

# Newsletter



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to welcome students, parents and staff to the 2018 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. Also at the beginning of this year all staff completed their First Aid training to comply with our Duty of Care policy.

2018 is a special year in our school's history. We celebrate our *40th year of operation* this year and so it is a time to celebrate our achievements, reflect upon our growth, feel pride in what we have developed over the years and be grateful for the work of the pioneering families and staff who worked so hard in the early years to establish the school. We have planned for a number of celebrations throughout this year. This term we will unveil and reveal the beautiful sculpture that local artist Tim Thomson has crafted to commemorate this milestone. In Term 2 we will hold an Old Scholars event and in Term 3 we will host a dinner for current and past staff, parents and friends. In Term 4 we will enjoy a student celebration at Wairoa for all current students. I encourage you to become involved in these events as we unite as a community to celebrate our beautiful and unique school.

Over the past few years we, as a school, have had a key focus each year. This year we have decided it will be the *"Year of Gratitude"* at our school. *Gratitude is the quality of being thankful and a readiness to show appreciation for, and to return kindness.* Research shows that there are numerous mental health benefits for expressing gratitude. It strengthens our relationships and our connection to our community, it makes us happier and more compassionate people. Gratitude is not simply an emotional response, it is also a choice that we make. We can choose to be grateful, or to be ungrateful. As a staff we have discussed how we can model and practice and encourage gratitude with our students this year. Gratitude is a key value and component of the Montessori curriculum featuring as an element within peace education, grace and courtesy and the concepts in the cosmic curriculum.

I hope 2018 is a positive and fulfilling year for everyone full of wonderful learning opportunities. **Together this year, let's cultivate the habit of being grateful.**

*Cathy France –Principal*

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

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

Libby Roberts (*Student Wellbeing worker*),

Nikkie Green (*Learning Support School Assistant*)

Heidi Kaethner (*Cycle 1 School Assistant*)

We also welcome back to our staff:

Lauren Kervers (*Cycle 4 teacher*)

Debbie Lynch (*Cycle 1 teacher*)



Libby Roberts & Lauren Kervers



Nikki Green



Debbie Lynch & Heidi Kaethner

## 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:** Oliver, Bede, Iris, Lucie, Kai, Ruth, Hazel, Johnathan, Nyssa, Zander

**Cycle 2:** Summer, Amelia, Catlyn

**Cycle 3:** Matyas

**Cycle 4:** Darian, Sam

## FAMILY WELCOME

FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 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. 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.



*We hope you can come along and join in!*

## \*\*IMPORTANT CHANGES\*\*

### SKOOLBAG CLASS CHANGE FOR 2018

If your child has moved cycles/classes in 2018 you will need to make slight changes to your Skoolbag preferences. You will need to go into **"Set up"** and re-select the push categories to the class that your child will be in next year.

*The Skoolbag app will continue to be our main form of communication with parents in 2018.* 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.



# School News

## TRANSPORT TO & FROM SCHOOL

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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 anyone we currently know who catches the bus or walks home; however if you do not receive one of these forms this week please come to the office to complete the required details.

## PARENT GET TOGETHERS

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Parent get togethers (*coffee mornings*) will continue this year with two being scheduled for each term. This is an opportunity for parents to meet, mingle and chat. One get together will be held at Yultiwirra and one at Wairoa campus. 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 will be providing coffee & cake as part of their micro-economy enterprises. Please make a note of the two dates and place them in your diary – *“come along and have a cuppa!”*

*Thursday 1st March – 9.15am – Wairoa Campus*

*Monday 26th March – 9.15am – Yultiwirra Campus*

## FIRE PROCEDURES

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The Fire procedures are included as an insert in 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](http://www.bom.gov.au)) for the forecast and Fire Danger rating issued after 4pm each day.

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS

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Volunteers can make a significant contribution to the life of The Hills Montessori School by sharing their time, interests and expertise to complement programs offered by the school and adding 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. If you are interested in assisting in your **child's** classroom a

*Volunteer Training Session* will be held on

*Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 9.15am.*

*Please register your interest at the office.*

## 40<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY SCULPTURE

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In 2018 The Hills Montessori School will celebrate its 40th birthday! To commemorate this milestone the school has commissioned local artist Tim Thomson to design and craft a bronze sculpture of the school emblem - a sapling growing in the cupped hands of a mentor.



The sculpture will be mounted on a stone and set prominently in the garden bed outside the office at our Yultiwirra campus. It will be a monument to honour the work and creativity each and every person has contributed to our school over its 40 year history and will help to inspire the generations of families to come, to likewise become part of the **school's** fabric.

We have written to all school families to seek their support and generous donations to fund the crafting and installation of this sculpture. *If you wish to provide support with a donation, please collect a slip from the office with further payment details.*

Thank you for the generous contributions we have already received. We look forward to the unveiling of the sculpture at the Festival of Arts evening on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

## INFORMATION NIGHTS

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*Wairoa Campus Information Night will be held on  
[Wednesday 21st Feb](#)*

*Yultiwirra Campus Information Night will be held on  
[Thursday 22nd February](#)*

At Information Nights teaching staff provide parents with vital information covering their program and plans for this year, expectations of the classroom and cycle, and characteristics of the particular age group. Parents will also have the opportunity to ask questions concerning the routines and practices of their **child's** class. We seek the support of parents on these nights and hope that you will find these sessions beneficial. 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 convey whether you require this on the Skoolbag RSVP to assist us with our planning.

*We urge all parents to attend these important evenings.*

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT BROCHURE

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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.

# Vacation Care News

## Happy New Year from OSHC!

The end of 2017 saw us moving into a jam packed fun Vacation Care which leads us into 2018! Vacation Care has been another success thanks to the school community, Vacation Care staff and the children who attended, who helped make the program fun, exciting and full of new experiences. We farewelled Harley Pokorra and Samuel Griffiths. Both boys have been a big part of the OSHC family and will be dearly missed. During Vacation Care we enjoyed some excursions around the hills. Unfortunately, due to the hot weather we had to cancel some. We really enjoyed going to the Hahndorf Beerenburg farm and we each picked a punnet of strawberries. We went to the cinema and saw great new movies and ate popcorn! We made Christmas decorations, nature craft and plaster moulds. We cooked apple crumbles, sushi and pizzas. We put on plays, performances, dressed up and had our faces painted. We stayed cool with water play, slippery slides, water balloons and bubble pools. We rode our bikes, took apart old electronics, and made pillows with Kim. We played video games and watched movies when it got too hot to run and play with our friends. We enjoyed ice-creams and ice blocks on hot days and when it was cool enough we spent time outdoors in the sand pit making rivers, doing pipe construction and making mud pies. We played down in the bush designing cubbies, swinging, jumping and running. We also looked after the school chickens on a roster with families. We collected many eggs and checked their food and water daily, especially in the warm weather. Thank you to those families who have donated activities, toys and craft items to OSHC, we appreciate your support. OSHC is always happy to receive donations. We are always happy to take recycled items, good quality toys and art supplies. The OSHC team look forward to starting a fresh new year filled with new friends, activities, experiences and fun and games. We love your ideas and support so please come and see OSHC staff or email OSHC and share with us.

*Sammi Rolt – OSHC Coordinator*

**Did You Know?** OSHC serves breakfast each morning in before school care for \$2 and a healthy snack each afternoon at 4pm which is included in the price of attending OSHC.

*For OSHC rates, times and information please speak to Reception or Sammi and we can provide the information.*

**CONTACT OSHC TO MAKE A BOOKING OR TO SPEAK WITH SAMMI**

0455 232 424 OSHC mobile  
8339 6842 Ext #3 (message facility)  
[oshc@montessori.sa.edu.au](mailto:oshc@montessori.sa.edu.au)



# School Dates & Info

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

### Friday February 9

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

### Tuesday February 1

Facilities Meeting 8am - Yultiwirra

Finance Meeting 6.00pm

### Friday February 16

Fundraising Meeting 9am All Welcome!

### Tuesday February 20

Volunteers Training session 9.15am

Year 8 Immunisations

Executive Meeting 6.00pm

Board Meeting 7.00pm

### Wednesday February 21

Wairoa Welcome & Information Evening – 6pm

### Thursday February 22

Yultiwirra Information Evening

### Tuesday February 27

Wairoa Open Day Tours @ 9.30am & 11am

Marketing Meeting 4.00pm

## KEY DATES FOR TERM 1 2018

### Thursday March 2

Wairoa café 9.15am All Welcome!

### Week 6

Interview week @ Wairoa

### Thursday March 15

Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus

9.30am – Parents Welcome! Cycle 1 & 3 sharing

Parent Education Evening – 6.30pm

'Introduction to Montessori Philosophy'

### Week 7

Interview week @ Yultiwirra

### Tuesday March 20

Open Day – Yultiwirra campus 10am-12noon

### Thursday March 22

Games Day – Cycle 2, 3 & 4 students

### Sunday March 25

Cake Stall @ Stirling Market

### Monday March 26

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

Yultiwirra Campus – All Welcome!

### Wednesday March 28

Yultiwirra Festival of Arts

### Wednesday March 28 – Thursday March 29

Adolescent Orientation Camp

### Wednesday April 4

Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus

9.30am – Parents Welcome! Cycle 2 & 4 sharing

### Thursday April 12

Community Breakfast

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Whoever touches the life of the child touches the most sensitive point of a whole which has roots in the most distant past and climbs toward the infinite future."*

*Maria Montessori*

## 2018 TERM DATES

TERM 1: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April

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

## DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS

This year we have made the decision to not send out hard copies of the fortnightly school Newsletter. (except for this first Newsletter) Instead *Newsletters will be emailed to all families and can also be accessed on the Skoolbag app.* We will print a few hard copies which families can collect from the office if they still want 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 choir in week 2.

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

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## 2018 OSHC REGISTRATION

Please collect an OSHC registration form from the office if you wish to use this service in 2018 and **haven't** used it in the past.

*If we don't hear from you we will assume there are no changes to your details and that you will continue your permanent bookings.*