FROM THE PRINCIPAL…

At the last Board meeting, one person was nominated for Life Membership of the 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.” Written nominations need to be submitted to the Board by four School members setting out the details of the nominee’s service. Nominations then need to be displayed for 14 days calling for any further written submissions supporting the nomination prior to the Board voting on the appointment.

Christine Stichel has been nominated for Life Membership. It is customary that Life Members are inducted at a formal presentation at the AGM. If you wish to support this nomination in writing please do so and submit it to me by Wednesday 6th April.

Christine Stichel has worked in the school for 20 years starting on the 1st June 1995 as the Receptionist and will retire at the end of this term. Christine has job shared her position over that time with six colleagues; Cathy Deans, Ann Ferguson, Alison Jacobs, Rochelle Rogers, Jodie Searle and Gab Tooth.

Christine has also given her own time to the School in a variety of ways over the years. She has:

- volunteered tirelessly for months leading up to each Expo event (2007-2011) and then volunteered all day at each of the Expo’s that were held playing a key role as coordinator of the coffee & cake stall
- volunteered as the drinks stall coordinator for the Autumn Garden Festival working on the committee for months leading up to the event
- always played key roles in catering for school events such as Grandparents Day, Festival of Arts, volunteers morning tea, community breakfasts, sausage sizzles always sourcing food and supplies in her own time
- catered for numerous SA Montessori combined PD days and other staff events with 50-100 people attending each time
- volunteered her time after each school event to wash table cloths, school aprons and other linen
- sewn ice pack bags for First Aid at home to keep up with demand (they constantly are lost/not returned!)

Christine will always be remembered by the students for being the First Aid person who gave them a band-aid, an ice pack or some reassuring words. She can often be found at school until 6.30pm (she is meant to finish work at 4.30) “pottering around” finishing off things never expecting anything in return. Christine is loyal, honest, caring and hardworking and has always worked in the best interest of the school.

Over the 20 years that Christine has worked for the School she has always supported the school and been a strong advocate of Montessori Education. In recent years her grandchild attended the Infant Program. The voluntary hours that Christine has provided our school, go way beyond her job description. Christine is a wonderful role model to our school community and a great example of the true meaning of service. **Christine Stichel has been nominated as a Life Member of The Hills Montessori School in recognition of her long standing and generous service to the school.**

_Cathy France – Principal_

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**THE WORLD’S GREATEST SHAVE**

Three of our students have been very brave over the past couple of weeks and have raised money for the Leukaemia Foundation by participating in the World’s Greatest Shave.

_Nellie Carter (Cycle 4 Wairoa student)_ recently shaved her head at the Stirling Markets and has raised just over $1,600 for the cause!

_Macy Mae Gilbert (Cycle 3 student)_ shaved her head a week and a half ago and has raised just over $400!

_Last week James Edward (Cycle 3 student)_ and his family organized for a spokesperson from the Leukaemia Foundation to come and speak to the Yultiwiwira students at the Sharing Assembly. At lunchtime on that day, James had his head shaved in the courtyard with many students coming to watch and support him. James has raised just over $600 for this worthwhile cause.

Congratulations to all three students for being extremely brave and shaving their heads and for raising money and doing something that will ultimately help others.
COMMUNITY SUPPORT COORDINATOR
WHOLE SCHOOL
In our School we have a structure to provide practical help to families within our school community who require support or assistance in times of need &/or families who may be experiencing a crisis. The Community Support Coordinator (volunteer position) oversees this program. Community support may take the form of providing meals for a family, helping with pick-ups and drop-offs of children, child minding, shopping etc. Everyone from time to time goes through difficult periods in life whether it is caused by illness, accidents and injury or the death of a loved one – we are all faced with challenges and moments that are hard. When we are faced with a family crisis, knowing that we have the support of our community and there are people who are willing and able to help with some of the day to day routines and duties can really ease the burden. Our school community can be wonderful at rallying around and offering small gestures of kindness to let families or individuals in crisis know that we care and we are here to support if needed. This year Shannon Brown, a Cycle 3 class parent rep has kindly volunteered to take on this role. With this newsletter we are sending home a questionnaire to families to ask if there are any ways they may be able to support if and when needed. We will be grateful of any support that people are prepared to offer and will ‘keep a register’ of support in the event that assistance is required. If your family experiences challenging times or faces a crisis please don’t hesitate to contact either your class teacher or Cathy so we can provide some support. Specific family situations will always be treated in a confidential, respectful and discrete manner and will not be disclosed to the community when seeking support.

“Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.” Anthony J. D’Angelo

TROPICAL CYCLONE WINSTON APPEAL (FIJI)
Thousands of people need help after Fiji was hit by the worst cyclone in its history. Red Cross has launched the Tropical Cyclone Winston Appeal to collect donations and provide humanitarian support to people affected by the devastating category five cyclone. We will be raising money at the community breakfast for this cause. Please bring along a few gold coins to donate to this worthy cause.

BOARD COMMUNIQUE
The forthcoming AGM was discussed including Board vacancies and a guest speaker. The implementation of a Board skills matrix was discussed. The Board Action Plan was approved. The objectives of the Marketing Task Group were reviewed. The Board was briefed on the first meeting of the Strategic Planning Task Group.

Paul Daly – Board President

PARENT EDUCATION REVIEW – WHOLE SCHOOL
As a new parent at the School, I found the “Introduction to Montessori” parent information night a great first insight into the Montessori methodology. It was fascinating to hear about the history of the school and the life works of Dr Maria Montessori. Cathy and Sue took us through the main concepts of the Montessori system with passion and humour. As a parent, choosing the right school for my daughter has been a decision which I have not taken lightly, so it was very reassuring to hear the positive experiences of other families, especially around self-directed and individualised learning. Thank you Cathy and Sue for your hard work and dedication.

Susana Torrealba – Cycle 1 parent

TERM 1 CHATS – YULTIWIRRA
All Yultiwirra parents will be sent an email with a link that will take them to the “Interview Schedule portal!” for booking a Term 1 Chat. A notice is included in this newsletter which provides a step by step guide as to how to make this on-line booking.

Yultiwirra Term 1 Chats – parent/teacher interviews will be held in Week 9 (4th – 8th April). If you do not have access to a computer please phone or come into the office to make a booking.

The “Interview Schedule portal” will be open for only ONE WEEK (until Wed 30th March) to make interview bookings.

FREE CHILD CARE during interviews
If you require child care for your child/ren during the interview time please complete the slip that was sent home and return it to the office by Wednesday 30th March. Free Child Care is available for students 3 years and over during your interview time but BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. If you do not book you will be charged for this service as we need to know numbers for staff:student ratios. You must also sign your child/ren in and out when using this service, otherwise you will be billed.

Please note: this child care is separate to any previous OSHC bookings you may already have.

FESTIVAL OF ARTS – WHOLE SCHOOL
THURSDAY 31ST MARCH 6.00PM – 8.30PM
Next week on Thursday 31st March 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.

We offer a Dinner, Bar and Coffee & Cake for the event. We are looking for some volunteers to help – so let us know if you can assist on the night. An invitation was sent home to all school families with all the information needed and so you need to pre-order your food by tomorrow (Thursday).

Come join in the fun!!

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 BREAKFAST - YULTIWIRRA
Tomorrow, Thursday 24th March is our annual Community Breakfast to be held in the school courtyard at Yultiwirra (Anderson Road) commencing at 8.15am. All food needed to be pre-ordered. Food will only be served between 8.15 – 8.45am so please don’t be late! We hope to see you there!
INFANT PROGRAM
Clancy working hard at grating soap then using the egg beater to make bubbles.

CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL
As part of our Australian studies we were lucky enough to have some native Australian animals visit our preschool on Tuesday 8th March. We got to meet and learn about reptiles such as lizards, crocodiles, snakes and turtles, mammals such as the bettong and squirrel glider and an Eclectus parrot. It was a fantastic hands-on experience and the children were thrilled to watch the parrot fly and the sugar glider glide between handlers. The handlers also educated the children about what to do if they see a snake in the wild.

Jarvis “The bearded dragon ate a millipede off the floor”,
Saskia “The carpet python was two metres long”,
Joseph “The long neck turtle swims and eats fish”.

CYCLE 1 PRIMARY
This year in the Cycle 1 Primary classrooms, our major focus is on zoology for our Cultural Studies curriculum. So far the children have participated in the Importance of the Sun presentation, revisited the concepts of living/non-living and plant/animal and the classification of animals as vertebrate or invertebrate.

The children are now studying the classification of invertebrate animals in the marine environment. We have studied the types and parts of a poriferan (sponges), cnidarian (sea anemone, corals, jellyfish) and mollusc (octopus, sea snails, nudi branch, cockles etc). Everyone has enjoyed completing the booklets and examining exoskeleton specimens of each animal.

“The mouth of the octopus is hidden underneath” Sid
“The skeleton of the sponge is spiky” Seth
“Cuttlefish can change colours” Luca.

PE WITH LAUREN
It’s been a great start to the year. I’d like to thank the staff and parent community for their kind and warm welcome but most importantly to the wonderful young people who have come to PE each week with an enormous smile, enthusiasm and great individual spirit.

So far this term students across the primary school have been developing balance and movement skills through group games and team building activities. I look forward to an enjoyable end to the term as we learn some new skills in jumping & skipping.

Most Cycle 3 students have also had the opportunity to register for SAPSASA and participate in a Hills’ district swimming carnival as well as successfully completing the Bike SA and government supported Bike Education Program. The adolescent program students have spent the term developing skills in Tennis and will see the term out with a camp at Woodhouse and some lifestyle group activities.

CYCLE 2
Caring for class pets is an important part of the Montessori learning experience. At the end of 2015 our green tree frog Aurora passed away. She had been part of our class for eight years and we were all saddened by her death.

At the beginning of 2016 three leafy stick insects joined our class in a brand new cage. They are very attractive and we enjoy watching and holding them. We chose special names for each of them inspired by their colour. The two females are called Champagne and Goldie while the male is called Toffee.

Every Friday our Big Brother, Jamie and Big Sister, Yasmin help us to clean the insect house and collect fresh food (gum leaves).

Next term we are planning to breed more leafy stick insects. We are also looking forward to watching our insects moult.

CYCLE 3
On Friday the 4th March, Cycle 3 went to Caripook Park to do Clean Up Australia Day. Jamie and I found cans, glass, rubbish, paper and plastic. We sadly filled a big bag of rubbish but that means we have made a difference. I am really proud of what I have done!

Omar Ryan

In Week 5, Cycle 3 did something called ‘Bike Ed’. Bike Ed is where instructors come for a week and teach you how to ride a bike. The teachers were called Mai, James and Molly. For the Bike Ed we had to take our own bikes to school. I got my first geared bike for my 9th birthday. For the first two days we went down to the courts to train to go on the road. We practiced going around roundabouts and turning off roads. We learnt that there are two types of roads, a continuing road and a terminating road. On the third day we finally got to ride on the road all day. We went past my friend’s house and all around the suburb.

Alyssa Leonard

CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS (YR 10)
In the Adolescent Program we go out and we have experts come in whenever we can manage it...

Chef Grant Coates ran a knife skills and safety session with Year 7 students in Feeding the Community. Cold rolls were the result of much jullienne!

Local physiotherapist Caitlin Cormack from Pilates Proactive is stretching students’ understanding of joints in the musculoskeletal system and extending their postural awareness at the same time.
TERM 1 DIARY DATES
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
Thursday March 31
Festival of Arts evening – Yultiwirra Campus
6.00pm – 8.30pm
Week 9: April 4 - 8
Interview week @ Yultiwirra
Tuesday April 5
Open Day – Wairoa Campus Tours 10am & 11am
Executive Meeting 6.00pm
Thursday April 7
OH&S Meeting 4.00pm
Policy Meeting 4.30pm
Friday April 8
Wairoa cafe – 9.15am ‘Come along for a cuppa!’
Wairoa Campus – All Welcome!
Tuesday April 12
Parent Rep Meeting 2.30pm
Finance Meeting 6.00pm
Board Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday April 13
Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus
2.30pm – Parents Welcome!
Friday April 15
End of Term 1 2.00pm Finish
Monday April 18 – Monday May 2
Vacation Care Program
Monday April 25
ANZAC Day Public Holiday

KEY DATES FOR TERM 2
Tuesday May 3
Term 2 Begins
Tuesday May 24
AGM held at Yultiwirra – 6.30pm
Thursday May 26
Parent Get Together – Wairoa Café 9.15am
Thursday June 16
Cycle 1 & 2 Music concert – 6.30pm
Friday June 24
Parent Get Together – Yultiwirra 9.15am
Wednesday June 29 & Thursday June 30
Coffeehouse Cabaret - Wairoa

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

TERM DATES 2016
TERM 2: Tuesday 3rd May – Friday 8th July
TERM 3: Tuesday 26th July – Friday 30th September
TERM 4: Tuesday 18th October – Wednesday 14th December

OPEN DAY – YULTIWIRRA
Thank you to parents Krys Erceg, Honglin Ma, Nickie Stewart, Nikkie Green and Caroline Williams for volunteering to act as guides at our Open Day this week. Your help and generosity is appreciated.

HILLS READ A THON:
Included with this Newsletter is a form about the Hills Read A Thon which runs from 29th March – 6th May supporting the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.
This is open to primary school students and there are some great prizes to be won. Entry forms and all collected funds need to be returned to Matilda Bookshop, 8 Mt Barker Road, Stirling by Thursday, 12th May.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ORDERS: WHOLE SCHOOL
Several weeks ago Scholastic Book Club Catalogues were sent out to all families. Orders need to be placed on-line and close this Friday, 25th March.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY – WHOLE SCHOOL
The School Directory was sent home a couple of weeks ago. It is a time consuming job entering and checking all of the family data each year. Some phone numbers are listed as Silent for which consent has been given to print in the School Directory.
Please regard these numbers as confidential.
The School Directory is for Parent Use Only and must not be copied or used for business or promotional activity.
Please take the time to read all the important information the Directory contains and use it as a reference throughout the year.

COMMUNITY NEWS
PILATES FOR KIDS at Stirling: Would you like your child to experience the benefits of Pilates? The course is aimed to teach 8-12yr olds basic anatomy, the principles of good posture, improve flexibility and increase core strength. Classes are run in a non-competitive, social and fun setting, incorporating natural and varied movements, stretching and a period of relaxation at the end of each workshop. Classes (45 mins) are taught by qualified physiotherapists during school terms. Cost: $190.

Physio Pilates Proactive, 39 Mt Barker Road, Stirling Ph: 8339 3188

Yultiwirra Campus - 12 Anderson Road, Aldgate SA 5154
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