FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Nine students from our primary school recently met with recognised Hills community leader and volunteer, Ms Bec Francis, at The Coventry Library in Stirling as part of a day long practical and interactive workshop, with the aim of providing the Year 6 Student Leaders with the inspiration and strategies to make a difference within their school community.

Bec Francis is a Life Member of our school and was recently recognised in the Adelaide Hills Council Civic Awards on Australia Day for her extensive volunteer work within the wider Adelaide Hills community. She shared with the students her motivation behind her volunteer work as well as some of the more nitty gritty elements of running events such as organisational techniques, communicating with and leading others, and facing challenges such as finding cheap and sustainable solutions to problems.

Bec said that she “thoroughly enjoyed spending time with these young leaders and hearing about the different things that are important to them.” Bec defined leadership as “something that evolves - the first step is getting involved, putting your hand up and helping out, finding out how you can contribute to things that are bigger than ‘just you’.” Bec commented that, “these young people are all doing this, in their own ways, and I find them inspiring.” We are thrilled that Bec, who is a wonderful role model, could come along on the day and share her thoughts with our young students. Thank you Bec!

Working together with our Assistant Principal, Susan Harris Evans, and former Wellbeing Worker, Ellie Ross, students were encouraged to think more deeply about the role of the Student Leadership Team within the school, they acknowledged the combined strengths and skills held by team members and worked to identify the team’s goals for the 2016 school year. Intended goals include working towards more produce in the school gardens, potentially developing their own enterprise selling produce, and creating new ways to improve the school by increasing opportunities for student led ‘fun’ raising. Taran Sanderson, one of our Year Six Leaders, reflected that “the day helped him to learn a lot about himself as a leader and his personal strengths and qualities.” We look forward to working with these young leaders throughout this year and watching them develop their leadership skills.

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 and 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

We held our first community produce swap last week which coincided with our first parent get together at Yultiwirra.

As you can see from the photos it was quite successful and a number of parents brought fresh produce to swap. A few people who didn’t have any produce to swap purchased some of the remaining produce. That money will go towards our student gardening program.

Our next Community Produce Swap will be Friday 8th April 9.15am at Wairoa to coincide with the Wairoa Café (parent get together).

Bring along any spare produce and see what you can swap!
Parent Volunteer Forms – Whole School

Thank you to those parents who have returned their Parent Volunteer Forms outlining how they are able to help in the school. These were sent home in week 2 to all families. We value the contribution of all members of our school community and understand that not everyone is able to contribute in the same way. Together we can enhance the educational experiences of our students within a strong and supportive community.

It is not too late to return these forms to the office!

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.

Open Days – Whole School

Yultiwirra Open Day – Tues 22nd March 10am - 12 noon
Wairoa Open Day - Tues 5th April – Tours 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. 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 & time of our Open Days.

Term 1 Chats - Wairoa

All Wairoa parents have been sent an email with a link that will take them to the “Interview Schedule portal” for booking a Term 1 Chat. A notice has also been sent home which provides a step by step guide as to how to make this on-line booking.

Wairoa Term 1 Chats – parent/teacher/student interviews will be held in Week 6 (15th – 18th March). If you do not have access to a computer please phone or come into the office to make a booking.

Parents of students at Yultiwirra will be sent an email and hard copy notice next week, explaining how to log on to the Interview Schedule portal to enable them to book a Term 1 Chat. Yultiwirra chats will be held in Wk 9 (4th – 8th April).

SAPSASA Swimming

A big congratulations to the seven students who represented the school at the SAPSASA district swimming carnival. The Courier Cup has been running in the Hills/Barker district for nearly 40 years and it was fantastic to see our school as well as a number of other small schools participating in such a huge event.

Our students swam with great commitment and effort and were exemplary in encouraging and supporting one another.

Thank you to the wonderful parents who helped with timing and supported the children throughout the day.

Congratulations to Omar Ryan who qualified to represent the district in the 11yr old boys freestyle relay at the South Australian Carnival.

Board Communique

Paul Noon, the new Business Administrator, was welcomed to the Board. Suggestions were considered for guest speakers at the AGM. The Board’s goals for the forthcoming year were agreed. The new Strategic Plan for the School needs to be completed this year and it was agreed that a task group be set up.

Paul Daly – Board President

Parent Education – Whole School

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.

A crèche will be available for any children over 3 years of age – prior bookings are essential and can be made at the office.

We sincerely hope that you are able to join us for this important session. An invitation has been sent to new families, however anyone interested in attending should notify the office.

New Student Absenteeism Procedures – Whole School

Please note the new procedures (highlighted in blue below) that have now been put in place this term in regard to student absenteeism.

Parents are required to notify the school when their child is absent and the reason for the absence. Parents are able to do this by phoning the school, leaving a message or sending an email to reception, reception@montessori.sa.edu.au.

Teachers complete an electronic roll each morning by 9.15am. Yultiwirra students who are late must report to the office and collect a “Late Pass” to be given to the class teacher.

Parents of students from both Yultiwirra and Wairoa will be contacted via text message by contacting the office, however anyone interested in attending should notify the office.

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Parents of students from both Yultiwirra and Wairoa will be contacted via text message if no message has been received at the office regarding their child’s absence. Parents need to respond to this text message by contacting the office to provide details of their child’s absence.

Parents are legally required to give a reason for their child’s absence and a record of these reasons is maintained.

It is particularly important that parents notify the school promptly when an infectious disease or head lice is the cause of the absence. In these instances recommended exclusion times need to be adhered to.

In the event of extended absence from school for family holidays or other reasons, the parent needs to put in writing to the Principal a request to seek an exemption from school with the dates and the reason why the child will not be attending.

 Persistent, habitual and unjustified failure to attend school by a child of compulsory age will be reported to the District Attendance Counsellor, by the Principal.
News from the Cycles

INFANT PROGRAM

The past two weeks in Infant Program, yellow has been our focus colour, and making flowers using tissue paper has been one of the 'yellow' activities on offer. Freya enjoyed making her flowers and is admiring her work.

CYCLE 1 PREESCHOOL

This term in the Preschool we are focussing on the virtue of 'respect' by showing respect for ourselves, for each other and for the environment, including the animals. As a part of this and our practical life curriculum, the children have been very enthusiastic to participate in 'care of environment' activities. They have helped to clean out the animal cage and re-lay it with hay, spreading the compost from the cage onto our garden to help our plants grow. The Extended Day children planted new seeds and seedlings and all preschool children have helped with the watering during the warmer weather. Day to day activities have included feeding the fish, cleaning the fish tank, window/chaire cleaning, sweeping, carpet cleaning, wiping down tables and looking after our class plants. Being so involved in this way gives children a sense of ownership of the environment, as well as a sense of belonging.

CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

Maths anxiety? Current worries in education has turned to maths anxiety amongst girls. So we asked the question, "Who likes maths?" Zora said, "I like doing red beads (multiplication) best. Green beads (division) second." Hester, in response to the question, "Is learning maths hard?", said, "No it's easy to learn!" Georgia replied, "It's easy to take away, but green beads (division) is easier." Marley replied, "I like doing flat rods (the addition board) and writing down the answers. It's easy. I like adding up best." No maths anxiety there!

INDONESIAN WITH ELLIS & LYNDAL

In Indonesian lessons with Ellis and Lyndal students have delighted in how many words, sounds and concepts they retained over the holidays whilst being exposed to new vocabulary and skills this term. At Wairoa, all Cycle 4 students are using the vocabulary of body parts to refine grammatical understanding of possessive pronouns. Many groups are developing fluency in preparation for our Bali trip by memorising scripts of shopping scenarios firstly with minimal prompts, and then with no prompts at all. Students are also preparing another long-term oral project which is The National Australia Indonesia Language Association speech awards. By the end of term 3 students will have produced a grammatically complex speech of 2-3 minutes in length which they will recite accurately off-by-heart. Tuesday afternoons are 'hard but fun,' as the Cycle 3's at Yultiwirra are becoming proficient at playing the Angklung in preparation for the Festival of Arts. With oral language as a focus, Cycle 3 are learning games, songs and chants to do with stock phrases such as "What is your name?" and "How are You?" as well as new vocabulary to do with body parts. They will spend the coming weeks composing and translating written pieces with reference to a bi-lingual dictionary. Please enjoy this link to Cycle 3 reflection on second language learning. https://youtu.be/ZkLltrLuN40

CYCLE 2

What a busy start to Term 1! As part of our year of celebrating World Festivals, we began the term with Pancake Tuesday and ended the first week sharing fried rice as part of Chinese New Year. We also made a Friendship Fruit Salad in the second week to commemorate our new Cycle 2 class community and finished the week making our favourite button Buddies. Learning about Festivals and Celebrations is part of our study of the Fundamental Needs of Humans.

CYCLE 3

Our Year 6 Leaders participated in our annual ‘Billy Cart’ leadership afternoon. This was the first Year 6 outing as a whole leadership team and aimed to build teamwork and leadership skills. Students enjoyed constructing and decorating billy carts in small teams. Each team came up with a fitting name and a chant to cheer on their members. The session culminated in a number of billy cart races. When asked what the purpose of the leadership event was, students replied, ‘To build our leadership skills’, ‘To get to know each other more’, ‘To practice working together’, all very valid responses. The enthusiasm, inclusiveness and positivity displayed by all Year 6 students was exceptional.

CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS (YR 10)

Culture in the City

This term a group of Cycle 4 students is looking at the global street art movement for their CE elective. Using the Google Street Art Project we have been able to virtually walk the streets of cities around the world, exploring artworks and hearing artists discuss their work. This week the group begins planning their own tour of Adelaide street art. They will engage with a Fringe event that allows them to visit local sites and use an app to identify artworks and access background content for each work.

At the same time the Feeding the Community group will visit the Central Markets. Fresh from their knife skills workshop with chef Grant, the Wairoa kitchen apprentices will develop their understandings of food and community exploring the market and visiting a pastry kitchen. They will also have the opportunity to buy specialist ingredients for the Tastes of the World event, a food festival where small cooking groups cater a two-course restaurant lunch for about 16 customers!

Meanwhile other students will engage with various Fringe installations along North Terrace and at the SA Museum and Art Gallery.

After lunch we will gather together at Tandanya Theatre for a performance of HART. This highly recommended Fringe play deals with Indigenous stories in a rich and accessible way. The show will be followed by a Q&A session with the performer and director. The themes in HART connect directly with the stories of indigenous experience in Tim’s current book group, and themes of prejudice and understanding that we are exploring in all three book groups.
**TERM 1 DIARY DATES**

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

**Monday March 14**  
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

**Week 6: March 15 – 18**  
Interview week @ Wairoa

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

**Wednesday March 16**  
Fundraising meeting - 9.00am

**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  
Executive Meeting – 6.00pm  
Board Meeting – 7.00pm

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

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

**Friday March 25**  
Good Friday

**Monday March 28**  
Easter Monday

**Tuesday March 29**  
Strategic Planning Group Meeting – 6.00pm

**KEY DATES FOR TERM 1**

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

**Week 9: April 4 - 8**  
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!

**Sharing 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**

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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“Whoever touches the life of the child touches the most sensitive point of a whole which has roots in the most distant past and climbs toward the infinite future.”

Maria Montessori

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**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

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to Alison & Matthew on the arrival of a daughter, Georgia – a sister for Felix Simpson (Cycle 2).

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM FOR 2016**

These courses are designed to support and encourage parents in their vital role of nurturing and empowering children, and helping them be the best people they can be. They have been supported by the City of Unley for more than ten years. All courses are held at the Effective Living Centre, 26 King William Road, Wayville. They run from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm.

**Wednesday, 10th March – Understanding your Child’s Temperament**

**Wednesday, 30th March – Managing Anger in Children**

**Wednesday, 6th April – Talk to Teens Listen and listen so Teens will Talk.**

Cost:  
$15/Adult, $12/Conc. $24/Couple.

Information:  
www.effectiveliving.org

**FAMILY FOCUS OT:** Home visiting Occupational Therapy service for children and teenagers in the Adelaide Hills – providing assessment & therapy to children and teenagers with disabilities and developmental difficulties such as autism, intellectual disability and developmental delay. Providing a family focused approach to supporting children in the areas of: play, sensory processing, self-care & independence skills, motor skills, sleeping & eating, emotional/behavioural difficulties, alertness & activity levels.  
Ph: Emma Beare, 0437 292 393

**IRISH DANCE CLASSES:** During school terms – once per fortnight 2.30 - 4pm at the Verdun Hall. From 3 yr olds to 50 plus – girls, boys & adults.  
First lesson free. Ph: 0429 520 227

**FREE Parenting Seminars:**

7.00-9.00pm City Rooms, Adelaide Convention Centre.  
Presented by Dr Justin Coulson – nationally recognised parenting speaker, newspaper columnist, TV commentator, author & researcher.

**Tuesday 5th April – Toddlers and touch screens: What should I do?**

- The pros & cons of the digital age for children 0-5 years.
- How and when to introduce phones, tablets, apps, e-games
- How to manage electronic media use.

**Wednesday 6th April – Children, teens & pornography: What every parent should know.**

- The alarming statistics
- Are we becoming desensitized?
- The impact on boys and girls
- How parents can guide children and teens.

Register to attend or view the live webcasts at  

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**Yultiwirra Campus**  
- 12 Anderson Road, Aldgate SA 5154

**Wairoa Campus**  
- 142 Mt Barker Road, Aldgate SA 5154

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