FORM THE PRINCIPAL…

At the end of the first week we held the Family Welcome night. The weather was balmy and ideal for parents to meet and mingle in the courtyard. Many families attended and it was pleasing to see so many of our new families come along to meet other parents and staff. The children were meant to be entertained by a puppeteer in the hall, however unfortunate circumstances meant the puppeteer was unable to attend. So at the very last minute Pete Monaghan (parent of Jet & Satine) stepped in and entertained all of the children in the hall with his guitar and musical and comedic skills! We can’t thank Pete enough for his flexibility and preparedness to jump in at the last minute and improvise! (This is the second time Pete has done this! Last year he took on the role of Quiz Master at the Quiz Night at the eleventh hour)! Thank you Pete – you are wonderful!

There was a lovely sense of community on the night and I thank the many families who attended. A sense of community refers to the quality of connections, understandings and feelings between community members. I think we do have a strong sense of community at our school where there are respectful relationships and where people feel valued, included and feel that we are “in this together”. This term there are number of events which promote our sense of community and provide opportunities for parents to make connections and develop relationships. I encourage parents to come along to our parent get togethers (coffee mornings), sharing assemblies, information nights, community breakfast and Festival of Arts evening. Check the Newsletter diary dates or the calendar on the school website. I hope to see you all at these school events.

CATHY FRANCE – PRINCIPAL

FESTIVAL OF ARTS

THURSDAY 31ST MARCH 6.00PM – 8.30PM

On Thursday 31st March (week 8) the school will hold a FESTIVAL OF ARTS evening. Classrooms will be open for viewing of the visual art work that children have been working on. Throughout the evening, classes, individuals and small groups of students will demonstrate their artistic skills through the entertainment program and by “busking” around the school. Currently we are working on the program.

We would love to have any school adults/parents who are interested in busking/performing on the night. Please come and see us in the Office if you are willing and able to add to the ‘artistic flavour’ of the evening.

We are planning to offer a BBQ dinner, Bar and Coffee & Cake for the event. We will be looking for some volunteers to help – so let us know if you can assist on the night. An invitation will be sent home soon to all school families with all the information needed and so you can pre-order your food.

Put the date in your diary so you can join in the fun!!

Come along & view the art work
in classrooms

Enjoy performances from
students & adults

Eat, drink & mingle with other families

Lots of “hands-on” children’s activities

Gold Coin donation for program & entry

$5 for Children’s Passport to a variety of “Hands-on” art & craft activities

Bring along some coins to encourage our buskers!!

COMMUNITY PRODUCE SWAP

Growing your own veggies, herbs and fruits sustainably is incredibly rewarding, both for you, your family and the planet. You see, sustainable produce gardening eases the burden on your back pocket and the environmental burden on the planet. But what do you do when you have an abundant supply of home grown fruit, veggies or herbs and you don’t want them to go to waste? Well, if you’re anything like most people, the answer is simple – you swap them!

All around Australia, fruit and veggie swaps are taking off like never before, and they offer a real solution for that lorry load of lemons going to waste at your place. These are generally non-commercial events (meaning no money changes hands), and many ‘fruit and veggie’ swaps swap other types of items as well, from worm wee to chutney, chook poo to cackleberries. The Hills Montessori School community is invited to bring any edible excess along, be it fruit, veggies, nuts, seedlings or seeds and swap it with others.

Not only can gardeners fill their larders in exchange for excess veggies, the Produce Swaps are an exercise in sustainability, waste reduction, and, most importantly, community connectivity.

We will hold the Community Produce Swaps in conjunction with the Parent Get Togethers (coffee mornings) at both the Yultiwirra and Wairoa Campuses. First School Community Produce Swap will be Monday 29th February 9.15am.

Bring along any spare produce and see what you can source for free!
LIFE MEMBERSHIP
It is at this time of the year that we ask our school community if there are any nominations for Life Membership of our school. Our school Constitution and Regulations state that... "a person shall be made a Life Member of the School as a recognition of consistent, long standing and excellent service rendered to the School by that person and such person shall be of good standing in the community and held in high regard by other members of the school".

If you would like to nominate anyone who you believe is worthy of this recognition, please submit a written nomination to the Board. The nomination needs to be supported and signed by four school members setting out the details of the nominee’s service and reasons for the nomination. Nominations need to be displayed for 14 days calling for any further written submissions supporting these nominations prior to the Board voting on the appointment. We currently have eleven Life Members of our school who have been bestowed this honour over the years. Life Members are usually presented with this tribute at our Annual General Meeting.

Written submissions need to be forwarded to the Board by Friday 11th March.

OPEN DAY - YULTIWIRRA
Open Day is Tuesday 22nd March from 10am - 12 noon.

We are looking for parents to assist as guides on Open Day. If you are interested in being a guide and taking tours around the school please come and register your interest at the office. A small training session will be given to those interested in taking on this role.

Our greatest marketing tool is positive affirmation through “word of mouth” by current school families. Please let anyone you know who may be interested in visiting our school, or enrolling a child, the date and time of our Open Day.

SHAREING ASSEMBLIES– YULTIWIRRA
We wish to invite all parents/caregivers to our “sharing assemblies” this term held at Yultiwirra campus, where students will have the opportunity to share their work with the rest of the school. Please make a note of the dates and place them in your diary

- Thursday 17th March at 9.30am – Cycle 1 & 3 sharing
- Wed 13th April 2.30pm – Cycle 2 & 4 sharing & music items

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST - YULTIWIRRA
On Thursday 24th March families are invited to our annual Community Breakfast to be held in the school courtyard at Yultiwirra (Anderson Road) commencing at 8.15am. This breakfast is being organised and hosted by all of the Fundraising committee, Class Parent Reps and staff and will be a wonderful way for the community to get together before the Easter long weekend. Keep your eye out for an invite/ order form.

All food will need to be pre-ordered.

Last week the Cycle 2 students built the most amazing cubby you have ever seen!

INFORMATION NIGHTS
Yultiwirra Campus Information Night will be held Wednesday 2nd March

This is a very important evening and we urge all parents to attend. Class teachers will present vital information covering their program and plans for this year, expectations of the classroom and characteristics of the particular age group. Parents will also have the opportunity to ask questions concerning the routines and practices of their child’s class. We seek the support of parents on these nights and hope that you will find these sessions beneficial.

Crèche (3 years and over) for your children will need to be pre-booked.

Information Sessions are as follows:
- 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Stacey/Nat & Christine classes
- Tristen/Susan’s class  Rosi’s class
- Chantel’s / Denise class

7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Emily’s class  Penny/Julie’s class
- Ruth/Tony class

We urge all parents to attend this important evening.

Please return your attendance slips (sent out last week) asap.

PARENT EDUCATION
An Education and Information Session is being presented for parents, particularly new parents, who are interested in learning more about the Montessori Philosophy.

“The Montessori Philosophy - An Introductory Talk” will be held on Thursday, 17th March, 6.30 – 8.30pm at Yultiwirra Campus.

This session will highlight key aspects of the Philosophy & Methodology and how the Montessori approach to learning differs from mainstream schooling. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about how the Montessori Philosophy is applied at our school. Knowledge gained will help you to become more informed about your child’s education in a Montessori environment and may assist you to further support the Montessori Philosophy at home. By knowing the values and basis of the Montessori Philosophy at our school you will be able to further capitalise on opportunities for consistency of approaches presented to your child between home and school.

I urge all new families to attend this informative session and any existing families who have not attended one of these sessions.

LUNCH ORDERS – YULTIWIRRA
Lunch Orders available on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday.

Please note:
- Orders close at 9.15am on Tuesday & Wednesday but can also be placed the day before.
- Friday orders need to be placed in the box by close of school Thursday.

PIANO LESSONS POSTPONED
Due to unforeseen family circumstances, Lisa Taverna is unable to start piano lessons with students until Week 5 this term. Thank you for your understanding.
News from the Cycles

INFANT PROGRAM
In the Infant Program this term we are exploring the primary colours. Stella is enjoying a very hands on experience with blue.

CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL
The preschool children have been learning about the life cycle of a Monarch butterfly. They have been observing the Wanderer caterpillars in their classrooms eating, growing, moulting and changing into a chrysalis. Some childcare students were lucky enough to watch the metamorphosis of the hanging caterpillar into a pupa and then chrysalis. The process only took twenty minutes and they were amazed to see it happening. The beautiful chrysalis are now hanging on the branches and the students are eagerly awaiting for the butterflies to appear. When they do emerge they will be released into our garden.

Jarvis “The caterpillar is hanging like a letter ‘J’, just like the first letter of my name”.
Saskia “I can see gold on it” (pointing to the chrysalis)
Joseph “Why does the chrysalis hang?”
Nari “How does the caterpillar make the silk?”

CYCLE 1 PRIMARY
The Cycle 1 children have been enthusiastic about the start of the new year and the learning that has already taken place. In week 1, the concept of ‘capacity’ was introduced to the children as part of the mathematics curriculum. The language of ‘millilitres’ (ml) and ‘litres’ (l) was introduced and their abbreviations. The children enjoyed filling 4 equally sized cups with water to demonstrate their understanding of: ‘empty’, ‘almost empty’, ‘almost full’ and ‘full’. The children experienced pouring water between different sized containers to see how capacities change depending on the size of the container.

…

CYCLE 2
It has been a very busy start to the year for Cycle 2. This year our overall focus will be on festivals and celebrations. We have begun the term celebrating both Chinese New Year and Pancake Tuesday. The first day of school began with a shared Pancake Tuesday afternoon tea, following a discussion of how this celebration came to be. The children learnt about various festivals and carnivals held around the world before the start of Lent, including the celebration called Mardi Gras, after which Julie and Penny’s class made masks. The children have been learning about Chinese New Year, the Year of the Monkey and enjoyed celebrating with fried rice and stories. There have been various art and craft activities, including painting their own Chinese fans with colour and Chinese symbols.

CYCLE 3
The Cycle 3 classes have settled into the new school year and are off to a very positive start. Our main focus for the first two weeks has been building a strong Cycle 3 community. We have done this by participating in various team building and ‘getting to know you’ activities and by partnering new students with established Cycle 3 students to help them become familiar with their new surroundings. Our students (with some guidance) have devised and agreed to a ‘class commitment’, focusing on respectful and safe choices towards all community members and the school environment.

The Cycle 3 Leadership Teams for 2016 have been announced! We wish you a wonderful year and we hope that you enjoy your leadership year and the opportunities it presents. Congratulations to you all!

Leadership Committee: Jamie, Joseph, Ruby, Ally, Elroy, Dexter, Remi, Taran, Lizzie
Sports: Jorja, Camilla, Dexter, Adino
Event Helpers: Joseph, Elroy, Dexter, Yasmin, Jorja, Ethan
Senior Jumpers: Jamie, Joseph, Ruby, Ally, Camilla, Elroy, Adino, Yasmin
Open Day Guides: Camilla, Remi, Taran, Ruby, Jamie
Assemblies: Ally, Yasmin, Remi, Taran, Lizzie, Ethan

Finally, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Cycle 3 members and say a big ‘welcome back’ to Natalie Costello! Nat, Stacey and Christine are very much looking forward to an exciting and positive year.

CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS (YR 10)
Some impressions from the first two weeks...

“My first two weeks in Cycle 4 have been the best. The Big Day Out was cool and I have loved meeting new people and making new friends.” Jiah, Year 7

“The things that jump into my mind from the first two weeks are BaM and community lunches and I love independent work time. I’ve learnt lots already and I’ve liked number games in maths. I especially like Feeding the Community where we’ve learnt about the digestive system and we invented our own pasta sauce.” Harrison, Year 7 (new to HMS)

I’ve loved making new friends. People have been so supportive and have waited for me and welcomed me. I liked going down into the gardens for our first book group and reading Sally’s Story.” Adele, Year 7 (new to HMS)

It has all been good. I feel like we do a lot of subjects but they haven’t smashed us with the work yet, just eased us into it. I’ve especially liked Science and Feeding the Community and I love History, it was a great first lesson. I get up in the morning and can’t wait to get there.” Lily, Year 7

All of the people have been really friendly and nice. I’m in the first cooking group so I’ve already helped make two beautiful lunches. I really liked PE, we were going to play volleyball but everyone is happy that we’re changing to tennis so we get to go down to the courts in Aldgate. I’m happy about that.”

Ryan, Year 7

MUSIC WITH MAREE
The Festival of Arts is the main focus for this term’s music lessons. The students have settled quickly into their classes and preparations have already begun for items to present. Year 3 students have also commenced recorder lessons. It is delightful to see their quick progress and enthusiasm after only two lessons.
**TERM 1 DIARY DATES**

**Monday February 29**  
Parent Morning Tea & Get Together and  
School Community Produce Swap – 9am  
Yultiwirra Common Room – All Welcome!

**Tuesday March 1**  
SPTG meeting – 6.00pm  

**Wednesday March 2**  
Yultiwirra Information Evening – commences 6.30pm  

**Thursday March 3**  
OHS&W meeting – 4.00pm  
Policy meeting – 4.30pm  

**Friday March 4**  
Schools Clean Up Day  

**Monday March 7 – Thursday March 10**  
Way to Go Bike Education for Cycle 3 students  

**Wednesday March 9**  
Health Checks for 4-5yr olds (by allocation)  

**Thursday March 10**  
Parent Rep Meeting 2.30pm  

**Monday March 14**  
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday  

**Week 6**  
Interview week @ Wairoa  

**Tuesday March 15**  
Facilities meeting - 8.00am – Wairoa  
Finance Meeting – 6.00pm  

**KEY DATES FOR TERM 1**

**Thursday March 17**  
Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus  
9.30am – Parents Welcome!  
Parent Education evening – 6.30pm  
‘Introduction to Montessori Philosophy’

**Tuesday March 22**  
Open Day – Yultiwirra Campus 10am – 12 noon  

**Wednesday March 23- Thursday March 24**  
Adolescent Orientation Camp  

**Thursday March 24**  
Community Breakfast – 8.15am  
Yultiwirra Campus – All Welcome!

**Thursday March 31**  
Festival of Arts evening – Yultiwirra Campus  

**Week 9**  
Interview week @ Yultiwirra  

**Tuesday April 5**  
Open Day – Wairoa Campus 10am – 12 noon  

**Friday April 8**  
Wairoa cafe – 9.15am ‘Come along for a cuppa!’ Wairoa Campus – All Welcome!  

**Wednesday April 13**  
Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus  
2.30pm – Parents Welcome!

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“Our care for the children should be governed not by the desire to ‘make them learn things’, but by the endeavour always to keep burning within them the light which is called intelligence.”  

Maria Montessori

**TERM DATES 2016**

**TERM 1:**  
Tuesday 9th February - Friday 15th April  

**TERM 2:**  
Tuesday 3rd May - Friday 8th July  

**TERM 3:**  
Tuesday 26th July - Friday 30th September  

**TERM 4:**  
Tuesday 18th October – Wednesday 14th December  

**NEW ARRIVALS - CONGRATULATIONS to -**  
- James & Louise on the birth of a son, Zac. A new sibling for James (Cycel 3), Ashton (Cycle 2) & Tayne Edwards (Pre-school).  
- Nyssa & Andrew on the birth of a daughter, Florence – a sister for Kai Park (Infant Program)  
- Karla & Lindon on the birth of a son, Bodhi – a brother for Archer Reynolds (Infant Program)

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**HUGE CHILDREN’S BOOK SALE:** 50-90% off everything for 2 days only. Hundreds of books including paperback novels, picture and chapter books, activity items and much more! Fill a box for $40! Payment by EFTpos, cash or credit card.  

- **When:** 8am – 6pm: Wednesday 2nd March and Thursday, 3rd March.  
- **Where:** Scholastic Warehouse, 39 - 41 King Street, Norwood.

This year I am doing the **World’s Greatest Shave** to help people with blood cancer. I would really like to get to my target of $560. If you can sponsor me there are 3 ways to do so. 1. Put money in an envelope with your name and hand it to the Yultiwirra office and I will receive it and write you a receipt. 2. You can go online to worldsgreatestshave.com and click sponsor, stay on sponsor a shaver, type in Eleanor in first name and Carter in last name, click on my name, it will then take you to my profile, there are the buttons that say ‘sponsor me’ click on them, there are a few options including other as I am happy with any amount, put all your information and follow the prompts. 3. There will also be a box in the Yultiwirra office where you can put anonymous donations. It would be really awesome if you could come down to the Lanesways on Sunday February 28 and help cut my hair as I will have pigtails with price tags attached and you can choose the one you want and snip! If you have any questions feel free to email me at eleanor.carter@hmswairoa.net. Thank you

**Eleanor/Nellie Carter (Cycle 4 student)**

James Edward (Cycle 3) is also participating in the **World’s Greatest Shave** ……..Please sponsor me and help support families and continue the urgent search for cures. Getting sponsored to shave your hair is an extraordinary way to help people with leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma, but I can’t do it alone. Help me make the most of my hairy sacrifice. Please sponsor me today, anything helps.

Follow this link to James’ shave page [https://goo.gl/PgL63G](https://goo.gl/PgL63G)

**ALDGATE NETBALL CLUB:** Teams for all age groups & abilities.  
[www.asc.asn.au](http://www.asc.asn.au) for more info. Or Ph: Bronwyn 0414 424 666


For further info contact Helene 040 221 3642 or Catrin 0421 063 596