electrical
- Zoology & Marine Biology
- Landscape Architecture
- Metallurgy & Metalwork
- Ornithology



Monti Connect

Adolescent Program News

Calling Local Experts!

Big Picture relies on connecting students with real-world mentors. If you have professional skills or connections in any of these industries and would be open to mentoring an intern, please reach out to the office.

We are also seeking donations/leads to acquire goats for our school farm, as well as tools to expand our woodwork and metalwork workshops.

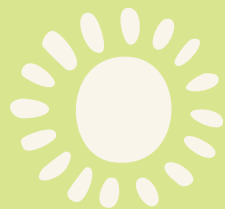
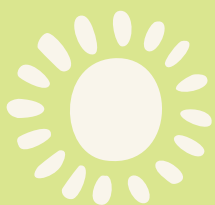
Exhibitions & Events: Senior School exhibitions commence in early September (week 7).

We're also setting sail for the Senior School formal in Perth next week. It's shore to be an unforgettable night!!

Upcoming Events & Camps

Open Day Preparations: The excitement is building as students organise their stalls, craft signs, map out stall layouts, and set pricing.

Middle School camp is this week, and the students are staying overnight at the historic Fremantle Prison! We've locked down a great itinerary and assured them that bad jokes are the only real offense they can get locked up for! We're confident the students will serve their time with enthusiasm.



Monti Connect

Art News

Land Art Project (Art Grant)

We would love your help collecting some natural materials for our upcoming Land Art artworks/bora on both campuses. We are especially looking for honkey nuts and other seeds and pods, such as banksia and jarrah nuts. Flowers are also wonderful, particularly local species such as bottlebrush and other flowering native bushes. If collecting flowers, please take only a small amount from each bush so the plants can continue to thrive.

Bark is also great for our artwork, but as it provides shelter for lots of little critters, please only collect freshly fallen bark. When gathering materials, we encourage children and families to collect from the ground and from local gardens, streets and parks where appropriate. Our precious bush can inspire us to notice and learn about the plants growing there, but we do not pick or collect from the bush itself.

Thank you for helping us gather these beautiful natural treasures while caring for and respecting our local environment! We will also need parent helpers to assist with installation next term, please keep an eye out for further information and dates.

Materials needed: honkey nuts, other seed pods such as banksia and jarrah, bark, flowers, sticks/twigs... focusing on native species. Shells would be welcome too!

Storage: produce boxes, bags (paper or reusable shopping bags), buckets etc.

Where: both sites, please deliver to the Hub (can be left undercover by the door) at our Margaret River campus and to the outside undercover area of the AP in Metricup.

When: now and continuing into early Term 4.

Please note that some materials require drying time, and honkey nuts can go mouldy if stored in bulk. Ensure honkey nuts are stored in a single layer to prevent this. We need more items than you would expect and the more variety the better! Thank you for your contribution.



Monti Connect

Physical Education News

Sports Day - MP & UP Tuesday 8th September

The dress theme is KIN COLOURS - go in the colours of your Kin group.

Birak - RED
Bunuru - ORANGE
Djeran - GREEN
Makuru - BLUE
Djilba - PINK
Kambarang - YELLOW



The event will be held at the Cricket Oval (Upper Western) from 9am-11:50am. In the first hour, students in year groups will rotate through a series of sports, before stopping for morning tea at approximately 10:20am. Following morning tea, our team games will begin at 10:30am, featuring the flag race for all students, tunnel ball for the middle primary students, and leaderball for the upper primary students. After the team sports, the sprint races will start from the youngest ages to the oldest. The toilets, pavilion and drink fountain will be available for us to use.

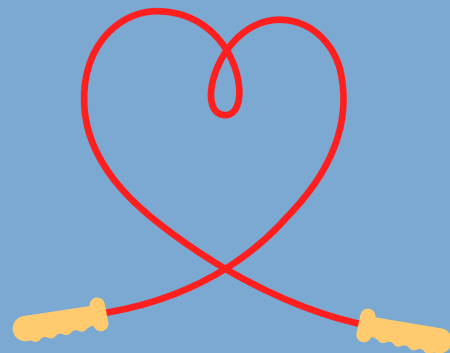
Parents are encouraged to watch and cheer their children on the day. Little Sip coffee will be available on site also. Please ensure your child brings a water bottle and a hat, and adequate running shoes.



Monti Connect

Physical Education News

Jump Rope for Heart!



Margaret River Montessori School are participating in Jump Rope for Heart this term – a fantastic fundraising and physical activity program by the Heart Foundation.

By participating in Jump Rope for Heart this term, we're getting our students moving. We'll have skipping ropes available on the school grounds and are encouraging everyone to help raise funds for lifesaving research and support programs.

Over the coming weeks your child will learn new skills, increase their physical activity, and learn about heart health. And the program will end with our school wide 'Jump Off Day' on 22nd September (Tuesday afternoon 2-3pm) where your child gets to show off their new skipping skills to their friends and family.

When you register your child online, you'll get access to additional skipping resources to help give your child a great reason to get away from the screens and get outdoors. Register and create your own secure webpage at www.jumprope.org.au/parents.

By signing up online, you and your child/ren can:

- Easily raise funds online.
- Track skipping skills progress and earn virtual badges along the way.
- Post updates to your page so family and friends can follow their progress.
- Access additional skipping resources.

Your child should have a 'Parent and Guardian Guide' flyer to take home, which includes further information on the program. If you didn't receive this, visit www.jumprope.org.au/parents for all the information that you need.

Thank you for getting involved in Jump Rope for Heart!



Monti Connect

French Language News

BOOK WEEK

Book Week !

This Book Week, our French classes celebrated how familiar stories help learners make connections, build meaning and engage with French.

At AP, we explored *Le Petit Prince*, including the beautiful reminder: "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

With our primary students, we went on a hunt for *The Gruffalo*—and there may even have been a Gruffalo teacher!

Familiar books help students connect prior learning to the French language, while stories linked to French culture provide opportunities to develop cultural understanding alongside literacy.

A wonderful week of learning !

Wellbeing News

Primary School Clubs - See the AP Term 3 News for AP Clubs

WEEKLY CLUBS-TERM 3

MONDAY

- Acoustic Band with Tony- The Hall  *term commitment*
- Chess Club with Joel- The Hive 
- Library open for quiet time 

TUESDAY

- Choir with Tony and Jana- The Hall  *term commitment*
- Library open for quiet time 

WEDNESDAY

- Library Open for quiet time 

THURSDAY

- Create and Chat with Tessa- Jarrah 
- Book Club with Jana- Maleleuca 
- Dance Club with Lily- The Hall  *UP Only* *term commitment*

FRIDAY

- TOMS with Lily and Rosie- Acacia  *UP only*
- Library open for quiet time 

Monti Connect

Music News

Wednesday August 19 saw the wonderful showcase of musical talent at our school, known as the Recital.

We had a total of 23 wonderful performances, ranging from solo piano to full rock band and everything in between. Students from both our primary and adolescent campus performed to a full hall, with an audience of supportive parents, friends and staff.

Congratulations to all our talented and brave musicians!



Monti Connect

Library News



So many thoughtful, creative and very cool costumes could be seen around school for Dress-Up Day! It was wonderful to see the children embracing their favourite books and characters.

There were lots of fun in-class activities happening across all classrooms, with plenty of book-inspired learning and creativity. The students were also treated to a special performance by our teachers and staff, who brought *The Very Noisy Bear* by Nick Bland to life with their own fun retelling. It certainly left the children wanting more — we may even have to invite families along for the next performance!



There were also plenty of gold coin donations and books swapped throughout the day, with all money raised going towards the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF), supporting literacy and language development in remote Indigenous communities across Australia.



Monti Connect

Inclusive Education News

Upper Primary students went on a Going Out trip to the Margaret River Fudge Factory to research and see how fudge is made.



P & F Meeting Schedule

Term 3 - Online Teams Meeting Mon 31st Aug at 7pm

Term 4 - Meeting at Primary Campus Mon 2nd Nov at 2pm

- Online Teams Meeting Mon 23rd Nov at 7pm

End of Year Celebration / Finalisation: 6pm Wed 2nd Dec (offsite Pearls Bar or similar)

If you think you can help or like to attend, then please get in touch with Kate Morgan at pfsecretarymontessori@gmail.com



Monti Connect

Events News



 **Erdkinder**
METRICUP CAMPUS
PROUDLY PRESENTS

 **Big Picture**
EDUCATION AUSTRALIA

OPEN DAY & FETE

SUNDOWNER

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH
2PM – 7PM
62 HARMANS MILL ROAD, METRICUP

Free Event / Open to the whole community
Enjoy an afternoon filled with fun activities for all ages
Meet our passionate educators and students
Discover how our unique approach to learning sets us apart
Explore our state of the art facilities and stunning rural property
Live music from our students
Delicious selection of food, refreshments with great coffee
Wonderful range of Arts & Crafts made by our students
Games, facepainting and raffles
Alcohol free event



While bookings are not required,
a quick RSVP via the QR code
helps us prepare for the day
THANK YOU!

 **Margaret River Montessori**
SCHOOL | EST 1993

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Monti Connect

Community News



Department of
Education

The WA Student Assistance Payment

Money to get things
for your kids.

\$150

For each Kindergarten
and primary school student

\$250

For each secondary
school student

If you're a parent or carer of school-aged kids, you can claim the third round of the WA Student Assistance Payment.

This is money to help you get things for your kids.

This can include:

- new school shoes
- backpacks
- sports gear
- uniforms
- food

All WA school kids from Kindergarten to Year 12 can get it if they are enrolled at school.

You will need your kid's 8-digit WA Student Number to claim. Go to your kid's school if you need help to find the number.

Claim now

You can claim through the ServiceWA app, online at www.education.wa.edu.au/wasap or by sending in a claim form.

Claims close

Friday 25 September 2026

For more information about the WA Student Assistance Payment
and how to claim, go to education.wa.edu.au/wasap

Claim on the
ServiceWA app



Monti Connect

A Final Thought...

Happy Birthday, Maria Montessori!

Today we celebrate the birthday of Dr Maria Montessori, born on 31 August 1870 in Chiaravalle, Italy. More than 150 years later, her vision continues to inspire children, educators and families around the world.

Maria Montessori was a true pioneer. At a time when many careers were closed to women, she was determined to study medicine and became one of the first women in Italy to receive a medical degree in 1896. Her work as a doctor led her to observe children closely and to recognise something that would become central to her educational philosophy: children are capable, curious and naturally driven to learn when given the right environment and the freedom to explore.



Let's keep in touch!



**Margaret River
Montessori**
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Erdkinder
METRICUP CAMPUS

