

Newsletter



The Hills
Montessori
School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This year we are reviewing our School Values. The Montessori philosophy is a values-based philosophy and it is what drives our decisions and direction and informs our daily practice and interactions.

Values are important and enduring beliefs or ideals shared by the members of an organisation about what is good &/or desirable. Values exert major influence on the behaviour of an individual and serve as broad guidelines in all situations.

Values are taught explicitly in our classrooms however they are also taught to our students by role modelling and incidentally through activities, incidents and relationships. Values influence how people interact, work together and make decisions. Our values are reflected in our policies, procedures and practices and inform our decision-making processes from the classroom through to the staff and Board. Values guide how we communicate with students, staff and parents and the wider community. They also guide the learning experiences that are provided for students and how they are provided.

Our values are the embodiment of what we stand for and subsequently they are vital in maintaining the culture of our school.

A values review session was held at the beginning of the year with staff to obtain their input about our current values. Year 6 student leaders have recently met with our Assistant Principal, Susan Harris Evans to discuss our values and to ascertain their ideas for any changes. Wairoa students will also be providing input in a seminar session with Wairoa staff.

We are seeking input from all stakeholders in the review process and it is important that parents are also given this opportunity. The Board will then hold a session to give their input and then contributions will be collated and presented for ratification by the Board, followed by dissemination to the whole community.

All parents/caregivers are invited to the parent session to review our school values on Thursday 28th March from 4.00pm – 5.30pm to be held in the Common Room at Yultiwirra.

Your input is respected, and I sincerely hope that you can join us for this important session. Free creche will be provided for children 3 years and over. Bookings essential.

Please RSVP via Skoolbag by Monday 25th March 2019.

Cathy France –Principal

*Values are who you are
even when no one is
watching.*

*"Keep your thoughts positive
because your thoughts
become your words.*

*Keep your words positive
because your words become
your behaviour.*

*Keep your behaviour positive
because your behaviour
becomes your habits.*

*Keep your habits positive
because your habits become
your values.*

*Keep your values positive
because your values become
your destiny."*

— Mahatma Gandhi

*Values are like
finger prints.
Nobody's are the same, but
you leave 'em all over
everything you do.
Elvis Preslev*

PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP

Supporting our Anxious Kids

Friday 22nd March 9.15am

*10 Steps to help our kids manage when they feel
overwhelmed, anxious and out of sorts.*

Come and join Libby Roberts, our Student Wellbeing Worker, for our first parent discussion morning for 2019. This topic is all about exploring the current research around anxiety, what has been shown to work, and how parents can support their kids to build better ways to deal with anxious feelings. The strategies are applicable to children of all ages (*including adults!*).

All parents are invited to come along to the parent discussion group facilitated by Libby to be held in the staffroom at Yultiwirra. Please RSVP via Skoolbag.

*Come along, join in the conversation and enjoy a cup of
tea or coffee!*



GAMES DAY

Thursday 21st March for Cycle 2, 3, 4

Games Day will run from 9am – 12.30pm. It's a day that focuses on having fun, working together and getting to know students from the other Cycles.

We ask that students arrive on the day wearing their allocated colours – we informed students earlier this week about which colour team they will be in.

Students need to wear appropriate PE clothing and to bring a broad brimmed hat and drink bottle.



School News

STUDENT ABSENTEEISM - SICKNESS

We ask that all families take note of the absenteeism procedures and follow them to assist us with our day-to-day running and administration of the school.

If your child will be absent for the day and you have not informed the school previously, parents are required to phone, email or send a message through Skoolbag to the school to let us know the reason for the absence and length of the absence.

If we have not received a phone call by 9.30am on the day, the school will SMS or call to confirm their whereabouts. These calls are made for safety and legal reasons; however, we really need parents to take on this responsibility and make contact on the first day of absence. Any Yultiwirra students arriving late need to report to the office to advise of their arrival and sign the student register or they will remain marked as absent.

STUDENT ABSENTEEISM – HOLIDAYS OR OTHER

The law requires that all children who are 6 years old and over attend school. If you are wanting to take your child out of school during term time for family holidays or any other reason, this needs to be put in writing to the Principal stating that you wish to seek an exemption from school with the dates and the reason for your child's absence. The Principal then has the discretion to grant an exemption from school for the specified period.

Please note the following protocol:

- For a period of absence **less than one week** an email to the Principal is required
- For a period of absence **greater than one week**, parents need to complete official paperwork in the office and this needs to be approved by the Principal.

CAKE STALL – WHOLE SCHOOL

Members of the Fundraising Committee are organising a Cake Stall to be held at the **Stirling Markets on Sunday 24th March** 10.00am – 4.00pm.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

We are hoping that as many families as possible will support this fundraiser as we need plenty to sell as it is always a very successful day. **If you can bake, provide produce or help on the day please come and let us know in the office asap.** A roster is in the office for people to sign on!



PARENT GET TOGETHER - YULTIWIRRA

Come along to the Parent Get together next Monday 25 March
9.15am at Yultiwirra in the Common room.



ROBOKIDS TERM 2

Next term we will continue to offer the 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 7th May 3.45pm – 5.00pm. A flyer will be sent home with Cycle 3 students soon.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT COORDINATOR

In our School we have a structure to provide practical help to families within our school community who require support or assistance in times of need &/or families who may be experiencing a crisis. The **Community Support Coordinator** (*volunteer position*) oversees this program. Community support may take the form of providing meals for a family, helping with pick-ups and drop - offs of children, child minding, shopping etc. Everyone from time to time goes through difficult periods in life whether it is caused by illness, accidents and injury or the death of a loved one – we are all faced with challenges and moments that are hard. When we are faced with a family crisis, knowing that we have the support of our community and there are people who are willing and able to help with some of the day to day routines and duties can really ease the burden. Our school community can be wonderful at rallying around and offering small gestures of kindness to let families or individuals in crisis know that we care and we are here to support if needed.

This year **Jane Morgan** and **Sarah Tilbury**, class parent reps, have kindly volunteered to take on this role. We are sending home a **questionnaire** to families to ask if there are any ways they may be able to support if and when needed. We will be grateful of any support that people are prepared to offer and will 'keep a register' of support in the event that assistance is required.

If your family experiences challenging times or faces a crisis please don't hesitate to contact either your class teacher or Cathy so we can provide some support. Specific family situations will always be treated in a confidential, respectful and discrete manner and will not be disclosed to the community when seeking support.

"Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community." Anthony J. D'Angelo

PARENT EDUCATION REVIEW

Last Wednesday I attended the Parent Education evening for an 'Introduction to Montessori Philosophy' held at Yultiwirra. As we are a new family to the school having just returned to Australia after living in New Zealand for many years, I thought this meeting would be worth the effort to attend. And, I wasn't wrong!

The warmth and welcoming nature of Cathy France and Susan Harris Evans made for a relaxing, informative and entertaining discussion. We were presented with information pertaining to the history and the journey of the incredible woman herself, Dr Maria Montessori as well as her legacy and the astounding work that continues in her name today. The presentation was meaningful and relevant, and I left knowing one thing for sure and that is that our children are in some of the kindest and most capable hands I've seen. **Annette Bordon** (parent)

OPEN DAY – YULTIWIRRA

Thank you to parents **Amy Worth**, **Alexis Winslow**, **Amanda Prance** and **Sonya Rayner** for volunteering to act as guides at our Open Day this week. Your help and generosity was greatly appreciated.

Cycle News

CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL

In the Preschool this term we have been learning about our five senses. We were very lucky to have a visit from the Australian Lions Hearing Dogs who are a non-for-profit organisation that provide hearing dogs to deaf and hard of hearing people throughout Australia. We got to meet Carl, a mixed breed beagle who was rescued from the pound and is now in training to help someone in their own home. Carl showed us how he would alert his owner to sounds in the home by touching them with a paw and leading them to the sound. Carl and other Hearing Dogs alert their owners to sounds like knocks on the door, a baby crying, alarm clocks or the phone ringing. The children especially enjoyed giving Carl a pat at the end. Thank you to the Lions Hearing Dogs for visiting us and all that you do for the community!



CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

Cycle 1 students have been very excited to host Libby (Wellbeing Worker) during our discussions about big emotions and building new friendships. We have practiced mindful relaxations as well as verbalising how we feel and ways that we can solve a problem. The children have also been learning to communicate in positive ways during whole class challenges.

'It's fun because we have to work together' Stella
'I like it because I'm happy when I play with my friends' Jak



CYCLE 2

As part of our study of the beginning of the Universe and the Earth we learned about the layers of the Earth as it cooled. Using plasticine, we made our own models of the Earth to show the core, mantle and crust of the Earth. The most exciting part is cutting our Earth in half to expose the layers we created.



INDONESIAN WITH LYNDAL

With our school focus on basic skills, both Cycles 3 and 4 have looked at pronunciation rules so that they can read even 'unseen' words accurately. Both Cycles have read unseen words embedded in scripts on the theme of transport, with beginner learners doing so in response to modelled speech. We have looked at the 'becak' (three wheeled motorcycle taxi) as a traditional mode of transport across the archipelago. I asked new Cycle 3 students about their transition to Cycle 3 Indonesian learning and most, like Luca, said "It is a bit harder but I am liking it." Many also shared the sentiments of Issac, who expressed appreciation at the foundational vocabulary that Ellis had drilled students in so well.

INFANT PROGRAM

As part of the focus this term in the Infant Program we are planting out our little garden with plants of pink and green. Also we are planting herbs to create a perfumed garden. The children have enjoyed planting and especially watering the garden. Harriet is helping out digging and planting.



CYCLE 3

Our Year 6 leaders walked to Bridgewater Oval to participate in our annual 'Billy Cart' leadership afternoon. This leadership afternoon aimed to build teamwork and leadership skills. Students enjoyed constructing and decorating billy carts and coming up with fitting names and chant for their teams. The session culminated in a number of billy cart races. Highlights included spectacular billy cart art work, enthusiastic team chants, super creative team names, great communication, empathy and care for other teams and the determination shown to push the heavy billy carts across very soft grass!

CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS

The **Feeding the community (7)** occupation is the foundation for so much at the Adolescent Program. Students develop their kitchen, knife and culinary skills, explore and reinforce knowledge of nutrition and healthy eating, develop and use research and language skills, learn about the digestive system in Science. This group ventured to the central markets last Friday to sample interesting and delicious ingredients on offer to possibly use when they put their hospitality skills into action with a pop-up food festival - the highly anticipated Tastes of the World!



The main objective of the **Productive gardening (8-9)** occupation is to reinvigorate our garden to be a workable, sustainable and productive site for our community. Students have learnt about plant reproduction, seed dispersal, plant health and so much more. Last week we travelled to a local nursery to research possible planting choices before visiting Gardening Australia's Sophie Thompson at her amazing garden 'Sophie's Patch.' Sophie generously shared her wealth of knowledge and inspiring ideas, whilst only asking for a donation to Operation Flinders on her behalf – a fantastic charity. Thank you Sophie!

The **Personal Learning Plan (10)** is a Year 10 compulsory choice for SACE Stage 1. Students examine the SACE General Capabilities, set and pursue learning goals, develop resumes, discuss and identify employability skills and participate in a week of Work Experience. Recently this group travelled to the Centre for Democracy and other city locations for their work on human rights and freedoms.

School Dates & Info

TERM 1 DIARY DATES (for the coming fortnight)

Thursday March 21

Games Day – Cycle 2, 3 & 4 students

Friday March 22

Parent Discussion Group with Libby

“Supporting our Anxious Kids” – 9.15am

Yultiwirra staffroom

Sunday March 24

Cake Stall @ Stirling Market

Monday March 25

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

Yultiwirra Campus – All Welcome!

Tuesday March 26

Marketing meeting 4.00pm

Wednesday March 27

Indonesian Partnership Group meeting 4pm

Students wellbeing group meeting 4pm

Wednesday March 28

Reviewing our School Values – a session for parents

4pm – 5.30pm – Yultiwirra Common Room – All Welcome!

Monday April 1

Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus

2.30pm – Parents Welcome! Cycle 2 & 4 sharing

Tuesday April 2

Parent Rep Meeting 2.30pm

Wednesday April 3

Snippets with Susan 9.15am

Indonesian Performance for Yultiwirra students 1.30pm

Thursday April 4

WHS committee meeting 4.00pm

Policy committee meeting 4.00pm

Friday April 5

Fundraising committee meeting 9.15am

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1 & 2 2019

Thursday April 11

Community Breakfast @ Yultiwirra

Friday April 12

End of Term 1 – 2pm finish

Monday April 15 – Monday April 29

Vacation Care Program

Tuesday April 30

Term 2 Begins

Tuesday May 14 – Thursday May 16

NAPLAN Testing

Tuesday May 28

AGM held at Yultiwirra – 6.00pm

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We seek to sow life in the child rather than theories, to help them in their growth, mental and emotional as well as physical, and for that we must offer grand and lofty ideas to the human mind.”

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 – Wed 11th December

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.

GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

Win an amazing holiday!

2 nights stay at Magic Beach. Magic Beach is located at Boatswains Point, only a 10 minute drive from Robe. This property has everything you need for that perfect private escape!

Purchase a \$10 ticket

Visit the office to purchase tickets.

Voucher is for 2 nights accommodation to be used before 10th May 2019.

Subject to availability. Additional nights can be purchased.

Drawn 29th March

Thank you to parents Tom & Sarah Tilbury for their generous donation of this prize.

Money raised will go towards our school fundraising efforts.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Uraidla Netball Club – Country club feel, with successful Netball and Football community. Strong reputation for junior development, quality coaching and an opportunity to develop new friendships. Also offering Net Set Go starting Sunday 5th May. For further information contact: Lauren Parker (Junior Coordinator)

juniors.uraidlanc@gmail.com or 0400 512 431