

Newsletter



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Last year the school was successful in securing a BGA Capital Works grant to review our Master Plan and design a Master Plan for Wairoa. We consulted with the Board, parents and staff for input and also with students through the Strategic Planning process. Over the past twelve months we have met with the school architect and discussed the needs of the school moving into the future and have incorporated a number of exciting developments into the Plans. We hope to develop new outdoor learning areas for each of the Cycle buildings/areas at Yultiwirra. It is pleasing that the Cycle 1 outdoor learning area is already part way through construction. Some of the other new developments include a new ablution block, a proposed second storey on top of the Cycle 1 classrooms to house a music room and other learning spaces, an amphitheatre below the Cycle 2 classrooms and a new, dedicated OSHC facility. Wairoa's Master Plan includes an extension of the current Common Room, an extension of the staff area and a re-design to the entrance of Wairoa.

I would encourage parents to view the new Master Plans that are currently being displayed in the Yultiwirra courtyard. We are excited about these future capital works and through generous building fund donations from parents along with funds from the school (and bank!) we hope to see these plans realised over the next 5-10 years.

Cathy

Cathy France –Principal



PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY

At the Quiz Night this year, one of the silent auction items was to be Principal for the Day. I won that and spent yesterday as "Principal for the Day." I had a really great time. First I came into the office to say hello and plan the day. Then I went down to Cycle 3 and talked to them about the importance of recycling and nude food. Then I went around to all the other classes and said hello to the staff and students. I had a photo taken (see above). After that I had some morning tea, it was an apple cake that I made before school. I then had a meeting with Anthea about the Master Plan display, then a meeting with Tim and Susan about Screenagers which went for about an hour and a half. So we (Cathy & I) didn't have time to meet with Tim, Tony and Paul about I.T.

I went over to the middle school for lunch and had sushi with the Wairoa students. Then I played cricket (and got two people out), then we came back to Yultiwirra and I wrote this Newsletter article before going to the Sharing Assembly which I spoke at. Overall it was a very, very exciting day and I would be more than happy to do it again!

Lucas Clark – Principal for the Day on Tuesday 8th August



COMMUNITY PRODUCE SWAP

We have been holding regular produce swaps at our parent get togethers over the past 18 months.

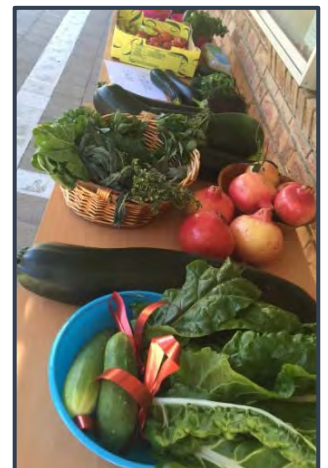
As a new parent initiative, we are now going to hold Community Produce Swaps EVERY MONDAY at Yultiwirra.

The Hills Montessori School community is invited to bring any edible excess along, be it fruit, veggies, nuts, seedlings or seeds and swap it with others. Not only can gardeners fill their larders in exchange for excess veggies, the Produce Swaps are an exercise in sustainability, waste reduction, and, most importantly, community connectivity.

Please bring along any spare produce and drop it off at the table in the courtyard (near the piano room window) and see what you can source for free!

If you don't have any produce but would like to take some produce you might like to make a donation. Any money donated will go towards our gardening program. Produce will go out every Monday and be cleared away Tuesday morning. It would be nice to have nothing left, however excess produce will be donated to the Wairoa food program.

The first Monday Community Produce Swap will be Monday 14th August.



School News

BOARD COMMUNIQUE

The Board reviewed the Compliance section of the Risk Management Plan. As part of the on-going Board education program, Paul Daly gave a presentation designed to give Board members a greater understanding of the School's monthly and year-end financial reports. Paul Noon gave an update on the progress of the BGA building works.

Paul Daly – Board President

INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Indonesian Independence Day is held on Thursday 17th August.

This year we ask that all Yultiwirra students wear red and white to school on the 17th August to celebrate the day.

Some class parent reps and students will be helping Ellis to cook some traditional rice dishes on the day for everyone to taste at an assembly.

2017 BIG FUNDRAISER

We will be holding a HUGE garage sale as a part of the national Garage Sale Trail on Saturday 21st October (Week 1 Term 4)

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!

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.

If you have any suitable items please put them aside for the Garage Sale. If you do not have space to store the donations please talk to the office staff about storage options.

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. We will be asking families to drop of their second hand gear in the last two weeks of this term. We will also be seeking volunteers to help at the event on the day.

WAIROA OPEN DAY

Wairoa Open Day - Tues 15th August Tours 10am & 11am

If you are interested in finding out more about the Middle School and our Adolescent Program (Yrs 7-10) come along on a tour! Alternatively, if you know families from outside the school who might be interested please let them know the details. The Wairoa Open Day is for both current school families and the wider community. Phone or come into the office to book into a tour at 10am or 11am.

2018 CLASS ALLOCATION

This term we will begin to look at class structures for next year. This is a very time consuming and complex process where a number of factors need to be taken into consideration. We endeavour to balance individual student needs with those of the whole school. Where possible we try to achieve gender balance within classes, maintain friendship and peer groups, balance academic working groups and special needs of individuals and have a balance of different age groupings.

We also need to consider which students will be in the school in 2018. Whilst official notification of withdrawal is not required until day one of term four, early notification certainly assists with the task of class allocation. If for some reason you are planning on not returning next year, it would be appreciated if you could indicate this to the office staff. Likewise, if you know of any likely enrolments would you please let us know.

If you have any information regarding your child that you wish to be considered during the class placement process please forward this information in writing to Cathy before FRIDAY 1st September.

MCF FUNDRAISER

Thursday 31st August is a very special day. It's Maria Montessori's birthday! **We ask that all students dress up as something Italian for a gold coin donation.**

For Cycle 3 there will be a shared lunch of gluten free spaghetti and garlic bread for a gold coin donation. The money raised will go to the Montessori Children's Foundation. This fundraiser is being organised by the Year 6 student leaders.

NUDE FOOD REMINDER

A friendly reminder that we ask that all students at both Yultiwirra & Wairoa bring a lunch box with minimal packaging on MONDAYS. We encourage all students to embrace thoughtful environmental practices, however we seek parental support for this to be effective.

Remember that classes also recycle soft plastic through the REDcycle program. Any empty bread bags, biscuit packets, frozen food bags, rice and pasta bags, confectionary packets, zip lock bags & plastic shopping bags etc can be recycled. Each class has a container to collect this. Thank you to parent Carolyn Williams who drops our collections off at a local supermarket. This plastic is then recycled into outdoor furniture for schools.

PARENT GET TOGETHER – WAIROA CAFE

Wairoa Winter Warmer cafe with great coffee, tea and scrumptious cakes and in a warm & inviting atmosphere next Thursday 17th August from 9 - 11am.

COMMUNITY LOTTERY- WHOLE SCHOOL

Australian Central Community Lottery books now need to be returned. Please return your book to the Office as soon as possible.

Cycle News

INFANT PROGRAM

Jack is working with the knobbed cylinders removing and placing the cylinders in mixed order. This activity develops visual discrimination of dimension and indirect preparation for handwriting and mathematics.



CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL

In the preschool we have started the term off with an introduction to the solar system. There has been a lot of excitement and discussion around this topic among both the children and their parents. A three dimensional display has inspired discussion about the planets, their order and orbit of the sun. Some students have extended their knowledge, choosing to work with different cultural and language materials.

“Why is a star a star?” Ash

“The earth orbits around the sun” Spencer

“You can’t breath on Mars”



CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

Montessori always talked about 'spontaneous activity' in education. It is often hard to capture these moments, however Charlie and Molly have provided an excellent example. We encourage young children to write down their experiences and thoughts. Usually, as teachers, we are thinking they will write in a book or on paper or even on an iPad. The chalk board was Molly and Charlie's medium of choice and the topic, from their own ideas.



CYCLE 2

We welcomed pre-service teacher Yarran Harwood into our community and he quickly showed an interest in the Montessori checkerboard game with Holly.

Our topic this term is the Science of Water and Yarran has been providing demonstrations and experiments for the students to explore.

In art lessons students used liquid watercolour and salt to create interesting effects. We also found time to begin making marmalade.



CYCLE 3

Cycle 3 has been exploring procedural writing as a part of our literacy program this term. Students have had many practical opportunities to follow procedures in science and cooking groups. They will continue to take turns cooking in small groups and share their 'cook ups' with the Cycle 3 community and will also continue working in small groups to conduct science experiments. Some groups have enjoyed following instructions to make sidewalk chalk, holograms and bouncy balls and have reflected on the 'effectiveness' of different procedural texts. They have also had practice writing their own procedures, including some very impressive 'Revolting Recipes'!



CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS

There is a strong focus on cultural studies in this, our Earth Systems term, with a Science focus on Earth in space, and the study of sustainable populations in Humanities. All students are undertaking independent research and the interdisciplinary occupations are underway. 'Choose-day' had a rich range of options (see below); in addition to in-house expertise we have a number of experts* offering sessions; and there are several field trips

planned including the annual Learning Links camp. We intend to share much of this work, learning and research at a new **Cultural Studies Exhibition on Thursday 21st September (Wk 9).**

CHOOSE-DAY OFFERINGS

Literature choices –

Book groups

The Martian Chronicles
The Wind Singer
When You Reach Me
Coraline

Interdisciplinary choices –

Occupations

Senior Science - Genetics and Evolution
Cooking outside
Measuring time
Working with complex machines*

Self-expression choices –

CE and PE

Feeding the community
Claywork*
Screenprinting
Orienteering
Drawing from observation
Basket weaving
Drumbeat*
Badminton (@ Yultiwirra)
Silent film project*



INDONESIAN WITH ELLIS

Cycle 1 and 2 students wrote their recount about the recent whole school Angklung performance by Adelindo. Cycle 1 comments included: *'It was very good'* and *'It was fun playing Angklung with lots of people'*.

Cycle 2 comments included:

My most favourite part was playing Angklung because I hadn't played in years and we were really good! When they played Twinkle-twinkle Little Star. I was surprised how nice the song was played on Angklung. I was impressed with how good everybody played the traditional Indonesian song. I learned about how to make the Angklung instruments – they needs 6 weeks for the bamboo to dry.



NB: Terima kasih for all parents/families' support – we raised a total of \$66.20 for our gold coin donation.

School Dates & Info

TERM 3 DIARY DATES (FOR THE COMING FORTNIGHT)

Thursday August 10

Film Screening & Discussion for Parents & Staff

“SCREENAGERS” 4pm-6.30pm

Yultiwirra Common Room

Friday August 11

Walk a Mile in my Boots 7.30am

Week 4 – August 14-18

Science Week

Tuesday August 15

Wairoa Open Day 10-12noon

Finance Meeting 6.00pm

Thursday August 17

Parent Get Together - Wairoa Café 9am -- 11am

Indonesian Independence Day

Friday August 18

Fundraising Meeting 9.15am

Week 5 – August 21-25

Book Week

Tuesday August 23

Exec Meeting 6.00pm

Board Meeting 7.00pm

Thursday August 24

Policy Meeting 4pm

Cycle 3 & 4 Music concert - 6.30pm

Thursday August 24 – Friday August 25

Cycle 2 Camp

KEY DATES FOR TERM 3

Wednesday August 30 – Friday September 1

Wairoa Learning Links Field Trip

Thursday August 31

Maria Montessori's Birthday

MCF Fundraiser

Tuesday September 5

Parent Get Together - Yultiwirra 9.15am

Thursday September 14

Sharing Assembly 9.30am Cycle 2,4 & Music sharing

Wednesday September 20

Grandparents Day for Cycle 1

Thursday September 21

Grandparents Day for Cycle 2 & 3

GRANDPARENTS DAY – SAVE THE DATE

This year we will hold Grandparents Day for Yultiwirra students on Wednesday 20th September for Cycle 1 students and Thursday 21st September for Cycle 2 & 3 students. Please let Grandparents and Special visitors know these dates so they can attend. Invitations will be sent out closer to the date.

2017 TERM DATES

TERM 3: Tuesday 25th July - Friday 29th September

TERM 4: Tuesday 17th October - Wednesday 13th December

2018 TERM DATES

TERM 1: Tuesday 6th February - Friday 13th April

TERM 2: Tuesday 1st May - Friday 6th July

TERM 3: Tuesday 24th July - Friday 28th September

TERM 4: Tuesday 16th October - Wednesday 12th December

EARN & LEARN

Whenever you shop at Woolworths, collect the stickers at the checkout and place them on sticker cards available in the school office (1 sticker for every \$10 spent) and drop into the collection box located in the office and help get valuable resources for our school. We have until 19th September to collect them; ask work colleagues, neighbours, grandparents and friends to collect them for us too!!

PARENT -STAFF SESSION

We invite you to come and join the staff to view the film; “SCREENAGERS” on **Thursday, 10th August 4.00 – 6.30pm in the Common Room at Yultiwirra. Come and join the conversation!** Creche facilities provided for children 3 years and older – Bookings Essential! Please **RSVP at the office.**

WALK A MILE IN MY BOOTS

This year The Hills Montessori School has a team in The Hutt Street annual fundraiser Walk A Mile In My Boots. The walk will take place on **Friday 11th August 2017 starting at 7.30am in Adelaide city.** The walk takes less than an hour, so students will be able to complete the walk and then attend school afterwards. All students registered for the walk must be accompanied by a registered adult, as the school will not be providing supervision for students.

Should you like more information, please contact **Ellie Ross 0420791339 (Madeleine and Phoebe's mum).**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rhee Taekwon-Do evening lessons are coming to The Hills Montessori School, and will be held in our Hall and conducted by *Rhee Taekwon-Do South Australia*. Learn a traditional martial art in a fun, safe, and family friendly environment. **Come along to the Rhee Taekwon-Do open day held in our school hall this Saturday 12th August from 10am with classes starting on Monday 14th August.** Classes will be held on Mondays and Thursdays from 6.30-7.30pm.

Donation Request - A group of Cycle 4 students is learning about complex machines and are currently looking for **small engines to dismantle.** If you have an old lawn mower/whipper snipper engine or similar that you would like to donate, please email Tim (Cycle 4 Guide) - tim@hmswairoa.net

Creative Dance and Yoga Classes for Pre-schoolers 10am Friday at Piccadilly Hall. www.dance-yoga.com.au Ph: 0438796217