FROM THE PRINCIPAL…

Another full, positive and successful year is drawing to an end………
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff; both teachers and school assistants, for their passion and energy for their work and dedication throughout the year. They are an amazing team of people and their contributions, input and care contribute to making our school the wonderful, unique and vibrant place that it is. They certainly all deserve a well-earned break! Thanks also to our Child Care and OSHC workers who work tirelessly throughout the year and provide a wonderful service and particularly to OSHC coordinator Sammi Rolt and Child Care coordinator Narelle Kenning. Sincere thanks also to the admin staff; Susan Harris Evans, Paul Noon, Jodie Searle and Gab Tooth for all that they have done to ensure things run smoothly on a day-to-day basis.

We farewell Stacey Lamb who is taking maternity leave in 2017 and we wish Stacey, Lex and Tully love and happiness during this special time in their lives with the approaching birth of their new family member. We also wish Tim Moore happy times with his family as he takes six months’ leave in Terms 1 & 2. We also farewell Vanessa Inkster who has worked as a school assistant in Cycle 1 this term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parent community who have volunteered and helped in some way this year. As a small, parent/staff managed school we rely heavily on parental assistance and support and truly value your involvement and contributions whatever they might be. Parent involvement enhances, either directly or indirectly, the educational experiences for all of our students and contributes to maintaining a positive, supportive school community.

Most importantly, thank you to the students who make our work meaningful, bring light into our lives each day and life into our school.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

This evening the Year 6 (Cycle 3) Graduation Ceremony will be held in the hall at Yultiwirra. Graduates, families, staff and Board members look forward to listening to the graduates speak and recalling the memories of their time in Cycles 1, 2 & 3, outlining their achievements and taking the opportunity to thank those people in their life who have supported them along their journey thus far. After the formal part of the evening, the graduates and a few staff will enjoy a meal at a local restaurant to celebrate the end of a great year for these senior students.

This Friday the middle school students hold their Exhibition of Work and Learning followed by the Year 9 (Cycle 4) Graduation. This is a wonderful event where parents, staff, families and friends come to view all Wairoa students’ work and achievements and then celebrate the graduation of Year 9 students completing Cycle 4. It is also an opportunity to congratulate and farewell Year 10 students who have completed their senior year. Some of our Year 9 students will stay to complete Year 10 in 2017 whilst others are moving to other senior secondary schools. Following the graduation speeches and Exhibition of Learning the Wairoa students and staff have a sit down dinner together at Wairoa and then a ‘party’ that the students have organised themselves.

These graduation celebrations have become embedded in our school traditions and are a rite of passage for these students. Thank you to Christine Perry, Stacey Lamb & Natalie Costello (Cycle 3 teachers) and Pippa Milroy, Tim Moore & Dave Coulter (Wairoa teaching staff) for all of the wonderful programs you offered these students throughout the year and the assistance you provided in helping the graduating students prepare for the transition and next part of their educational journey.

We acknowledge the following graduating students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cycle 3 – Year 6 Graduates</th>
<th>Cycle 4 – Year 9 Graduates</th>
<th>Senior Year – Year 10 Students</th>
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<td>Remi Afnan</td>
<td>Julia Ericse</td>
<td>Cassandra Buringa</td>
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<td>Lizzie Barter</td>
<td>Harry Evans</td>
<td>Oliver Izzard</td>
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<td>Camilla Brown</td>
<td>Anastasia Murphy</td>
<td>Jamie Smigielski</td>
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<td>Ethan Mudge</td>
<td>Charlie Evans</td>
<td>Natalie Kenning</td>
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<td>Elroy Rooney</td>
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<td>Kaitlin Tapscott</td>
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<td>Taran Sanderson</td>
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<td>Dave Coulter</td>
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<td>Ruby Sierp</td>
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<td>Alana Roberts</td>
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<td>Ally Smith</td>
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<td>Joseph Wilkinson</td>
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<td>Natalie Kenning</td>
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END OF YEAR CONCERT

6.30pm Monday 12th Dec
For the Whole School Community

On the evening of Monday 12th December we will join together, in the hall at Yultiwirra as a school community to celebrate the end of the year and enjoy performances by the students.

Preschool & primary students will be performing on the night.

We hope you can all come as this is an evening for everyone. Limited seating will be available & families are welcome to bring a rug to sit on the floor.

6.30pm Welcome & class performances and farewell to graduating students.

8.15pm approx. finish
2017 FAMILY WELCOME - WHOLE SCHOOL
At the beginning of every year we hold a Family Welcome and invite all families (Infant Program, Pre-school, Primary & Middle School) from all Cycles to come along to meet and chat with other families, both new and existing and with the staff. This night takes the form of drinks and nibbles – BYO drinks and glasses - nibbles are provided. The hills Montessori School is about creating a national movement to encourage us all to consider what we do not have space to store the donations please talk to the office staff about storage options.

Next year the Family Welcome will be held at the end of Week 1, Friday 10th February 2017 from 6.00 – 7.30pm.

This has always been a terrific social function and a good way to start the year. Please put the date in your diary - we hope you can come along and join in!

FAMILY DATA BASE CHECK – WHOLE SCHOOL
Each family has been 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.

2017 FUNDRAISER
The Hills Montessori School will be holding a HUGE garage sale as a part of the national Garage Sale Trail in early Term 4, 2017.

Every year the average Australian family produces enough waste to fill a 3-bedroom home. The rate of growth of waste Australians churn out has grown six times faster than the population!

If you are doing a pre-Xmas spring clean or Summer Holidays clear out, please put aside items for the Garage Sale. If you do not have space to store the donations please talk to the office staff about storage options.

Garage Sale Trail is about creating a national movement to encourage us all to consider what we use, what we can reuse and the impact we all make on the planet.

Ideas for garage sale items include: Baby gear, kids clothes, toys (in good condition), sporting equipment, bicycles, household items (cutlery, crockery), furniture, music, books, plants, gardening equipment, tools.

Please note: Items must be in good condition. No electrical items. For large items such as furniture, please check at the office before donating.

All proceeds will go directly to the school.

REMINDER CHECK LIST:
☐ Check Family Data Base and update contact and health records by the end of year.
☐ Notify the office of any changes to 2017 Payment Options as payment amounts are now being calculated and any changes are needed urgently.
☐ Check Lost Property hanging in the courtyard
☐ Clean out any Student pigeon holes
☐ Return all library books.
☐ Pay private music tuition accounts.
☐ Return OSHC 2017 Registration Form
☐ Book any Vacation Care if required.
☐ Outstanding fees – please ensure that if you have any amounts that you are paying yourself, that these are finalised by the end of the year.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER – CAN YOU HELP?
We are seeking donations for a ‘Christmas Hamper’ to support a family known to our community. This young family of 4 children has recently experienced significant trauma with the sudden loss of both parents and we know that they would greatly appreciate any support. Donations of items such as non-perishable food, gift vouchers for grocery and clothing stores, toys suitable for children aged between 4 and 13 years, (boys aged 4, 8 & 13 and a girl aged 10) would be of great assistance, and would bring a little happiness. Please bring your donations to the school office by Wednesday 14th December. Thank you for your anticipated support.

VACATION CARE
DECEMBER 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017
We are pleased to be able to offer Vacation Care for our students. Vacation Care will run from: 15th Dec. 2016 – 21st Dec 2016 and then reopening on Monday 9th January 2017 until Monday 6th February 2017. The OSHC staff have been working hard to prepare a new and exciting program for the children. I encourage you to look carefully through the program that has been sent home this week.

We ask that families return the completed booking sheet by Monday 12th December so that we can begin to organise staffing and confirm excursion bookings.

Something special for Christmas:
WIN a beautiful GINGERBREAD HOUSE full of delicious treats (on display in the office). Tickets are available now for only $2. They will also be on sale at the End of Year Concert Monday night. Many thanks to Ros Evans for making it for us (grandparent of Charlie & Harry Evans).

LIBRARY
Reminder notes are being sent home with children. Please ensure all library books are returned no later than last day of school. Any outstanding books will be charged to your account.

WAIROA REPORTS
Wairoa Term 4 reports will be posted to families the week after school ends.

TERM 4 DIARY DATES (for the coming week)
Wednesday December 7
Year 6 Graduation 6.00pm

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

Monday December 12
End of Year Concert 6.30pm

Tuesday December 13
Cycle 3 Excursion to the Ice Arena
Wairoa Big Day Out – excursion to Henley Beach
Finance Meeting 6.00pm
Board Meeting 7.30pm

Wednesday December 14
Term 4 Ends – 2pm finish

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