FROM THE PRINCIPAL…

I would like to welcome students, parents and staff to the 2017 school year. I particularly welcome the new staff, students and families and look forward to their involvement and input into our school. The beginning of the year for teaching staff is a time to prepare, plan, discuss ideas and programs with colleagues, think about professional goals for the year and discuss and prepare for the individual needs of the students in their class. Also at the beginning of the year it is an opportunity to undertake professional learning. One of the areas of professional development for staff this year is ‘Monitoring Student Learning’.

Suzie Saffin (Cycle 3 teacher) has taken on a leadership role this year to present professional development sessions to staff. We will be looking at ways we record student development and achievement, assessment of student learning, moderation of student work and analysing our processes around reporting student progress to parents. Our first session with Suzie was held last Friday.

Over the past few years we have had a key focus each year. This year we have decided it will be the “Year of Community” at our school. We pride ourselves on having a strong sense of community within our school. However, community extends beyond our school to our local community, the wider community and the global community. We will be encouraging our students throughout the year to think about the contributions and impact they can make on these communities. One of our school values is ….

“We believe that education of individuals is for the betterment of humankind.” This is a strong tenet of the Montessori philosophy. As educators and adults working with young people, to achieve this goal, we need to help them find their ‘niche’ in the world so they can work out how they can contribute positively to society and their communities. Together as a community we can guide and inspire each of our students to become the best person that they can be so they can contribute and make their world a better place.

I hope 2017 is a positive and fulfilling year for everyone full of wonderful learning, and many opportunities to contribute positively to community.

Cathy France – Principal

STAFFING NEWS

We welcome the following new staff members to our school and staff team: Ben Noble (Cycle 4 teacher), Anthea Hagar (Community Engagement Officer), Gabrielle Maher (Wairoa Art & Gardening Specialist) and Leah Johns (Cycle 1 School Assistant).

This term Maree Clarke is on Long Service Leave and we welcome back Lauren Kervers who will teach a dance program this term in Maree’s absence.

FAREWELLS & NEW APPOINTMENTS

It is with regret that at the very end of 2016, Laura Rae stepped down from her position as Student Wellbeing Worker. We thank Laura for the great work she did whilst in the position. We wish her all the very best for the future.

This position has recently been advertised and the school community will be informed once a new staff member has been appointed to the position.

We are very pleased to have created the new staffing position this year: Community Engagement Officer. Anthea, who has taken on this role will work at promoting and marketing our school both within our school community and also out in the wider community.

FAMILY WELCOME

FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

6.00 – 7.30PM.

All families: Infant Program, Pre-school, Primary & Middle School from all Cycles are invited to come along to meet and chat with staff and other families, both new and existing. This night will take the form of drinks and nibbles in the Yultiwirra courtyard – BYO drinks and glasses and nibbles will be provided. An invite has been emailed to all families and a hard copy sent home on the first day of this term. Entertainment has been organised for the children to enjoy in the hall whilst parents mingle in the courtyard. This has always been a terrific social function and a good way to start the year.

We hope you can come along and join in!

FAMILY WELCOME NIGHT

Entertainment for all students!

Parent Welcome for all parents!
TRANSPORT TO & FROM SCHOOL
Primary students who will be travelling regularly on a bus service from school or walking or riding their bike home must fill in a TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FORM with parents giving consent and details of the arrangements made for their child. We will send forms home to anyone we currently know who catches the bus or walks home; however if you do not receive one of these forms this week please come to the office to complete the required details.

PRIVATE MUSIC TUITION
The school has arrangements with specialist music teachers to provide private music lessons for primary/middle school students during school hours for Piano, Guitar or Ukulele, Voice or Drums.
If your child would like to commence learning an instrument, please collect a form from the school office.

CHESS CLUB
Chess is a great learning tool that enables children to develop the basic thinking skills that are used when playing chess: problem solving, forward planning, lateral, logical and sequential thinking as well as memory, visualisation and verbalisation.

David Koestler from SA Chess Association offers Chess Club after school starting on Thursday 16th February and continuing on a weekly basis. Chess Club is being offered to Primary & Adolescent Program students. Chess club operates from 3.30-4.30pm. Please collect a notice and consent form from the office if your child is interested.

PARENT GET TOGETHERS
Parent get togethers (coffee mornings) will continue this year with two being scheduled for each term. This is an opportunity for parents to meet, mingle and chat. One get together will be held at Yultiwirra and one at Wairoa campus. All parents are invited to both occasions no matter which campus your child attends!

The “Wairoa Café” is a great opportunity to visit the Wairoa campus where the adolescent students will be providing coffee & cake as part of their micro-economy enterprises. Please make a note of the two dates and place them in your diary – “come along and have a cuppa!”

Thursday 2nd March – 9.15am – Wairoa Campus
Monday 27th March – 9.15am – Yultiwirra Campus

FIRE PROCEDURES
The Fire procedures are included as an insert in this Newsletter to inform families of school procedures in the case of a bushfire. Please read the procedures carefully so you are well informed. We hope this prompts you to review your own family Bushfire Action Plan taking into consideration the school’s plans.

Please note: The school is closed on a day with a Fire Danger Rating of Catastrophic for the Mt Lofty Ranges.
The school also reserves the right to close on a Severe or Extreme Fire Danger day if deemed necessary. Parents will be notified of this decision and be given as much notice as is practicable. It is up to parents to check the Bureau of Meteorology website (www.bom.gov.au) for the forecast and Fire Danger rating issued after 4pm each day.

If you have any concerns or further questions, please do not hesitate to speak with Cathy.

INFORMATION NIGHTS
Wairoa Campus Information Night will be held next Wednesday 15th Feb

Yultiwirra Campus Information Night will be held on Thursday 23rd February

At Information Nights teaching staff provide parents with vital information covering their program and plans for this year, expectations of the classroom and cycle, and characteristics of the particular age group. Parents will also have the opportunity to ask questions concerning the routines and practices of their child’s class. We seek the support of parents on these nights and hope that you will find these sessions beneficial. We believe a strong partnership between the school and parents is crucial in establishing a successful learning environment for your child.

Letters about both the Wairoa Campus Information Night and the Yultiwirra Information Night will be sent home soon!
A crèche for your child/ren (3 years and over) will be provided at the Yultiwirra Information Night while parents attend the meeting/s. Please convey whether you require this on the tear off slip and return it to the office to assist us with our planning.

We urge all parents to attend these important evenings.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS
Volunteers can make a significant contribution to the life of The Hills Montessori School by sharing their time, interests and expertise to complement programs offered by the school and adding to the range of learning experiences available to the students.

In order to comply with the Child Protection Act and our school procedures, parent volunteers who regularly work with students in classrooms are asked to undertake a police check and attend a Volunteers training session. If you are interested in assisting in your child’s classroom a Volunteer Training Session will be held on Tuesday 21st February 9.15am.
Please register your interest at the office.

We encourage parents to become actively involved in the school in whatever way they are able. Please refer to our Parent Involvement Brochure, which will be sent home soon for further details about the many ways in which parents are able to participate in our school’s operations.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Kim Jordan (Wairoa parent) who was presented on Australia Day as the Adelaide Hills Council Citizen of the Year for her long standing community and volunteer work, particularly within in an arts and cultural context. Well Done Kim! What a great role model.

WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS
We welcome the following new students and their families to our school as well as some new Infant & Transition Program families.

Preschool: Oscar, Chloe, Daniella, Liam, Bethany, Ashton, Alexandra, Camdyn, Phoebe, Jemma, Harriet, Ash, Ava, Tabitha, Dusty
Cycle 1 primary: Ariel, Charlie, Iris
Cycle 2: Aurelia
Cycle 3: Asherah, Aimee, Caitlin, Phoebe
Cycle 4: Corey, Kai, Renad, Demelza
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM OSHC!
The end of 2016 saw the start of the Vacation Care program which had led us into 2017. Vacation Care has been another success thanks to the school community, OSHC staff and children who attended.

We welcomed two new Vacation Care staff, Genine Riley and Alana Birch to our OSHC family. A big thank you to all of the OSHC staff for their enthusiasm and the care that they brought to the Vacation Care program. Thank you to the OSHC children for their smiles and laughter.

During Vacation Care we enjoyed a variety of activities and excursions. We spent time with our friends laughing, playing and creating. We played in the sprinkler and ate ice cream on hot days. We explored the Adelaide Zoo and played cricket at the local park. We cooked pizzas and yummy treats to share. We rode our bikes and made cubbies in the bush. We cared for the school animals, checking their water and food every day. We painted, glued, we sewed and dressed up, had our faces painted plus so much more!

We look forward to seeing many students in OSHC and Vacation Care in 2017 for more fun and games.

Please ensure you have returned your 2017 OSHC /Childcare enrolment form to enrol in our fun before and after school program in 2017.

Sammi Rolt – OSHC Coordinator

Quotes from Vacation Care!
I liked seeing the dinosaurs at the zoo (there was a robot dinosaur exhibition at the zoo), Joseph
OSHC had our own drive in cinema and we made box cars.
Lucas: I liked playing cricket! Eve
I had my face pained as a butterfly. Mary
I liked playing in the sprinkler. Harley
I liked playing with my friends. Oscar
I liked coming to Vacation Care and seeing happy smiling faces! Sammi

Did you know?
OSHC provides breakfast! For $10 your child can eat breakfast in before school care and play with friends before classes start for the day. Before school care breakfast bookings are essential!
**TERM 1 DIARY DATES (for the coming fortnight)**

**Friday February 10**  
Family Welcome – 6pm – 7.30pm  
Yultiwirra Campus  All Welcome!

**Tuesday February 14**  
Facilities Meeting 8am - Yultiwirra  
Finance Meeting 6.00pm  

**Wednesday February 15**  
Wairoa Welcome & Information Evening – 6pm

**Tuesday February 21**  
Volunteers Training session 9.15am  
Executive Meeting 6.00pm  
Board Meeting 7.00pm  

**Wednesday February 22**  
Year 8 Immunisations  

**Thursday February 23**  
Yultiwirra Information Evening

**Friday February 24**  
Fundraising Meeting 9.15am  All Welcome!

**Tuesday February 28**  
Marketing Meeting 4.00pm

**Thursday March 2**  
Wairoa café 9.15am All Welcome!  
WHS Meeting – 4.00pm  
Policy Meeting – 4.00pm

**Friday March 3**  
Schools Clean Up Day

**KEY DATES FOR TERM 1**

**Week 6**  
Interview week @ Wairoa

**Tuesday March 14**  
Open Day – Wairoa campus 10am-12noon

**Thursday March 16**  
Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus  
9.30am – Parents Welcome!  
Cycle 1 & 3 sharing  
Parent Education Evening – 6.30pm  
‘Introduction to Montessori Philosophy’

**Tuesday March 21**  
Open Day – Yultiwirra campus 10am-12noon

**Thursday March 23 – Friday March 24**  
Adolescent Orientation Camp

**Monday March 27**  
Parent Get Together – 9.15am ‘Come along for a cuppa!’  
Yultiwirra Campus – All Welcome!

**Week 9**  
Interview week @ Yultiwirra

**Wednesday April 5**  
Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus  
2.30pm – Parents Welcome!  
Cycle 2 & 4 sharing

**Thursday April 13**  
Community Breakfast – 8.15am  
Yultiwirra Campus - All Welcome!  
Term 1 Ends

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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**  
“The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind.”  
Maria Montessori

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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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**2017 CALENDAR**

The beautiful 2017 fundraising calendar is only $15 and there is a limited amount left!!  
*Purchase the calendar directly from the office.*

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**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

School Newsletters are distributed to the eldest child in each family each fortnight on a Wednesday.  
Newsletters are a vital link between school and home and an invaluable source of communication with the aim of keeping you informed of current and upcoming events and highlights of school life, so please take the time to read them carefully.  
**Please ensure that you obtain your Newsletter each fortnight** – if you do not receive your copy, please ask your child’s teacher. Also check that you receive all inserts as listed. Newsletters will also be emailed to school families who have provided an email. You can also find the Newsletters online at our website [www.montessori.sa.edu.au](http://www.montessori.sa.edu.au).

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**GRASSHOPPER SOCCER FOR GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 2-12.**

Enrolments are now open online.  
Tuesday – Aldinga Beach, Wednesday – Hallett Cove, Thursday – Bellevue Heights,  
Saturday – Reynella East, Seaford Rise, Clapham and Myrtle Bank  
Sunday – Reynella East, Cafers and Brighton  
For more information visit our website, [www.grasshoppersoccer.com.au](http://www.grasshoppersoccer.com.au)  
OR facebook page, facebook.com/GrasshopperSoccerSouthernAdelaide  
OR contact Daniel by phone 0433 422 347 or email daniel@grasshoppersoccer.com.au

**AFTERSCHOOL DANCE ACADEMY** for Reception to Year 5  
Thursday afternoons 3.30pm to 4.15pm in the Performing Arts Centre at St Francis de Sales.  
Gold Coin donation per class.  
For more information contact Mrs Peta Bojanic, pbojanic@stfrancis.catholic.edu.au

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**“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.

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[Year 8 Immunisations](#)

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[Yultiwirra Campus - 12 Anderson Road, Aldgate SA 5154](#)
[Wairoa Campus - 142 Mt Barker Road, Aldgate SA 5154](#)
[Tel: (08) 8339 6842](#) Fax: (08) 8370 9538  
Email: enquiries@montessori.sa.edu.au  
Web site [www.montessori.sa.edu.au](http://www.montessori.sa.edu.au)