

# Newsletter



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This year we have introduced lunchtime clubs at Yultiwirra for interested students. Students can sign up to join in on a variety of activities. Some days are allocated for Cycle 1 & 2 students and other days are allocated to Cycle 3 students. One day a week the club is open to students from all cycles. The students have been able to enjoy working with construction kits, using lots of wonderful new lego that was generously donated, making friendship bands, doing origami, colouring mandalas and playing with dominoes. The focus of the lunchtime clubs is for students to have fun whilst being in a safe environment that is supervised by an adult.

*We thank Lyn and Heidi for running the lunchtime clubs.*

We have also introduced a 'Body and Mind' (BAM) session at Yultiwirra straight after lunch each day for any students who would like to attend. These are a 20-30 minute session where students can engage in mindfulness activities and spend time relaxing and refocusing in a quiet and peaceful environment.

Mindfulness and relaxation activities help students improve their ability to pay attention, by learning to focus on one thing while filtering out other stimuli. Mindfulness also provides kids with skills for understanding their emotions and how to work with them and self-regulate.

Each day Yultiwirra classes spend time straight after lunch participating in relaxation and/or quiet activities or quiet reading which help students refocus after lunch time play. However, we have found that some students benefit from doing this in a very small group away from the stimulation of their own classroom.

We have found that students who attend the BAM sessions return to class ready to focus and concentrate for the afternoon session.

*We thank Ester and Nikki who are running the BAM sessions.*

### Student feedback.....

*BAM makes me feel really relaxed. Felix*

*I think BAM is really calming, like if you have a frustrating lunch, you can go to BAM.*

*Caeleb*

*Cathy France -Principal*



## OLD SCHOLARS EVENT

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June we will be holding an Old Scholars event as part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations.

The Yultiwirra campus will be open from 4pm – 5pm for Old Scholars to revisit the school. Then from 5pm-7.30pm there will be drinks and nibbles in the studio at Wairoa.

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!

## THANK YOU

A special thank you to *Denise Connelly* who is meticulously sorting through 40 years of photos for our upcoming Old Scholars event.

Denise retired last year after 27½ years of teaching at The Hills Montessori School, and we love that she is generously giving her time to take on this labour intensive job! Thanks Denise!



# School News

## RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week is celebrated across Australia each year between 27 May and 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. The week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort. This year's theme is "Don't Keep History a Mystery".



## QUIZ NIGHT- HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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

A "Bottle Bag" was sent home last 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

Thursday 31st May 2pm – 3.30pm

We are trialing a new time! Come along before pick up!!

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 has been sent via the Skoolbag app.

## AGM RESULTS

Congratulations to the following school members who were voted onto the Board to represent the school community:

*Meg Barker, Ivano Cavuoto, Tracey Spokes  
Iain Whitson, Jade Were*

We would like to thank *Simon Abrahams and Ian Rooney* who are stepping down from the Board, for their input and contributions over the years that they have been on the Board.

Congratulations to the following school board members who will hold these Executive positions for the next 12 months:

President of the Board: *Paul Daly*  
Vice President: *Joshua Ross*  
Treasurer: *Jade Were*



## QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June (Term 2 Wk 8) in the hall at Yultiwirra  
It's a Mad Hatter's theme! Wear a wacky hat!!

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.

## PRESCHOOL PARENT SESSION

An information morning for preschool parents interested in learning more about our primary school and specifically the Cycle 1 Primary Classes will be held on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 9:15 – 11:15 a.m.**

The session will cover:

- how the Cycle 1 primary classes differ from mainstream Reception/Year 1 classes
- how the Montessori philosophy and methodology are incorporated into the Cycle 1 primary classes
- a tour of the Cycle 1 primary classes (Rec/Year 1)

There will be opportunity for parents to ask questions, gain insight and see first-hand how our primary school operates.

An invite will be sent home soon - please RSVP to the office by Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June to book your place.

## THREE WAY COLLABORATIVE INTERVIEWS

As part of the reporting procedures, three-way parent / teacher / child conferences will be offered this term in Week 8 at Yultiwirra & Week 2 Term 3 at Wairoa. An email will be sent out in Week 6 giving you more information about these and providing a step by step guide as to how to make an on-line booking. The Collaborative Interviews are an opportunity to discuss your child's achievements and areas for further learning. Documentation from the three-way conference forms our Term 2 report.

## OPEN DAY - YULTIWIRRA

Open Day at Yultiwirra Campus will be held on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 10am – 12noon.** Our greatest marketing tool is positive affirmation through "word of mouth" by current school families. Please let anyone you know who may be interested in visiting our school or enrolling a child, the date and time of our Open Day.

## CYCLE 1 & 2 MUSIC CONCERT

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June (Week 7) we are holding the Cycle 1 & 2 Music Concert in our school hall at Yultiwirra. All school families are invited to attend this concert which will begin at 6.30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their learning and have the experience of performance. We encourage you to come along and support the students involved. An invite will be sent home shortly to Cycle 1 & 2 families.

# Cycle News

## CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL

The cultural studies focus for this term is Botany. The children have been learning about the difference between living and non-living, the parts and needs of plants, germination and the parts of a leaf. This week, in the Goodenia class, we learnt that flour comes from wheat plants. We looked at dried wheat plants, found the grain in the wheat heads and ground some to make flour. The children had the opportunity to make their own bread rolls and eat them while they were still warm.

“Yummy” Maggie

“Flour comes from plants” Maggie



## CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

On Monday 21 May both Cycle 1 classes enjoyed a lovely visit to the Art Gallery of SA to view the Colours of Impressionism Exhibition, The Divided World – Australian Contemporary Art Exhibition and participate in a studio session inspired by Melbourne street artist Ghostpatrol.

“There was a sculpture called Life of Stars, it has holes in it” Ollie

“I wanted to jump into Pip and Pop” Indigo

“I saw a paint pallet from a famous artist”

Emily

“I liked the pointillism painting” Ashlee W

“There was a car pulled apart” Hazel

“The bridge had lots of

red and red is my favourite colour” Ty

“I liked the artist man painting” Sienna



## CYCLE 2

This term our Cycle 2 class has been learning about the solar system with our student teacher Keely. The students have been doing research on all the planets, as well as art. An exciting new piece of Montessori equipment ‘The Tellurium’ has been introduced in small groups to begin learning about the relationship between Sun, Earth and Moon. On Fridays Keely has been teaching dance lessons which the students have thoroughly enjoyed. Earlier in the term we celebrated Mother’s Day by painting our own cards and making bead bracelets.



## INFANT PROGRAM

In keeping with our autumn theme, Soraya and Charlie are adding leaves to our communal autumn tree.

## CYCLE 3

As per usual Nat & Suzie’s class has hit the ground running this term. With the ship’s Captain (aka Nat) recovering from foot surgery Second Mate Suzie has stepped up. Suzie has been running lots of sessions on research skills, developing the writing of key information in students’ own words, using different ways to organise information such as Biography Wheels and Fact Files and using visual aids such as timelines and diagrams to support projects. The whole cycle has also been busy setting up small businesses and developing environmentally sustainable products as part of their Montessori Young Entrepreneurs program.



## CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS

Occupations for Term 2 are gaining momentum. The *Production and Exchange* students are starting their businesses in response to the brief of developing a sustainable business for financial gain or a social good (or a combination of both). Student businesses range from creating a bank to manufacturing pencil cases.

The *Landscaping Design* students have begun work on designing plans to rejuvenate ‘the bank’ next to our studio. They have also worked with other community members to develop designs for the platform at the Aldgate Hut. This Friday the group will venture to a local nursery to learn about plant propagation and native plants and to make choices for their project.

In *Keeping Chickens* the group has been investigating chook development and biology. They are learning about how to best look after these birds, and currently making decisions on which chickens to have at Wairoa. Work will soon begin to renovate our chicken run and build other housing to keep our chooks happy.

## MUSIC WITH MAREE

Earlier this term, the students from Cycle 1 (preschool and primary) learnt and rehearsed a special song to sing to their mothers on Mother’s Day. We have also recently included xylophones into our percussion performances. The children have enjoyed the experience of creating their own melodic accompaniments using notes from the C pentatonic scale. Beat continues to be reinforced through the playing of non melodic percussion instruments such as claves, guiros, drums and shakers.



# School Dates & Info

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

Thursday May 31  
Parent Education – 2pm – 3.30pm  
Saturday June 2  
Old Scholars event  
Tuesday June 5  
Yultiwirra Open Day 10am – 12 noon  
Thursday June 7  
Policy Meeting – 4.00pm  
Friday June 8  
Fundraising Meeting – 9.15am  
Monday June 11  
Queen's Birthday Public Holiday  
Tuesday June 12  
Facilities Meeting – 8.00am @ Wairoa  
Finance Meeting – 6.00pm  
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

## KEY DATES FOR TERM 2 2018

Friday June 22  
Parent Discussion group with Libby Roberts  
Saturday June 23  
Quiz Night  
Monday June 25  
Parent Get Together – Yultiwirra 9.15am  
Wed June 27 & Thurs June 28  
Coffeehouse Cabaret – Wairoa  
Thursday July 5  
Sharing Assembly 9.30am  
Cycle 3 & 4 sharing. All parents welcome!

## GIVE AWAY ROOSTER

We are looking to give “Darcy” the Cycle 2 rooster away to a good home! Darcy has got a bit too big for his boots and has taken to strolling (and pooping!) in the Cycle 2 classrooms on a daily basis! It's time for him to find a new home! Besides this, he is quite beautiful!!



Come and see us at the office if you are interested in adopting him.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“The first essential for the child's development is concentration.*

*The child who concentrates is immensely happy.”*

**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

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED

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.

## SLAP FACE

There have been several cases of Parvovirus B19 in the school (commonly referred to as ‘slap face’ and also known as *fifth disease*). This commonly infects children and typically causes a mild rash that may resemble a slapped cheek. This is infectious before the onset of the rash with no specific treatment. Parvovirus does not have lasting effects in healthy children and adults, however if contracted during pregnancy, complications may arise and you will need to contact your GP/obstetrician. *Further information:* [www.fifthdisease.org](http://www.fifthdisease.org).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Stirling Community Youth Theatre presents Pollyanna. Performances being held from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Adults \$18, Child/Concession \$15, Family \$60 (2 adults, 2 children) plus booking fee. Bookings <http://hillsyouththeatre.com>

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)