

# Newsletter



The Hills  
Montessori  
School

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At the Annual General Meeting this week Paul Daly stepped down as the President of our School Board. Paul came onto the Board in May 2011 and stepped straight into the role of Treasurer. Paul undertook this position for three years and willingly shared his accountancy expertise, skills and knowledge with the Business Administrator at that time, Finance committee and Board. In May 2014 Paul was nominated and stepped into the role of President of the School Board and has remained in that position until this AGM.

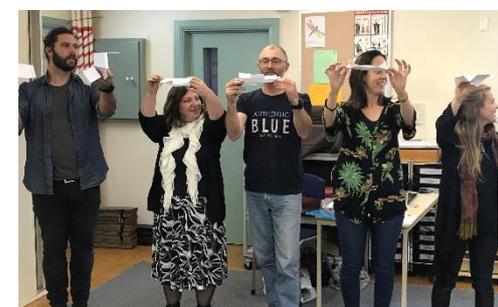
Over the eight years that Paul has been on the Board he has diligently led the Board and helped guide the school to fulfil our Vision and Mission. Paul is known for his attention to detail, whether it be reviewing policies, analysing financial papers or implementing good governance practices. Paul has ably steered the school in a positive direction whilst always honouring the Montessori philosophy and our school values. He has always been such a strong advocate for Montessori education and our school. Paul has also been a Director of HMS Mercantile Pty Ltd, the unit trust that has financed the Wairoa campus.

Paul has given so generously of his time and expertise over the eight years and we have deeply valued his input and contributions. I have greatly appreciated his listening ear, guidance and support over the years and he will be sorely missed by myself and the Board. Thank you, Paul.

*Cathy France –Principal*



*Paul Daly – Board President*



## STAFF / PARENT SESSION – WHAT IS STEM?

As someone who loved maths and science at school and went on to study engineering, I've been intrigued by the term STEM. What actually is it? Just a fancy name for the same old maths and science subjects I did? No – it's so much more!

I had the pleasure of participating in a STEM discussion with Dr. Kate Dilger and a group of our teachers and parents on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. It became clear that STEM isn't a subject – it's an approach to learning that teaches our kids to be creative problem solvers. It was also clear that this multi-disciplinary approach to learning is a natural fit in our Montessori school.

In my school and university days, success in maths and science was measured by how much you could memorise in the hope of recalling it in an exam – if you were lucky you might actually learn something along the way! In the words of Ernő Rubik (*yes, he invented the cube*), we should be posing questions to our kids, not just teaching them answers.

The STEM approach enhances our kids' maths and science learning through real world application – helping them see the relevance of their learning. We saw examples of inquisitive young minds in our school using the rigour and structure of an engineering design approach with the 'softer' skills of creative thinking, collaboration and the courage to experiment, fail, learn and improve as they design energy efficient homes, build self-watering (*and possum proof!*) veggie gardens and deliver hay to cows stranded by flood (*ok – toy cows, but maybe they'll need it for real one day!*).

Our kids will be the inventors, problem solvers and innovators of the future. Montessori and STEM – a great head start!

*Darren Griffiths - parent*

# School News

## BOARD COMMUNIQUE

The 2018 Financial Statements were presented and ratified by the Board. The Board also ratified the 2018 Annual Report. The Operational Risks section of the Risk Management Plan was reviewed. Meg Barker presented a paper recommending a change to the way that the annual review of the Board was conducted. This was approved. The updated "Students Use of Mobile Phones" policy was approved.

*Paul Daly – Board President*

## AGM RESULTS

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

**Andrew Every, Josh Ross, Andrew Park, Anwar Daou**

We would like to thank **Paul Daly** and **Tracey Spokes** who are stepping down from the Board, for their input and contributions over the years that they have been on the Board.

## TERM 2 SNIPPETS WITH SUSAN

The next 'Snippets with Susan' session will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 9.10am with a focus on *Student Transition from Cycle to Cycle*. Book in via SkoolBag.

## 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 to all families 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.

## 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 "Grounded in Truth: Walk together with Courage".



## BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE

**Sunday 16th June 8am- 4.30pm**

Please help us raise fund for the school by donating your time at the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. Please contact the office to put your name on the roster.



## PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP

*Supporting Your Child to build & navigate friendships*  
Friday 14th June 9.15am

Learning how to make friends & understanding the social world is a life-long skill. This topic is all about how we can support our kids to navigate the inevitable ups and downs of making friends & keeping them, & how to support your kids when friendships are tricky.

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

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

## OPEN DAY – YULTIWIRRA

**Open Day at Yultiwirra Campus will be held on Tuesday 4th 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.

## 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 17<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 via Skoolbag - please complete the eForm by **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June** to book your place.

## CYCLE 1 & 2 MUSIC CONCERT

On Wednesday 12<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.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to staff members Lisa Goodwin and Nikki Green who ran in the Adelaide Marathon last weekend and successfully completed 42.2 km!! What a great achievement!



# Cycle News

## CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL

We have been spending more time in the school's bush area as an alternative outdoor option as our area is being redeveloped. The Preschool children have been benefiting from our morning walks and time spent in the bush. We have seen some fantastic cubby houses being constructed, imaginative play occurring, bird watching and collaborative nature hunts. It has been a great opportunity for the children to develop their gross motor skills, coordination and muscle tone. We are very lucky to have such a beautiful natural space to explore and enjoy.



## CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

This term in Cycle 1 primary we have been studying simple machines. One of the machines we have looked at is the lever. The children went down to the bush to explore how they could make and use a simple lever to solve a problem of their choosing. They decided to try to move a very large rock. Seth from Cycle 3 tried to lift the big rock but it was too heavy... Even with all the children helping, the rock could not be budged! A long branch was chosen to use as a lever and a smaller rock for a fulcrum. Using these we managed to lever the rock up and slide some logs underneath one side of it. We then moved around to the other side of the big rock and did the same thing. The lever made it possible to do what we could not do with our bare hands.



We experimented with moving the position of the fulcrum, noticing how this changed the movement of the rock. "You know in the olden days, people didn't know how to lift things... and then they learnt about levers. And we're going down bush to test it with heavy things!" (Xavier)

## CYCLE 2

Through a STEM approach this term we have been learning about different forces through hands on investigations, art, short video clips and writing. The students have learnt about gravity during art lessons. They have collaborated in small groups to complete and record science investigations. Recently they worked in pairs to make a ramp for toy cars and after discussion and questioning, they re-modelled their ramps with less friction. Cycle 2 has also been enjoying yoga lessons, run by 'Blooming Hearts', on Tuesday mornings.



## INFANT PROGRAM

In Infant Program this term we are continuing our focus on the senses and also colour. Florence is using the sense of touch, sight and smell to explore the feeling of shaving cream on her hands.



## CYCLE 3

This term Cycle 3 have commenced a program called 'service learning'. This is a key component of the values education curriculum. The students are working in small action teams conducting a variety of service to the school community. They have written letters to mentors to ask for supervision, they have written up lesson plans, arranged equipment and signed up small groups of Cycle 1 and 2 children to participate in their sessions. They are running drama activities, drawing lessons, cooking, slime making, Harry Potter craft, PE games and hockey. The activities are running at various lunch times, all over the school. It seems to be well received so far.



## CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS

Alongside the federal election, a group in the adolescent community have been campaigning for election to our Wairoa senate. This has been a fantastic way to learn about Australian politics and democratic processes. Students represented the major parties, developing their own policies for the school based on the policies of these parties. It was an exciting campaign process with stirring speeches, bold promises and fiery question times. After a hands-on example of the preferential voting system Jamie Smigielski, Jack Clark and Aimee Stewart were elected into office. We look forward to seeing if they can be more successful than the federal government in implementing their policies and managing their budget.



## MUSIC WITH MAREE

During this term, Cycle 3 students have been developing their musical skills through the use of GarageBand. A number of tasks have been assigned which aim to support students to build songs and create backing tracks from scratch.

# School Dates & Info

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

### Thursday May 30

SPTG Meeting 9.00am

WHS Meeting 4.00pm

### Monday June 3

Special Finance Meeting 6.00pm

### Tuesday June 4

Yultiwirra Open Day 10-12noon

### Wednesday June 5

Snippets with Susan 9.10am

### Friday June 7

Fundraising Meeting 9.15am

### Monday June 10

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

### Tuesday June 11

I & PC Meeting 8.00am @ Wairoa

Finance Meeting 6.00pm

### Wednesday June 12

Cycle 1 & 2 Music Concert

## KEY DATES FOR TERM 2 2019

### Friday June 14

Parent Discussion Group with Libby 9.15am

### Sunday June 16

Bunning's Sausage Sizzle – Fundraiser 9am-4pm

### Monday June 17

Parent Education – Cycle 1 Transition 9.15am

### Monday June 17– Friday June 21

Collaborative Interviews - Yultiwirra

### Monday June 24

Parent Get Together – Yultiwirra 9.15am

### Tues June 25, Wed June 26, Thurs June 27

Coffeehouse Cabaret – Wairoa

### Thursday July 4

Sharing Assembly 9.30am

Cycle 3 & 4 sharing. All parents welcome!

### Friday July 5

Term 2 Ends

## TERM 2 SHARING ASSEMBLIES

We wish to invite all parents/caregivers to our "sharing assemblies" this term held at Yultiwirra campus, where students have the opportunity to share their work with the rest of the school. Please make a note of the dates and place it in your diary:

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 11.30am – Preschool, Cycle 1 & 2

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 9.30am – Cycle 3 & 4

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Let us wait and be always ready to share in both the joys and the difficulties which the child experiences."*

*Maria Montessori*

## 2019 TERM DATES

**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 – Wed 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

## EARN & LEARN

Whenever you shop at Woolworths, collect the stickers at the checkout, place them on sticker cards available in the school office (1 sticker for every \$10 spent). Drop into the collection box located in the office and help get valuable resources for our school. We have until 25<sup>th</sup> June to collect them; ask work colleagues, neighbours, grandparents and friends to collect them for us too!!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**The Hut Repair Cafe** is on again on Sunday June 2nd - 10.00am-2.00pm @ The Hut's Community Shed, 1 Euston Road Aldgate.

Bring along items for repair - this may include garden tools, mowers, household items, clothing, bikes and any more.

*Unfortunately they are not able to repair electrical items at this stage.*

Join us in the Hut's Community Shed for good company, coffee, food and entertainment and help us to reduce landfill!!

**Stirling Meals on Wheels** are desperate for new volunteers - either in the kitchen or for deliveries. If you can't commit to a regular time slot, you can go on the 'fill in' list. **Kitchen times are 8am - 11am** and you don't have to be a great cook to volunteer in the kitchen: peeling veggies and washing dishes is a massive help.

**Delivery times are 11am - 1pm.** Deliveries are always made by two people so even if you don't want to drive, helping deliver is so important as you also make sure our customers are 'safe & well' when you call.

Police checks are required, but available at no cost to our volunteers when applying through Meals on Wheels.

Please phone Julie Clamp on 8339 2601 or

visit [www.mealsonwheels.org.au](http://www.mealsonwheels.org.au) if you would like more information or can help us out.