

Newsletter



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to welcome students, parents and staff to the 2019 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.

At the start of this year, teaching staff undertook professional development in our new focus area of 'Enhancing the Cultural Curriculum'. Kate Dilger from the Science Teachers Association facilitated a day focusing on developing problem solving skills, creative and critical thinking through the lens of a 'STEM approach' with particular focus on Science, Engineering and Design. 'Enhancing the Cultural Curriculum' is our key professional development thread across the school for the next two years with Dave Coulter (*Cycle 4 teacher*) taking the lead role as Curriculum Coordinator in this area.

Staff also undertook Fire Extinguisher training at the start of the year and discussed the Emergency Management Plan and their roles and responsibilities in the event of an emergency. Thanks to Adam Saffin (*parent*) from Code Red for running this session.

Each year, as a school, we have a key focus for our community. This year we have decided it will be the "Year of the Three R's – RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, RESILIENCE". This year we are reviewing our Values, our Mission and Vision and so it makes sense to choose some of our key values to focus on. The Montessori philosophy is a values based philosophy and it is what drives our decisions and direction and informs our daily practice and interactions. Staff will be talking with students about Respect, Responsibility and Resilience and what they look like, sound like and feel like and I encourage parents to have a similar conversation.

I hope 2019 is a positive and fulfilling year for everyone full of wonderful learning experiences and opportunities.

Cathy France – Principal



WELCOME NEW STAFF

We welcome the following new staff members to our school and staff team:

Susan Jenner (*Cycle 1 School Assistant*)
Sam Cameron (*Cycle 2 School Assistant*)
Toni Coleman (*Cycle 3 School Assistant*)

We also welcome back to our staff:
Libby Roberts (*Student Wellbeing worker*),
Gabes Maher (*Cycle 4 Art specialist*)



Libby Roberts & Gabes Maher



WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

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

Preschool: Harrison, George, Kaitlin, Dallas, Amelia, Aurora, Bodhi, Ava, Raphael, Aurora

Cycle 1: Amelia, Annabel, Hattie, Mikaela

Cycle 2: Elizabeth, Lachlan

Cycle 3: Noa, Daisy, Ewan, James

Cycle 4: Eamon, Harry, Tara, Marley



Toni Coleman, Susan Jenner, Sam Cameron



FAMILY WELCOME

FRIDAY 8TH 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 is also on the Skoolbag app and a hard copy was sent home on the first day. 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.

School News

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 students who catch the bus or walk home; however if you do not receive one of these forms please come to the office to complete the required details.

PARENT GET TOGETHERS

Parent get togethers (*coffee mornings*) are scheduled twice each term. This is an opportunity for parents to meet, mingle and chat. 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 provide coffee & cake as part of their micro-economy enterprises.

“Come along and have a cuppa!”

Thursday 7th March – 9.15am – Wairoa Campus

Monday 25th March – 9.15am – Yultiwirra Campus

FIRE PROCEDURES

The Fire procedures are emailed with this Newsletter to inform families of school procedures in the case of a bushfire. Please read the procedures carefully so you are well informed.

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.

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 and add 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 DCSI criminal history check and attend a Volunteers training session. A [Volunteer Training Session](#) will be held on [Tues 19th Feb 9.15am](#).

Please register your interest at the office.

ROBOKIDS

This term we are pleased to offer a new after school robotics program for Cycle 3 students. The program will be run by ‘Robokids’ and students will have the opportunity to work with robots and software and learn how to code and program. The first session starts on Tuesday 12th February 3.45pm – 5.00pm. A flyer was sent home with Cycle 3 students on the first day of term.

SKOOLBAG

We encourage parents to download the recent Skoolbag update and delete the previous version of the app. If your child has moved cycles/classes in 2019 you will need to make slight changes to your Skoolbag preferences and re-select the push categories in ‘Set Up’, to the class that your child has moved to.

The Skoolbag app is our main form of communication with parents.

Most consent and permission forms will not be sent home as paper notes. You will need to access these and all other school communication via the Skoolbag App.

INFORMATION NIGHTS

Wairoa Campus Information Night will be held on [Wed 13th Feb](#)

Yultiwirra Campus Information Night will be held on [Thurs 21st Feb](#)

At Information Nights teaching staff provide parents with vital information covering their program and plans for the year and expectations of the classroom and cycle. Parents will also have the opportunity to ask questions and meet other parents. We seek your attendance and support as we believe a strong partnership between the school and parents is crucial in establishing a successful learning environment for your child.

Notices and information about both Information Nights will be sent out via Skoolbag 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 book your child’s place via Skoolbag ASAP.

LATE START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR

Some parents have asked about the late start to the 2019 school year. Our school follows the Association of Independent Schools’ recommendations regarding term dates each year. Our school opens for 39 weeks of a year as do other independent schools and adheres to the Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board requirements for how many hours and days a school must open.

Many independent schools now choose to have a three week holiday at the end of either term 1 or term 2 rather than starting the school year a week after DECD schools. We still choose to open the school a week after DECD schools for a number of reasons which also then keeps us in line with DECD school holidays for the rest of the year.

The potential for more high fire risk days is one of the reasons why the school Board has chosen not to open the school earlier, but it is not the only reason. Many families don’t want to have a three week holiday in July when the weather is wet and cold and they have to try and entertain children for three weeks indoors. There are many pros and cons to the argument!

Having talked to numerous families over January, for every family that hasn’t preferred the extra week there are equal amounts of families who have loved having the extra week!

We have debated this issue every few years at Board and we are happy to debate it again.

Vacation Care News

Happy New Year from OSHC!

All I can say is... Holy Guacamole, that was a hot one!

This vacation care has certainly given us some weather challenges. This has meant that children and staff have ducked and weaved in and out of the cooler zones of the school, moving from the hall to the common room to pre-school playground and back again all in a day. We had to cancel a few excursions due to heat which was disappointing but I have learnt that children **don't** really mind where they have their icecream, as long as there IS icecream.

My favourite moment during vacation care was seeing all the towels and bathers hanging all around the school after we had a water play morning, reminiscent of backyard pools.

Despite the punishing heat, we have had a great time with the children doing arts and crafts, slime and goo, movies, gardening, HEAPS of water activities, cooking and so much more.

I do feel sometimes that we should change the name from vacation care to the cubby house construction centre. Cubby building has been the favoured activity of all throughout the Summer holidays. We love the creativity that goes with the magical transformation that happens when blanket is added to table, suddenly a palace is created- I never tire of it and neither do the children.

Lego, puppets, plays, colouring, hama beads, loom bands, books, balls and wheels were a daily feature along with cardboard creations and other construction.

It's been fast, it's been hot, and it's been fun.

We have also introduced our new Kiosk sign in/out system. Like all new technology there has been some teething problems for some. Thanks to families for holding the tech faith, it will be AMAZING when we can iron the kinks out! Thank you to Gab who worked so hard to get this technology up and happening for us. It is really important for us to have your new OSHC 2019 registration forms returned so we can update contacts and authorisations.

Staff News..

We farewell Andrew from the OSHC term but will still see him for vacation care each holidays and Tim has taken a position in Italy as an English teacher, so we farewell him in 2 weeks.

Holly has been welcomed to our staff team and continues to work alongside Roxy, Jen, Angus, Sam, Yarran and myself.

Moving into Term 1..

We will be focusing more on the breakfast menu. Making and sharing breakfast in before school care is a highlight for many children and a rich opportunity to build life skills and independence. Smoothies will be added to the menu on Tuesday and Thursday along with pancakes on Monday and Friday and Waffles on Wednesday. Toast and cereal will continue to be offered daily. Breakfast will continue to be \$2.00.

Welcome back one and all, may 2019 be full of amazing new experiences, friendships and of course heaps of fun.

Megan Lynch

OSHC Co-Ordinator

For an OSHC registration form or OSHC rates, times and information please speak to Reception or Megan and we can provide the information.



CONTACT OSHC TO MAKE A BOOKING
OR TO SPEAK WITH MEGAN

0455 232 424 OSHC mobile
8339 6842 Ext #3
oshc@montessori.sa.edu.au

School Dates & Info

TERM 1 DIARY DATES (for the coming fortnight)

Friday February 8

Family Welcome @ Yultiwirra 6pm – 7.30pm All Welcome!

Tuesday February 12

Infrastructure & Planning Committee (I&PC) Meeting 8am - Yultiwirra

Finance Meeting 6.00pm

Wednesday February 13

Wairoa Information Evening – 6.30pm

Friday February 15

Fundraising Meeting 9am All Welcome!

Tuesday February 19

Volunteers Training session 9.15am

Executive Meeting 6.00pm

Board Meeting 7.00pm

Wednesday February 20

Snippets with Susan 9am

Indonesian Partnership Group meeting 4pm

Students wellbeing group meeting 4pm

Wednesday February 20– Friday February 22

Adolescent Orientation Camp

Thursday February 21

Yultiwirra Information Evening

SPTG Committee meeting 4pm

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1 2019

Tuesday February 26

Open Day – Wairoa campus Tour @ 9.30am

Week 5

Interview week @ Wairoa

Thursday March 7

Wairoa café 9.15am All Welcome!

Wednesday March 13

Parent Education Evening – 6.00pm

'Introduction to Montessori Philosophy'

Friday March 15

Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus

9.30am – Parents Welcome! Cycle 1 & 3 sharing

Week 7

Interview week @ Yultiwirra

Tuesday March 19

Open Day – Yultiwirra campus 10am-12noon

Thursday March 21

Games Day – Cycle 2, 3 & 4 students

Sunday March 24

Cake Stall @ Stirling Market

Monday March 25

Parent Get Together – 9.15am "Come along for a cuppa!"

Yultiwirra Campus – All Welcome!

Monday April 1

Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus

2.30pm – Parents Welcome! Cycle 2 & 4 sharing

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future."

Maria Montessori

2019 TERM DATES

TERM 1: Tuesday 5th February – Friday 12th April

TERM 2: Tuesday 30th April – Friday 5th July

TERM 3: Tuesday 23rd July - Friday 27th September

TERM 4: Tuesday 15th October – Wednesday 11th December

DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters are emailed to all families and can also be accessed on the *Skoolbag app*. We also print a few hard copies which families can collect from the office if they would like a hard copy. Each class will also receive a hard copy so students can read the Newsletters.

Newsletters are a vital link between school and home and an invaluable source of communication with the aim of keeping families informed of current and upcoming events and highlights of school life, so please take the time to read them carefully.

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. Guitar, ukulele & drums start in week 2, piano lessons start in week 3, and voice lessons being in week 1 and Cycle 2 choir in week 1 and Cycle 3 Choir week 2.

Please contact the teachers directly for bookings, costs and times.

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|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Piano | Lisa Taverna | 0423 173 383 |
| Voice & Choir | Megan Fishers | 0447 126 936 |
| Guitar/ukulele/drums | Sanjay Taverna | 0417 080 325 |

CHESS CLUB

David Koestler from SA Chess Association offers Chess Club after school starting on Thursday 21st February and continuing on a weekly basis. Chess Club is being offered to Primary & Adolescent Program students. Chess club operates from 3.30-4.15pm. *Please collect a notice and consent form from the office if your child is interested.*

PARENT INVOLVEMENT BROCHURE

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 out soon for further details about the many ways in which parents are able to participate in our school's operations.