

Newsletter



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At the end of the first week of term we held the **Family Welcome Night**. The weather was extremely hot and I thank those families who braved the heat to attend. It was pleasing to see a number of our new families come along to meet other parents and staff. The children enjoyed the **Magic Show by Murray** in the hall.

Despite the heat, there was a lovely sense of community on the night and it is always a great way to start the year. This term there are number of events across the school which provide opportunities for our community to come together. I encourage parents to come along to our parent get togethers (*coffee mornings*), sharing assemblies, information nights, parent education night, Festival of Arts and community breakfast. Check the Newsletter diary dates or the calendar in the Skoolbag app.

I hope to see you all at these school events.

Cathy France –Principal



AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA BRIDGE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

We have pleasure in announcing that we have been successful in applying for a grant and being offered a place in the Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program this year. The Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program is an initiative of the Australia-Indonesia Institute and Asia Education Foundation. The program supports school communities across Australia to build an international school partnership with a sister school from Indonesia.

Two teachers from each Australian and Indonesian school will have the opportunity to participate in a two-and-a-half-week professional learning program together in Australia to explore the new partner relationships and how to plan for sustainable school partnerships through intercultural understanding and the use of new technologies in teaching and learning.

Christine Perry and *Emily Earl* have volunteered to be the representatives from our school and will both travel to Melbourne in Week 4 to spend four days meeting and working with the Indonesian teachers assigned to our school. The Indonesian teachers will then travel to Adelaide and spend two weeks staying in Adelaide and observing and working in our school alongside our teachers.

This program has been generously funded by Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australia-Indonesia Institute.



COMMUNITY PRODUCE SWAP

We will continue this year 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 26th February.

Thank you to Janene Thompson for managing this great parent initiative!

School News

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

It is at this time of the year that we ask our school community if there are any nominations for Life Membership of our school. Our school Constitution and Regulations state **that...** “*a person shall be made a Life Member of the School as a recognition of consistent, long standing and excellent service rendered to the School by that person and such person shall be of good standing in the community and held in high regard by other members of the school*”.

If you would like to nominate anyone who you believe is worthy of this recognition, please submit a written nomination to the Board. The nomination needs to be supported and signed by four school members setting out the details of the **nominee's** service and reasons for the nomination. Nominations need to be displayed for 14 days calling for any further written submissions supporting these nominations prior to the Board voting on the appointment. We currently have thirteen Life Members of our school who have been bestowed this honour over the years. Life Members are usually presented with this tribute at our Annual General Meeting. Written submissions need to be forwarded to the Board by Friday 9th March.

NUDE FOOD

Our school aims to achieve “**Nude Food**” day at least once a week and encourages families to use minimal packaging in lunch boxes. We acknowledge that trying to do every day of the week can be difficult but we feel that asking for one day a week is probably achievable!

We ask that all students at both Yultiwirra & Wairoa bring a lunch box with minimal packaging on **MONDAYS**.

Staff revisit this concept regularly with their classes encouraging thoughtful environmental practices. *We seek parental support with this initiative.*

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 and parent Carolyn Williams has again kindly offered to drop our collections off at local supermarkets. This plastic is then recycled into outdoor furniture for schools.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK!



Have you visited our [Facebook](#) page? Facebook is another way we 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. You might also like to let grandparents and friends know so they can also enjoy the news, photos and updates!

PARENT EDUCATION

An Education and Information Session is being presented for parents, particularly new parents, who are interested in learning more about the Montessori Philosophy.

“The Montessori Philosophy - An Introductory Talk”

will be held on Thursday, 15th March,
6.30 – 8.30pm at Yultiwirra Campus.

This session will highlight key aspects of the Philosophy & Methodology and how the Montessori approach to learning differs from mainstream schooling. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about how the Montessori Philosophy is applied at our school. Knowledge gained may assist you to further support the Montessori Philosophy at home. By knowing the values and basis of the Montessori Philosophy you will be able to further capitalise on opportunities for consistency of approaches presented to your child between home and school.

We urge all new families to attend this informative session and any existing families who have not attended one of these sessions.

A crèche will be available for any child/ren over 3 years of age – prior bookings are essential and can be made at the office.

We hope that you are able to join us for this important session.

An invitation will be sent to new families, however anyone interested in attending should notify the office.

INFORMATION NIGHTS

*Wairoa Campus Information Night will be held on
Wednesday 21st Feb*

*Yultiwirra Campus Information Night will be held on
Thursday 22nd 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.

Information about both Information Nights has been sent out via Skoolbag. Please RSVP via Skoolbag.

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 Skoolbag RSVP to assist us with our planning.

We urge all parents to attend these important evenings.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sammi Rolt**, our OSHC coordinator, who is expecting a baby in August this year. Sammi will continue working in her role and we will announce closer to the time our plans for replacing Sammi in her OSHC coordinator position and preschool assistant position whilst she is on maternity and parenting leave. We wish Sammi and her partner Paul love and happiness during this special time in their lives.

Cycle News

CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL

The preschool has started Term 1 with a focus on impressionist art, including the study of famous artist Van Gogh. The children have enjoyed looking at many of Van Gogh's artworks and using them as inspiration for their own artwork. We are in particular practising the skill of observing to create our own impressions, as Van Gogh did. So far we have drawn and painted sunflowers and lavender. We look forward to displaying these at the Festival of Arts evening!



"We used all of the colours black, yellow and green" – Hazel
"He (Van Gogh) did sunflowers and other flowers" – Elise
"We did the lavenders. We did it with a long stem and we did purple bits for the flowers" - Bethany

CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

So far this year we have been taking full advantage of our new deck area. We have been busy planting and arranging outdoor furnishings to create an outdoor work environment.



The classes have also been engaging in measuring the capacity of different containers. Bella said *"Well I got water in a container and I poured it into another box and saw how much it could take"*. Eliana wrote, *"You could measure a tall container or short."* Ollie described his experience, *"We were playing a game about robbers trying to steal magic water that turns into money!!! I played with Hunter."* Hunter said, *"I used the ice-cream bucket and the little circle container"*.

CYCLE 2

This term Cycle 2 are telling the Five Great Stories of the Cosmic Education curriculum. Last week the children in both classes enjoyed hearing about the Big Bang! and the beginning of the Universe. Here are some of their comments:

Aurelia – *It was really exciting about what happened. It was such a surprise when the balloon popped!*

Lucy – *Supernovas are really cool, especially as they explode to create a new star.*

Luca – *Great to learn how our Sun and the Planets were born.*

Sasha – *I liked hearing about how much bigger the Sun is compared to the Earth.*

Owen – *I enjoyed seeing how the Earth formed from the Mother Star. The most amazing thing was that it cooled enough to become our Universe.*

Eli – *I liked learning about how different materials settle according to their weight like honey, oil & water.*

Marley – *I liked the volcano at the end!*



INFANT PROGRAM

Taking advantage of the warmer weather in term 1 the focus in the Infant Program outdoor area is water activities. Ruby is enjoying watering the garden with our new hose and trigger sprayer.



CYCLE 3

To kick off our 2018 science program, Cycle 3 is focusing on STEM challenges. With the theme Antarctica, students are becoming familiar with science, technology, engineering and math processes while solving scenario based problems. Not only are students practicing skills such as creative thinking, measuring, recording data, construction and evaluating results, they are also developing key team skills such as negotiation, listening, flexibility and cooperation.



CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS

Last Thursday students in the Adolescent Program hit the city of Adelaide for their annual start up Big Day Out. The three advisory groups - Pippa's Pirates, Tim's Tricksters and Dave's Desperados - tackled a series of 43 team challenges, uploading and following their



progress on the Goosechase app. Point scoring was very close, and there is debate as to whether we actual have a winning team (!) but the point of the day was well and truly achieved - lots of laughs and creativity as students in each team encouraged one another and got to know each other better. We all had a brilliant day out.

INDONESIAN WITH ELLIS

This term's topic for Pre-schoolers is *Teman saya (my friend)*. They are learning to introduce themselves and describe relationships by creating pictures and craft. They learn to write simple words independently using modelled language such as *'Nama saya... (my name is...)* and begin to recognise that Indonesian is written using the same alphabet as English. They develop oral language by imitating sounds such as basic vowel 'a'.

School Dates & Info

TERM 1 DIARY DATES (for the coming fortnight)

Wednesday February 21

Wairoa Welcome & Information Evening – 6pm

Thursday February 22

Yultiwirra Information Evening

Tuesday February 27

Wairoa Open Day Tours @ 9.30am & 11am

Marketing Meeting 4.00pm

Thursday March 1

Wairoa café 9.15am All Welcome!

WHS meeting 4.00pm

Policy meeting 4.00pm

Friday March 2

Schools Clean Up Day

Week 5

Interview week @ Wairoa

Tuesday March 6

SPTG meeting 4.00pm

Tuesday March 8

Class Parent Rep meeting 2.30pm

Monday March 12

Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

Tuesday March 13

Facilities meeting @ Wairoa 8.00am

Finance meeting 6.00pm

Thursday March 15

Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus

9.30am – Parents Welcome! Cycle 1 & 3 sharing

Parent Education Evening – 6.30pm

'Introduction to Montessori Philosophy'

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1 2018

Week 7

Interview week @ Yultiwirra

Tuesday March 20

Open Day – Yultiwirra campus 10am-12noon

Thursday March 22

Games Day – Cycle 2, 3 & 4 students

Sunday March 25

Cake Stall @ Stirling Market

Monday March 26

Parent Get Together – 9.15am @ Yultiwirra Campus

Wednesday March 28

Yultiwirra Festival of Arts

Wednesday March 28 – Thursday March 29

Adolescent Orientation Camp

Wednesday April 4

Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus

9.30am – Parents Welcome! Cycle 2 & 4 sharing

Thursday April 12

Community Breakfast

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The unknown energy that can help humanity is that which lies hidden in the child."

Maria Montessori

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

FOOTWEAR & SUN HAT PROTECTION

Please ensure that your child wears appropriate footwear & clothing to school particularly on the days they participate in PE or fitness activities. Check with your **child's** teacher as to which days these sessions occur. Thongs are not appropriate footwear for school as they provide little protection for children whilst they are playing in the bush.

Please remember that we are a Sun Smart School and all students are required to wear a broad brimmed hat and appropriate clothing to protect the skin when going outside for any activity. Sun block is provided by the school and students are taught by the school adults to apply it before leaving the classroom. Please ensure that your child has a named sunhat that can be kept in his/her bag or on the hat stand in the classroom.

School sunhats with the school logo are available for sale from the school office \$15 each.

LUNCH ORDERS – YULTIWIRRA

Lunch Orders available on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday.

Please note:

- Orders close at 9.15am on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday but can also be placed the day before.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Over the last week **we've** had some cases of vomiting and diarrhoea symptoms in students (NO confirmed cases of viral gastroenteritis), across the school. Please observe the minimum 24-hour exclusion from school, from the last instance of vomiting or diarrhoea.

The Child & Adolescent Sleep Clinic at Flinders University offers treatments for children and adolescents of all ages (including infants from 6 months of age). To book an appointment, please contact them on 8201 7587 or casc.enquiries@flinders.sa.edu.au

Ink Pot Arts are back again for 2018, offering various drama, dance and other workshops. For more information please visit www.inkpot.com.au or 0429 673 327.