

# Newsletter



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Last week we held the inaugural *Head to Head Forum* in our school hosting twenty-four Montessori school leaders from around Australia. This was a new initiative, instigated by our school and was a huge success! The Forum was a gathering of Principals and deputies to share ideas, develop practice, tackle challenges and provide collegial support.

The first day was held at Wairoa and the second day was held at Yultiwirra. A variety of presentations and discussions filled the two days and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Participants enjoyed a dinner on the Thursday evening together and also enjoyed being able to visit both of our campuses. Being a well-established Montessori school, it's important for our school to take leadership nationally within the Montessori community and encourage connection and collaboration. It was decided amongst the attendees that this Forum will become an annual event.

Some of the feedback received from participants was....

*"An incredible initiative which all came together beautifully."*

*"It was beneficial to meet other heads and talk about what matters."*

*"There was a great sense of collaboration and equality."*

*"Well thought out and your attention to detail was terrific!"*

*"A wonderful initiative!"*

*"Thank you to the team for a truly inspirational two days. There has been really honest and open discussion. The best sessions I have ever attended."*

*Cathy France –Principal*



## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

This week we have distributed the

Annual Report to our school community to read and share, outlining the school's activities for the 2017 school year. We hope you enjoy reading all of the wonderful learning activities the students were engaged in throughout last year. The Annual Report also details the general school operations highlighting the progress and growth that has been made in the twelve month period.

The 2017 financial statements are not included in the annual report; however if any school community members would like to peruse the financial statements they are available at the office.

This is the first year that we have professionally printed the report and we are thrilled with the result! The Annual Report document can also be used in a marketing and promotional manner and be provided to prospective families if they are interested. I have no doubt many of our school families will want to share the report with family and friends. We are also happy for you to share the document with anyone you know who is perhaps seeking more information or interested in the school as a prospective family. We hope you enjoy reading it. If you didn't receive a copy please contact the school office.

A huge thank you to [Nicki Stewart](#) (Francis & Pearl's mum) for designing the document and putting many hours into it to make it look so professional. Thank you also to [Kate Carter](#) (Nellie's mum) for her time in editing the document. We very much appreciate you both generously sharing your skills.

## THE NEW CHILD CARE PACKAGE

From 2 July 2018, the government will launch a new Child Care package. The package will help parents with children aged 0-13 work, train, study and volunteer. The package includes a new Child Care Subsidy, which replaces the current Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate. It will be paid directly to services.

Transitioning to the new Child Care Subsidy is not an automatic roll over from the two current payments.

Parents need to provide some new information and confirm their current details using their Centrelink online account through myGov.

*Parents will be asked to provide:*

- their combined family income estimate for the 2018-2019 financial year
- the hours of recognised activity including work, training, study and volunteering
- the type of child care the family uses.

For more information on this process, visit [education.gov.au/childcare](http://education.gov.au/childcare)

You can pick up a brochure on the new arrangements from the office.

Unfortunately, the new arrangements will no longer cover our Preschool and Child Care fees but will continue to cover our OSHC and Vacation Care services.



# School News

## BOARD COMMUNIQUE

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The Board reviewed the operational risks of the school on the Risk Management plan. Recently Board members reviewed the operations of the Board and we analysed the results of this survey. The 2017 financial statements were discussed prior to the AGM.

*Jade Were – Board Vice President*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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Please enter Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 6.00pm in your diary as the date of the SCHOOL'S AGM. The AGM will be held at Yultiwirra Campus. Following the AGM there will be wine, cheese and chatter. We encourage parents to attend the evening.

## QUIZ NIGHT- HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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Do you have any items that might be suitable for our Silent Auction & /or our prize pool?? We would love to hear from any school parents who are able to donate anything to help make our Quiz Night successful. This is one of our big fundraisers for the year so we would appreciate any donations. Please let us know in the office.

## QUIZ NIGHT- WINE BAG

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A "Bottle Bag" is being sent home this week. We are asking school families to donate a bottle of wine to go towards the Wine "Lucky Dip" to be held on the evening of Quiz Night. We would greatly appreciate and accept your contributions at the office. Please return your filled bottle bag by Friday 15th June so the Fundraising committee has time to sort out donations prior to the evening.

## PARENT EDUCATION

### MONTESSORI MATHS MATERIALS

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Thursday 31st May 2pm – 3.30pm

The session will be held in the Infant Program room @ Yultiwirra. Come along & see how the Montessori materials are used and how they benefit your child's learning! Have a go at using them yourself! An invite will be sent via the Skoolbag app soon.

## OLD SCHOLARS EVENT

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At the end of week 5 this term we will be holding an Old Scholars event as part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations. If you know an old scholar we would appreciate you letting them know about this occasion. We hope to see many old scholars return to get together and relive old memories!



## QUIZ NIGHT

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Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June (Term 2 Week 8)

To be held in the school hall at Yultiwirra

A flyer will be sent home soon advertising our upcoming Quiz Night. This is always a great fun night out!

Bring along a bag of coins & join in the fun! Games & Prizes galore! Silent Auction!

There will be "class tables" of ten people that you can add your name to or you can make up your own table. The Quiz night is a "child free" event.

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

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We welcome *Michael McMillan* to the staff who is replacing Gabes at Wairoa in the gardening position for the remainder of this year. Some of you may know Michael as he has previously worked in our school for 8 years in the role of Groundsman. Michael has also accompanied the Wairoa staff and students on many of the outdoor education expeditions over the years.



Michael is also the grandparent of Luca and Oscar Were. I know you will join me in welcoming Michael back to our community.

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED

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We are seeking a parent (or grandparent) volunteer to enter data into our old scholar data base. We are seeking someone who has competent computer skills. If you are willing and able please come and speak to us in the office.

## STUDENT WELLBEING APPOINTMENTS

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If parents would like to make an appointment to meet with *Libby Roberts*, our Student Wellbeing worker she is available to do this on Fridays at Yultiwirra. Please phone or come into the office to book an appointment at reception.

## STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

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Well done to *Charlotte* and *Mary*, two of our students in Cycle 2 and 3, who helped plant 360 trees with their Scout group in the school holidays. The group worked with Trees for Life to revegetate, revitalise and reduce erosion in Iron Knob, South Australia. Fantastic job girls!



# Cycle News

## CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL

In the preschool students have been practising the virtue of gratitude whilst preparing gifts for Mother's Day. They reflected on the important role that mums play during the process of cooking Anzac biscuits and making decoupage gift boxes. Many practical life skills were practised during the process such as pasting, measuring, pouring, mixing and rolling (mixture into balls). The Extended Day students hosted an afternoon tea for their mum/special person on Monday. This was a true culmination of many of the Practical Life and Grace & Courtesy skills. The students enjoyed planning, preparing and hosting this real-life scenario.



*I am grateful because...*

*"My mummy helps me do things, my Dad does too."* – Nyssa

*"I like it when my mum gives me hugs."* – Tabby

*"My mum gives me hugs and kisses."* – Matilda

*"My mum helps me pack up."* – Elise

## CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

The current focus in science for the Cycle One Primary classes is learning about heat energy. *"We have been learning about the temperature,"* Eliana said. The students have been learning to read the thermometer that is out on the deck each morning and record the temperature. *"We also measured how warm the classroom is,"* added Olivia. *"We put a thermometer in a glove with your hand to see if the thermometer would go higher or lower or hotter or colder,"* described Oscar. The children also enjoyed watching the ice melt in their hands. In Ruth and Attila's class, student teacher Rachel, has been taking the lead in this unit of work.



## CYCLE 2

This term we have been learning about space and the solar system.

Jet: *I have learned that Pluto is a dwarf planet. Planet X is a new planet that might be real.*

Marley: *The sun is a star. The sun is 4.5 billion years old. We learned a chant to remember the planets. My Very Earthy Mother Just Served Us Nachos.*

Lily: *I liked the chant as well.*

Matilda: *Saturn has seven big rings. The sun is 15 million degrees.*

Ariel: *Today we made soup. I have been making cards and bliss balls for Mother's Day.*

Oliver: *This term we learned that there might be a Planet X. We are making soup every Thursday this term.*



## INFANT PROGRAM

This term in Infant Program we will be doing activities that reflect the season. Indigo is using autumn colours and cotton buds to create her own Autumn tree.



## CYCLE 3

The MYE (Montessori Young Entrepreneurs) program in Cycle 3 has begun. Students have been busy brainstorming product ideas that help to promote sustainable living. They have split into action teams and have enthusiastically applied for positions within their teams. Each team is now focused on choosing a company name, developing a business statement, refining their chosen product and making prototypes, ready for our 'Dolphin Tank' presentations.



## CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS

Term 2 learning areas are well underway, with much of our activity channelling towards our fabulous Coffeehouse Cabaret in Week 9.

**Occupations:** Production and exchange; Keeping poultry;

Landscape design **Humanities:** Big ideas of history & Ancient civilisations (7); World War One (8,9)

**Science:** Energy (7); Immune system & chemistry (8,9); Reproductive system & chemistry (10)

**Mathematics:** Linear and quadratic relationships & co-ordinate geometry (senior); Measurement and geometry (foundation)

**English language:** Persuasive writing & poetry(all); Senior text study (senior) **Indonesian language:** Competition speeches

**Creative expression:** Dance, drama, drumming, comedy, photography, art history **Physical expression:** Hockey & fitness

## INDONESIAN WITH ELLIS

The class visit to Cycle 1 & 2 last term by teachers Ibu Nita and Ibu Eka from SD Alfa Centauri (our sister school in Indonesia) added to the learning experience of class topics: *Sekolah Saya (My school) - Cycle 1* and *Perayaan di Sekolah Kami (Celebration at Our School) - Cycle 2*.



Students were engaged in conversations and discussions noticing similarities and differences in cultural practices and community values related to school routines and special occasions in Indonesia and Australia. Some observations they shared are:

- *School in Indonesia is a bit different e.g. there is Indonesian decoration in the class* (Marni, Joe).
- *Students in Indonesia wear 'topi' (hat) and school uniform - white and red* (Indigo, Hunter).
- *They might learn English and write the words differently* (Emily, Tenzin, Ollie).

# School Dates & Info

## TERM 2 DIARY DATES *(for the coming fortnight)*

Thursday May 17

Education committee meeting 4.00pm

Tuesday May 22

Wairoa Open Day

AGM held at Yultiwirra – 6.00pm

Thursday May 24

Parent Get Together – Wairoa Café 9.15am

WHS Meeting 4.00pm

Friday May 25

Fundraising Meeting 9.15am

Monday May 28

Special Finance Meeting 6pm

Tuesday May 29

Year 6 visit to Wairoa 8.45am – 1.15pm

Marketing Meeting 4.00pm

Wednesday May 30

Sharing Assembly 11.30am

Cycle 1 & 2 & Indo sharing. All parents welcome!

Thursday May 31

Parent Education – 2pm – 3.30pm

## KEY DATES FOR TERM 2 2018

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Thursday June 14

Cycle 1 & 2 Music concert – 6.30pm

Monday June 18– Friday June 22

Collaborative Interviews - Yultiwirra

Monday June 18

Parent Education – Cycle 1 Transition 9.15am

Saturday June 23

Quiz Night

Monday June 25

Parent Get Together – Yultiwirra 9.15am

Tues June 26, Wed June 27, Thurs June 28

Coffeehouse Cabaret – Wairoa

Thursday July 5

Sharing Assembly 9.30am

Cycle 3 & 4 sharing. All parents welcome!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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Empowering Individuals on the Autism Spectrum – Hear from Dr Wenn Lawson, internationally renowned psychologist, lecturer and author, as he takes you on an inspirational journey through his life as an individual on the autism spectrum. For information email [conferences@autismsa.org.au](mailto:conferences@autismsa.org.au). NDIS funding can be used to access this workshop.

Aldgate Netball are [seeking boys and girls](#) to join the entry level netball. Visit [aldgatenetballclub.com/](http://aldgatenetballclub.com/) or call Bernie 0414 551 236.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“And such is our duty toward the child;  
to give a ray of light and to go on our way.”

*Maria Montessori*

## 2018 TERM DATES

**TERM 2:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July

**TERM 3:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September

**TERM 4:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

## PARENT GET TOGETHER – WAIROA CAFE

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Come along to the Wairoa cafe with great coffee, tea and scrumptious cakes and in a warm & inviting atmosphere on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May from 9.00am until 10.30am, but stay as long as you like.

## 40<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY RECIPE BOOK

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This year we are creating a special “40th Birthday” edition of The Hills Montessori School “Family Favourites Recipe Book” and are calling upon members of the school community to write down their favourite tried-and-tested recipe(s) for publication in the book. We are seeking recipes of all kinds! Please email your recipes to [reception@montessori.sa.edu.au](mailto:reception@montessori.sa.edu.au) to ensure your contribution is included.

## COMMUNITY LOTTERY– WHOLE SCHOOL

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Australian Central Community Lottery books will soon be distributed. There are fantastic prizes in the lottery and for every \$2 ticket we sell the school receives \$2! Ask friends, family and work colleagues to buy a ticket to be in the running for some great prizes and to support the school.

## OPEN DAY – WAIROA

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Wairoa Open Day - Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Tour @ 9.30am

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.

## ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

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For only \$70 you'll receive over \$20,000 worth of valuable offers! – some with 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for many restaurants, attractions, hotels, travel, shopping and much more! (*The school receives \$14 for each book sold*).

Books will be available to purchase from the school office or you may prefer the *new Digital Membership* to have with you at your fingertips on your smartphone.