FROM THE PRINCIPAL…
The Stirling Christmas pageant was held last Sunday and once again we had a
great number of students participate. Our sincere thanks go to Miranda Hampton
(Cycle 4 assistant) and the ‘Making an Impact’ student team in the adolescent
program at Wairoa for their efforts in pulling together the float, costumes and
construction of the giant chip and seagull. They expertly designed and helped to
create the wonderfully creative float; ‘The Last Chip on the Beach’!
Congratulations to everyone involved, we’re VERY proud to announce that we
took out Best Float this year in a tie with Stirling District Kindy.  Adelaide Hills
Mayor Bill Spragg who judged the floats said the originality of the idea together
with the impact of so many seagulls loudly squabbling for the last chip made the
float stand out and congratulated organisers.  This is such a wonderful school
occasion that unites our students and campuses and also a great opportunity to
engage with the wider community. Our “school entry” was once again visually
stunning, and the participation rate and subsequent “size” of our entry portrays a
very positive message of unity and a strong sense of community, whilst increasing
the profile of the school. Thanks to all of the parents and staff who assisted in
some way and supported this event. And thank you to the children for their
enthusiastic participation!

Cathy France – Principal

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE
On Sunday the 13th November The First Lego League Yultiwirra
Team (Lizzie Barter, Ruby Sierp, Jack Clark, Jorja Hansen,
Ethan Mudge, Jamie Smigelski, Kit Erhart Bruce and Hayden
Abrahams) from The Hills Montessori School went to Prince
Alfred College to participate in the First Lego League
Competition.

In the competition there were two main aspects: The Robert
Games and The Project. For The Robot Games we designed
and built a robot that we named Harambe because we thought
it sort of looked like a gorilla. This robot had to compete in a
series of challenges that we programmed it to do. For the
project aspect we designed a machine to entertain
chimpanzees.

We enjoyed competing in the challenges. We learnt to work
together even though we found that tricky at the beginning of
the challenge as we couldn’t agree on things. We also learnt
not to get frustrated even though it was stressful on the day.

We would like to thank our coach Leith Mudge for his time,
support and expertise.

Lizzie Barter, Ruby Sierp, Ethan Mudge, Jamie Smigelski

END OF YEAR CONCERT – WHOLE SCHOOL
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 STAFFING - WHOLE SCHOOL**

We have now completed our staffing arrangements for 2017 and as you can see below, there will be a few changes.

- **Tim Moore** will be taking 6 months’ leave and **Ben Noble** will be replacing Tim at Wairoa in Terms 1 & 2. We welcome Ben to our staff and school community.
- **Alice Nisbet** returns from parenting leave working 2½ days per week at Wairoa.
- **Stacey Lamb** will be taking maternity/parenting leave.
- **Natalie Costello** (Mon-Thurs) & **Suzie Saffin** (Fri) will share the Cycle 3 class.
- **Christine Perry** (Mon-Wed & Fri) & **Suzie Saffin** (Thurs) will share the other Cycle 3 class.
- **Maree Clarke** will be taking Long Service Leave in Term 1 and **Lauren Kervers** will replace Maree at Yultiwirra teaching a dance program for one term working two days per week.
- **Terri Ross-Mariott** will reduce time working three days per week (Mon-Wed) in the preschool & **Sammi Rolt** will work two days (Thurs/Fri) in Emily’s classroom.
- **Attila Nandori** returns to his PE teaching role 3 days per week (2 days @ Yultiwirra & 1 day @ Wairoa).
- **Penny Raven** will work 5 days per week in the Cycle 2 classroom replacing **Julie Ratcliff** who is retiring.
- **Lisa Goodwin** will continue to work 3 days per week (Mon-Wed) in the Cycle 1 classroom sharing with **Denise Connelly** two days per week (Thurs/Fri).
- **Tristen Turner** will continue to work 3 days per week (Mon-Wed) in the Cycle 1 Preschool classroom sharing with **Susan Harris Evans** two days per week (Thurs/Fri).

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**BOARD COMMUNIQUE**

The Environmental and Strategic Risks section of the Risk Management Plan was discussed. The Board discussed the first draft of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan. The draft had been prepared using the input provided by parents, staff and students. The updated “Parent/Caregiver Authorisations” policy was discussed and ratified.

*Paul Daly – Board President*

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**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.

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**2017 CLASS PLACEMENT - WHOLE SCHOOL**

Notification of class placements for primary classes for 2017 were sent home to families last week. All parents of primary students should have received this. A transition session has been organised for all primary students to move to their new class and meet their 2017 class mates and teacher/s THIS Friday 2nd December from 9.30 - 10.30am.

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**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.
**INFANT PROGRAM**
Oscar and Dad Alex are sharing a father/son moment listening to ‘Down by the Station’ together.

**CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL**
In the preschool we have been enjoying the benefits of the warmer weather in our outdoor area. This has led to a focus on care of environment activities which have including watering, moving plants, weeding and helping to spread our diluted worm juice. Children have also enjoyed picking and arranging flowers, making rivers in the sandpit, finding invertebrates, having pretend and real picnics and making homes for snails. Here Amelia is collecting the just ripened fruit from our mulberry tree, one of the lovely gifts that our garden brings.

**CYCLE 1 PRIMARY**
Ruth and Attila’s (and Tony’s) Cycle One class held their annual classroom cafe (tea rooms) last week. The children worked very hard to organise this event. The many prior tasks included: cooking and preparing the food; creating a menu to show their guest; sign making; rearranging the classroom furniture; setting the tables and rehearsing table waiting. Georgia described the tea rooms: ‘All the mums and dads or someone special came and we carried the tea and carried the food’. When waiting on their guest, the children needed to take their order and remember it!, then serve the order. Charli said ‘I liked it when my mum helped me put the tea on the table cos my baby was there’. After the guests had been served the children were rewarded as Jet commented: ‘I liked it when we got to eat the food’. Jarvis said ‘I got four scones!’ We would like to thank everyone for attending and for helping to make this a memorable and fun event.

**CYCLE 2**
In week 5, for the first time, the Cycle Two Choir gave a performance just for their parents. The choir learns such a variety of songs over the year and only gets to perform some of them.
So, the Cycle 2 teachers decided to hold a performance for Cycle 2 parents only and sing as many songs as we could fit in! We were very pleased to see so many parents and family attend and of course the choir sang seven songs with energy and enthusiasm. It was lovely to hear Megan speak about her days in the choir when she was a member of Julie’s class and how much she enjoyed teaching the choir now. On Friday, this week, the Choir will perform four songs at the Stirling library as part of the library’s Christmas program. Everybody is welcome to attend from 11.30am. Our final performance for the year will be at the end of year concert in week 9. I would like to thank all of the children for their commitment and effort which has made this one of the most successful choir experiences.

**CYCLE 3**
Cycle Three ventured to Port Hughes for their annual aquatics camp. They braved the wind and spent the first afternoon doing beach activities. Luckily the weather fined up for beach sports, kayaking and snorkeling the next day. Many students stepped out of their comfort zone to try new things and showed great persistence and support for one another. Students came together as a community to help in the running of camp by cooking meals and maintaining the camp site. Much fun was had by all.

“It was one of the best experiences in Cycle 3 so far.” Michael Evans.
“I want to thank Wilderness Escape for hosting the camp and all the parents for spending their personal time helping us out.” Joseph Wilkinson.

**CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS**
Last week our intrepid travellers embarked on yet another journey, this time for an aquatic-based camp. Senior students left on Monday for their kayak expedition, meeting the rest of the Wairoa community in Clayton Bay on Wednesday. Braving the elements and some prehistoric-sized mozzies, campers had surfing lessons, kayaked, engaged in team building challenges, and of course, took part in the highly prestigious Trangia Cook-Off. A special thanks goes to Adam Saffin and Nick Glover who led the Kayak crew.

**INDONESIAN WITH ELLIS**
A few weeks ago the whole school community enjoyed the Indonesian Cultural Performances by the Australian Indoensian Youth Exchange Program. The experience gave an additional opportunity for Cycle 2 students to recognise specific cultural meanings and identify similarities and differences. They also wrote a personal recount - below are some their comments:

“I learnt that the costumes have different names (e.g. ‘baju kurung’).”

“They talked to us about the costumes, how all the colours represent something.”

“Green costumes mean the wearer is related to a king or queen.”

“The costumes were really interesting, they come from different parts of Indonesia.”

“Where Ibu Rini comes from it is easy to tell whether the ladies have married or not. Married women wear red and unmarried women wear purple.”

“I had a very fun time because I got to learn more about Indonesia.”
TERM 4 DIARY DATES (for the coming fortnight)
Friday December 2
2017 Class Transition session 9.30-10.30am
11am – Cycle 2 choir singing at Stirling Library

Tuesday December 6
Facilities Meeting 8am - Yulliwiwra
Wairoa Graduate Forum 1.30pm
Executive Meeting 6.00pm

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
Finance Meeting 6.00pm
Board Meeting 7.30pm

Wednesday December 14
Term 4 Ends – 2pm finish

VACATION CARE
DECEMBER 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017
We are pleased to be able to offer Vacation Care for our students from 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 is being sent home next 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.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK!
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.

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

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“The child does not develop the power to walk upright by waiting for it, but by walking.”
Maria Montessori

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS
LOST - Remi has lost a very precious water bottle - all white with the label ‘RAPHA’. Can parents please check because it may have gone home accidentally. Please contact Sandra on 0412 399 412.

COVENTRY STIRLING LIBRARY – Children’s Christmas Crafts on Wednesday 21st December 10am – 12pm. Join us in the school holidays to make & create a wreath, beautiful ornaments for your tree & more. For more information please contact Jo on 8408 0400.

CHILD & ADOLESCENT SLEEP CLINIC – in the School of Psychology at Flinders University provides treatment for children & adolescents of all ages. We will be open throughout the summer school holidays – help your child sleep better before the start of the new school year! For more information please call 8201 7587 or email casc.enquiries@finders.edu.au.

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 Infant Program
REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR 2017
- Nurtures interest and curiosity
- Fosters independence, self-discipline and concentration
- Trained & experienced co-ordinator supporting parents
- A beautiful bushland setting

Montessori School
0-3yrs
Come & try for free!