

# Newsletter



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At the end of the first week of term we held the **Family Welcome Night**. It was pleasing to see a number of our new families come along to meet other parents and staff. The children enjoyed the show put on in the hall by **Katie Wright Dynamite**.

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 and community breakfast. Check the Newsletter diary dates or the calendar in the Skoolbag app. I hope to see you at many of these events.

This year we are reviewing our values, vision and mission. I held a session with staff prior to the commencement of the school year. We will also be holding sessions with some of our senior students and the Board. A parent session will be held this term in Week 8 on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 4.00pm. It would be great to have as many parents come along to this session to provide input into this review. Please look out for a invite coming out soon.

*Cathy France –Principal*



## 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 this plastic is then recycled into outdoor furniture for schools.

## 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.

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

# School News

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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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 sixteen 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 8<sup>th</sup> March.

## SNIPPETS WITH SUSAN

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Come and join Susan on alternate Wednesdays this term, exploring a range of topics relating to learning in our school and ways to support your child/ren at home. The sessions are 20 minute ‘bite sized snippets’ of information and informal discussions for parents. “Snippet sessions” will be held in the staffroom from 9.10am – 9.30am fortnightly & started this week!

Snippet Session 2: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March:

Encouraging Independence – Practical Life activities

Snippet Session 3: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March:

Learning ‘Times Tables’

If the topic on offer takes your interest, please RSVP via Skoolbag or ‘pop in’ on the day! Numbers are limited to 12 attendees.

## OPEN DAY – WAIROA

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**Wairoa Open Day - Tues 26<sup>th</sup> February Tours 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 book at the office for the 9.30am tour.

## CAR PARK ETIQUETTE & SAFETY

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Please note that there is No Parking out the front of the school at drop off time. This is a “Kiss & Drop” zone and makes it very difficult for everyone if cars park in this area and are left unattended. Please also be careful and observe the speed limit when driving in the car park and on Anderson Road during drop off/pick up times.

## PARENT EDUCATION

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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 Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> 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

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*Yultiwirra Campus Information Night will be held on Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> 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 were sent out 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 book your **child's** place via Skoolbag ASAP.

## LUNCH ORDERS AT YULTIWIRRA

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Lunch orders at Yultiwirra are now available Monday, Wednesday & Friday. (no longer on Tuesday's). There are also some new menu items! Please see Skoolbag for order list and instructions on how to order through the OKR app (orders can only be done online).

## 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 Wednesdays and Fridays at Yultiwirra. *Please phone or come into the office to book an appointment at reception.*

# Cycle News

## CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL

In the preschool we always do some form of relaxation after lunch. We have started the year off with a focus on mindfulness through practice of yoga and meditation. The Extended Program students have listened to some longer 'Smiling Mind' meditations which have had a very calming and peaceful effect. Extended program students have also really enjoyed participating in a Hatha Yoga Flow session with a short breathing meditation at the end to finish the practice. We are looking forward to having some other yoga lessons this term with one of our preschool parents and yoga teacher Tanya (Aurora's mum).



When asked how their bodies felt after these mindfulness practices, students said: "Well I feel calm and like... peaceful!" – Kai R "I feel like I'm stretching, and rested." – Mia "Stretchy!" – Oscar C "Like nice and smooth and relaxing." – Stella W

## CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

An important component of the Practical Life curriculum in Cycle 1 Primary, is food preparation and cooking. 'I ate all of the noodles that we made last week' commented Oliver. At the start of each term we decide what to cook and this week we made buckwheat pancakes. Dusty said, 'I think cooking at school is really good and I put in the flour.' Rosalia explained, 'I didn't do too much but I did mixing'. As well as the cooking and eating process, the children help to clean up afterwards. It is a very popular part of our Friday morning work program. Jak remarked, 'I liked honey and lemon and sugar on my pancakes'. Clancy said, 'I made the pancakes and they were yummy'.



## CYCLE 2

Once again we have had a busy start to the term and are adjusting well to our new class arrangements.

We began the term by sharing fried rice for Chinese New Year of the Pig.

Many children have birthdays in the holidays so we have been catching up on those.

We made our own book covers by using marbling inks to decorate paper and then covered our exercise books with them.

We also began our Move to Learn exercises on Monday and Tuesday mornings.



## INFANT PROGRAM

Lovely to have many families returning to the Infant Program along with five new families. The children were eager to revisit the activities on offer and discover some new ones. Albie is testing out the ramp and stair equipment which is new to our room.



## CYCLE 3

Cycle 3 is getting to know each other by working in small teams in our Community Groups program. Each week teams attempt fun and engaging challenges that promote problem solving, cooperation and communication amongst many other team and personal skills. This is closely tied to our virtues program and incorporates STEM principles.



## CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS

As well as getting underway in our work and learning groups we have several off-campus community building experiences planned in the first few weeks. These shared experiences help new students to build connections and bring together everyone, fresh back after a summer of growing up and ready to re-engage with the community.



The annual Big Day Out was last Thursday and we galloped around the city of Adelaide in advisory groups, riding public transport, using maps, jumping at all kinds of innovative suggestions, and creatively completing around 40 missions each!

We head away for our two night Woodhouse retreat next week. In Week 4 we will see Out of Chaos, a physical theatre festival performance by Gravity and Other Myths, and this will give us another day to explore the city further. In Week 5 Occupations groups will spend the day together out and about.

## INDONESIAN WITH ELLIS

Cycle 2 students were asked to give feedback about learning activities in Indonesian class and one of their favourite interaction is playing **Kahoot\*** on ipads or laptops. **Kahoot** is an educational game-based, classroom response system played by the whole class in real time with multiple-choice questions projected on a screen. Level of difficulty and topics can be varied: e.g history of Indonesia, 'all about Bali', transport, food/fruit and general vocabulary. Students can play individually, in pairs or small groups, allowing them to work collaboratively in discussing questions and answers, reaching mutual consensus and learning from past errors. Other uses for **Kahoot** are to introduce new topics, check prior knowledge and reinforce/assess previous language tasks.

Some feedback comments:

\* Kahoot is what I really enjoyed because I learnt a lot.

\* I like Kahoot because it is fun.

\* I like Kahoot because I learnt new words.



# School Dates & Info

## TERM 1 DIARY DATES (for the coming fortnight)

### Wednesday February 20

Snippets with Susan 9.10am

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

### Friday February 22

Fundraising Committee meeting 9.15am – *All Welcome!*

### Tuesday February 26

Open Day – Wairoa campus Tour @ 9.30am

Marketing meeting 4.00pm

### Wednesday February 27

Year 8 & 10 Immunisations

### Thursday February 28

WHS committee meeting 4.00pm

Policy committee meeting 4.00pm

### Week 5

Interview week @ Wairoa

### Wednesday March 6

Snippets with Susan 9.10am

### Thursday March 7

Wairoa café 9.15am *All Welcome!*

Parent Rep Meeting 2.30pm

### Friday March 8

Fundraising Committee meeting 9.15am – *All Welcome!*

## KEY DATES FOR TERM 1 2019

### 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

*"We are the sowers - our children are those who reap.*

*We labour so that future generations will be better and nobler than we are."*

*Maria Montessori*

## 2019 TERM DATES

TERM 1: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April

TERM 2: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July

TERM 3: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

TERM 4: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December

## "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!

## 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.*

## FIRE WOOD

Stock up for winter!! The school has firewood available for sale - \$20 for a car boot load or \$50 per 6 x 4 trailer load. Register your interest at the school office and then we can organise collection and payment.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Eynesbury Senior College (yrs 10-12) Open Day - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February @ 2pm. Bookings and information

[www.esc.sa.edu.au](http://www.esc.sa.edu.au)

Jelly or Jam – New and improved and back for 2019 Fringe. Performances every Sat and Sun @ 2.30pm at Little Theatre. See the Fringe guide for details.