FROM THE PRINCIPAL…
It is with sadness that I announce to the school community that one of our longest servicing staff members, Julie Ratcliff, will be retiring from her teaching position in the school at the end of this term. Julie has worked in the school for 26 years and over the years Julie has taught hundreds of Cycle 2 children. She has been a much loved staff member who is known for her passion for Montessori education and for her commitment and dedication to our school in particular. I thank her for the love and care she has shown all of her students and I greatly appreciate Julie’s generosity of spirit – Julie always has gone way beyond the call of duty in all aspects of her work. Julie has made a significant contribution to our school and she will be sorely missed by staff, students and parents. We wish her well for her retirement and we have no doubt that Julie and her husband Rod will have many adventures ahead of them! I hope you enjoy reading the interview I recently conducted with Julie outlined below.

Julie leaves behind “big shoes to fill” however I am very pleased that Penny Raven, who has been teaching alongside Julie for the past few years, will take over the class fulltime as of 2017. Penny has been mentored by Julie for a number of years and I know that future Cycle 2 students are in ‘good hands’.

I know you will all join me in wishing Julie happiness and good health in her retirement.

Cathy France – Principal

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL!………………FAREWELL JULIE RATCLIFF

WHY HAVE YOU ENJOYED WORKING WITH CYCLE 2 CHILDREN?
For me I love that age group, I love their feistiness, their passion, their black & white personalities. I love the Montessori curriculum at that age group. It’s about exposing the child to the world at that age, introducing them to the wonder of culture and to the wonder of man and the world they interact in.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES YOU HAVE SEEN AT THE SCHOOL OVER THE YEARS?
Lots of building, and an increase in “red tape”! A huge increase in administrative responsibility. I have also seen the growth of the school from just being a preschool and primary school to now having an Infant Program and the establishment of a middle school. Something that hasn’t changed is the commitment and dedication of the staff.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE SCHOOL THAT HAS MADE YOU WANT TO STAY HERE AND WORK HERE FOR SO LONG?
It’s about the relationships that a Montessori classroom enables you to have between the child and yourself, and the family. It’s a privilege to teach a child for three years and really get to know them and sometimes I’ve had families in my class, teaching all of the siblings for 12 continuous years!! That has been wonderful! Teaching the joy and wonder of the cosmic education curriculum is like a big adventure and I shall miss that.

WHAT IS A FAVOURITE MEMORY THAT YOU HAVE FROM YOUR TIME HERE?
It’s seeing some of the children that I have taught develop into adventurous and responsible adults and seeing them become parents themselves. I love the studies of Asia work, the camping in the bush in the early days and camps in general. Teaching the cosmic education curriculum is like watching sparks going off in the children, you have the central fire which is the core knowledge and then things spark off and the children lead you in many pathways - that’s exciting! I’ve really liked how many of the parents over the years have contributed to the class and enriched the class, that has been really important.

WHAT WILL YOU MISS ABOUT THE HILLS MONTESSORI SCHOOL?
I’ll miss the collegiality of staff and I’ll definitely miss the children. I will miss the curriculum! I’ll miss going to the Sydney Montessori conference refresher course. I’ll miss the traditions that we’ve built up in our classroom such as the traffic tallying and T-Ball. I will have a warm memory of it all, of a job well done. I will miss the big school fundraising events and I still plan to be a part of them!

WHAT WILL YOU DO IN YOUR RETIREMENT?
I’ll keep visiting my grandchildren in whichever part of Australia they live in. I’ll keep caring for my aging father. I’m going to go to Tai Chi more than once a week so I can remember all of the 108 steps! I’m going to read a book regularly! And of course there is gardening and travelling.

PARTING WORDS
Always aim for the stars, expect the most of your children and enjoy it!
School News

PARENT GET TOGETHER - WAIROA CAFE
Spring is Sprung! Café
Looking for a great atmosphere, beautiful surroundings, delicious cake and good, hot coffee?

Come along to the Wairoa Spring Café on Thursday 17 Nov 9.15am
Bring your friends and family along,
142 Old Mt Barker RD, Stirling, 5154.
Turn up the ‘private drive’ and go all the way to the top!

STIRLING CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
The date for this year’s Stirling Christmas Pageant is...
Sunday 20th November.
The pageant-wide theme for this year is ‘Aussie Christmas’.
Our school interpretation of this theme is...
‘The last chip on the beach!’

All children and adults will dress as sea gulls, squawking, flapping and squabbling while greedily following a single giant chip. Wairoa students will create a giant seagull puppet to add height and movement to this humorous scene. A team of Wairoa students and staff have taken on the creative design and construction and will work with Yultiwirra students to help construct costumes.
The key parent contact person is Anthea Hagar. If you have any questions talk to Anthea or ask at the school office.

HELP NEEDED WITH BUSH WEEディング
Calling on parents and friends to help maintain our school bush. Are you available to help pull out young broom plants? Barbara Colquhoun (past preschool teacher) will be at school on the next three Monday afternoons to facilitate the work. That is Mon 21st & 28th November and 5th December. If you have any time between 1.30 and 4pm she will be in the bush around the carpark. Barb will have some cycle 3 volunteers to help and they would get so much more done if they had many hands! With the wet weather this year there has been a ‘good’ germination of broom. These young plants can be pulled out while the ground is still damp. All you need is a pair of gardening gloves, a screw driver and suitable clothes. Please let the office know if you can help or just turn up!

FAMILY DATA BASE CHECK – WHOLE SCHOOL
Soon you will be sent a link to your Parent Portal to check your child and family’s data. You will be able to make any changes necessary and update your data and then submit it to our admin staff for checking prior to it entering our database. This is another new technology that we are implementing and in the future if and when your contact &/or health information changes you will be able to submit updates online throughout the year. It is vital that we have up to date contact & health information for each student. We also use this data to prepare the School Directory during the school holidays, ready to distribute early next year. When you receive the email link, please make this a priority.

WORKING BEE THANK YOU
A big thank you to our Working Bee volunteers for their efforts last Sunday. They whipped snipped, shovelled, raked, chopped, constructed and built their way through a day that was wet, cold, and not particularly inviting!

Special mention to Georgia Richmond for her organisation and to Mark Baryczka and Paul Evangelista for their guidance. Thank you to Vanessa Baryczka and Rom Evangelista who kept everyone fed and watered...extremely important! We truly appreciate the time and effort that went into the day. There were some very excited children heading down to the bush this week to make the most of the bush play area!

2017 CALENDAR
The beautiful 2017 fundraising calendar is only $15 and there is a limited amount available! So get your orders in quickly and don’t miss out!
A great Christmas present for your friends and family!!
Support the school and place your orders now. Calendars available until sold out!
Purchase the calendar directly from the office.

CRAZY HAIR DAY - YULTIWIRRA
Friday 18th November is Crazy Hair Day. We are raising funds for World Vision. Participants are asked to bring a gold coin donation which the student leaders will collect throughout the day.
Some crazy hair ideas are: Glitter gel, coloured hairspray, pipe cleaners, feathers etc. Check out the posters around the school for more information and inspiration!

2017 FEES & PAYMENT OPTIONS, OSHC REGISTRATION & ANNUAL SCHOOL FEE INVOICING
In the October school holidays, the School Board President’s 2017 Fees Letter and associated 2017 Fees Schedule, 2017 Fee Payment Option form, and OSHC Registration form were emailed to all current families. These forms are now due to be returned to the School; however, if you wish to retain your existing payment option for 2017, there is no need for you to return the 2017 Fee Payment Option form.
From 2017, the School will be invoicing families for the whole year’s school fees in January, as opposed to termly billing. Please note that this will not affect school fee payment options, and school fee statements will be periodically issued to families with payment reminders, where applicable.

2017 SCHOOL FEE ASSISTANCE – WHOLE SCHOOL
Applications for 2017 school fee financial assistants have been emailed to those families who applied in 2016, and returns are now due. We invite other families to contact the office if you are interested in receiving an Application for Fees Assistance 2017 form.
INFANT PROGRAM
Activities using water are always popular and Xander is putting a lot of effort into scrubbing the chair clean.

CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL
In cultural studies this term we have revisited the characteristics of living and non-living things and discussed the differences/similarities of vertebrates and invertebrates. We are now learning about invertebrates with a focus on arthropods i.e. insects, arachnids and crustaceans. The children have had the opportunity to explore a variety of language material including the parts of an insect, and sorting animals into different categories. To assist us with our learning Penny and Julie’s class have kindly lent us their spiny leaf insects to care for and observe. A big thank you to Frances and Rebecca (Cycle 2 students) for coming to our mat time to teach us how to care for them. The children are enjoying this topic and are often searching the yard for specimens to investigate.

CYCLE 1 PRIMARY
This term our class has been inspired by the artist Georgia O’Keeffe. We have enjoyed creating large, bright flowers with petals that come right off the page. ‘When you look at a flower closely enough it becomes your world’ - Sandro
“We made big, big flowers that go off the page” - Elienne
“The flowers are so huge that you can barely see the stem” - Annabelle
“It’s so big, loads of the petals come off the page” - Luca
“We made the petals go right off the page” - Harvey
“All the flowers look so beautiful” - Lachlan
“We painted poppies” - Sophia

CYCLE 2
This term we have been learning about different festivals and celebrations around the world. The students have made some beautiful string art pieces. We have had the police visit our school to talk about bullying and also a clinic about being a responsible pet owner. Last week as part of P.E. both Cycle 2 classes ventured down to Cross Road Bowls to use the skills they had been learning at school with Lauren. My proudest moments were watching the students support and cheer each other. There were pats on the back, group hugs and high fives whenever students got a strike, spare or performed a good bowl.

CYCLE 3
On Friday 28th October, Detective Senior Sergeant Trevor Rea came to our school to talk to Cycle 3 about Cyber bullying and Cyber safety. He showed us some videos full of facts. He told us, if we see a mean comment online, don’t delete it or don’t erase it. If you can print it out and give it to a teacher or another trusted adult, your parents and then the police. He told us to be active bystanders and try to stop bullying.

Trevor told us some really good tips on how to stay safe online. I really hope more people get to know these things. I learnt a lot from it and enjoyed the presentation.

Extracts from Ally Smith and Rhianna Leske

CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS
Community meeting in the adolescent program.

INDONESIAN WITH LYNDAL
The whole school recently enjoyed a cultural performance put on by the Australia Indonesia Youth Exchange Project (AIYEP) which showcased culture from the 18 participating provinces. Most classes have got to know our AIYEP exchange student; Ibu Rini from Bangka Belitung province who has been kindly hosted by the Sierp family for three weeks. In the classrooms, Cycle 3 students recently enjoyed a visit from the Flinders University Jembaran (Bridge) project where they participated in a dance and were shown the rudiments of batik making, and continue to enjoy activities around our focus on verbs. Complementing the success some Cycle 4 students experienced communicating on their Bali Trip, we point out that many other students successfully entered fluent and considered entries in the national NAILA speaking awards. This year Polly Shaw placed Runner-Up in her ‘Middle’ (year 9 and 10) division. We had a special dinner in honour of her achievement at the Casa Luna Jazz Club, in Ubud, Bali. Please enjoy her subtitled speech (see link below) which has galvanised all students as we think about possible speech topics for 2017. https://youtu.be/jqKTYvEh6hU
**TERM 4 DIARY DATES** *(for the coming fortnight)*

**Thursday November 17**  
Wairoa café 9.15 – All Welcome!  
**That Sugar Film** — 4pm-6pm — screening at Wairoa — CANCELLED

**Sunday November 20**  
Stirling Christmas Pageant

**Monday November 21 – Wednesday November 23**  
Adolescent Program Extended Expedition  
Duke of Edinburgh students

**Tuesday November 22**  
Sharing Assembly & Volunteers thank you morning tea

**Wednesday November 23 – Friday November 25**  
Adolescent Program Outdoor Ed Camp  
All Cycle 4 students  
Cycle 3 Outdoor Ed Camp

**Thursday November 24**  
Policy Meeting 4pm

**Tuesday November 29**  
SPTG Meeting 6.00pm

**Friday December 2**  
2017 Class Transition session 9.30-10.30am

**FUTURE KEY DATES FOR TERM 4**

**Wednesday December 7**  
Year 6 Graduation

**Friday December 9**  
Middle School Exhibition of Work & Learning  
Cycle 4 Graduation

**Monday December 12**  
End of Year Concert

**Wednesday December 14**  
Term 4 Ends – 2pm finish

**VACATION CARE**

**DECEMBER 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017**

To help with your summer holiday planning you may wish to take note of the Vacation Care dates over December 2016 and January/February 2017.

Vacation Care will run from:
- **THURS 15th Dec. 2016 – WED 21st Dec 2016**
- **THURS 22nd December 2016 – FRIDAY 6th January 2017.**
- **Vacation Care will reopen:**  
  - Monday 9th January 2017 and run until Monday 6th February 2017

**“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK!**

You may not know that the school now has a Facebook page! Our Facebook page is another way we can communicate with parents. ‘Like’ us on Facebook to keep up to date with school community news, events and activities. Type ‘The Hills Montessori School’ into your Facebook web browser and look for our school logo.

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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“The first essential for the child’s development is concentration. The child who concentrates is immensely happy.”  
Maria Montessori

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**TERM DATES 2016**

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

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**TERM DATES 2017**

**TERM 1:** Tuesday 7th February - Thursday 13th April  
**TERM 2:** Tuesday 2nd May – Friday 7th July  
**TERM 3:** Tuesday 25th July – Friday 29th September  
**TERM 4:** Tuesday 17th October – Wednesday 13th December

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**FIRE WOOD**

Stock up for next winter!! The school has firewood available for sale - $25 for a car boot load or $50 per 6 x 4 trailer load. Register your interest at the school office and then we can organise collection and payment.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

E-book titles from The Montessori Mystery Unveiled are now available on Kindle Unlimited in Australia! For only $13.99 AUD per month, you can now borrow Montessori education e-books by Mary Da Prato as well as many other Montessori titles by contemporary authors on www.amazon.com.au. This is an excellent opportunity to foster 21st century Montessori parent education through e-book borrowing.

If you missed the **Parents in Education Week** that was held in September, you are still able to view the **recorded sessions online** until late December 2016. Delivered by renowned international and national child development and learning experts, these sessions provide practical parenting tips and easy-to-use strategies to support children’s learning at every age and stage. To find out more, or to view an online session, visit www.decd.sa.gov.au/2016PIEWeek

Montessori families, close friends and ex students are all invited to join an art focused play group at The Barn after School Thursdays 3.45 – 5.15pm (through term times) at Wairoa 142 Mt Barker Rd, Stirling. Cost is $5 per child or $50 for the term. For more info or to register interest contact Amy (Ruby and Sash’a mum) 0431 187 558 www.thebarnwebsite.com

**MT BARKER SA DENTAL SERVICE** – Dental care is FREE for all babies, children not yet at school and most other children under 18 years old at school dental service clinics. The local clinic is at Mt Barker Primary School located on Dumas Street. First dental check ups are recommended between 12 – 18 months of age. Call 8391 0858 to make an appointment.

**INPOT ARTS WORKSHOPS** – Workshops for Term 4 - Drama Games with Delia Olam, Summer Splash!! – Street Theatre with Chiara Gabrielli, Stillwalking & Juggling for 9-15 year olds with Tony Hanna, Adelaide Hills Ukulele Group with Christopher Carr & Circus Expressions of Interest for workshops for 4-6 year olds and 7-9 year olds to talk place Monday afternoons after school with Jess Pierce. Go to www.inpotcom , email quill@inkpot.com.au or call 0429 673 327 for further information.

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**QUILL**

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