

# Newsletter



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

2018 has been a truly positive and fruitful year in our school but is fast drawing to a close. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff; both teachers and school assistants, for their enthusiasm and energy for their work and commitment throughout the year. They are a wonderful team of people and their contributions, input and care contribute to making our school the brilliant, unique and vibrant place that it is. They certainly all deserve a well-earned break!

Thanks also to our Child Care and OSHC workers who work tirelessly throughout the year and provide a wonderful service and particularly to OSHC coordinator Megan Lynch and Child Care coordinator Narelle Kenning. Sincere thanks also to the admin staff; Susan Harris Evans, Paul Noon, Jodie Searle, Gab Tooth and Anthea Hagar for all that they have done to ensure things run smoothly on a day-to-day basis. We farewell Michael McMillan at the end of this term and thank him for the work he has done as the garden specialist at Wairoa this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parent community who have volunteered and helped in some way this year. As a small, parent/staff managed school we rely heavily on parental assistance and support and truly value your involvement and contributions whatever they might be. Parent involvement enhances, either directly or indirectly, the educational experiences for all of our students and contributes to maintaining a positive, supportive school community.

Most importantly, thank you to the students who make our work meaningful, bring light into our lives each day and life into our school.

*I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.*

*Cathy France –Principal*



## GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

This week we held our Year 6 (Cycle 3) Graduation Ceremony in the hall at Yultiwirra. Graduates, families, staff and Board members listened to the graduates speak and recall the memories of their time in Cycles 1, 2 & 3, outlining their achievements and taking the opportunity to thank those people in their life who have supported them along their journey thus far. After the formal part of the evening, the graduates and a few staff enjoyed a meal at a local restaurant to celebrate the end of a great year for these senior students.

On Friday evening the middle school students held their Exhibition of Work and Learning followed by the Year 9 (Cycle 4) Graduation. This also was a wonderful event where parents, staff, families and friends came to view all Wairoa students' work and achievements and then celebrate the graduation of Year 9 students completing Cycle 4. It is also an opportunity to congratulate and farewell Year 10 students who have completed their senior year. Some of our Year 9 students will stay to complete Year 10 in 2019 whilst others are moving to other senior secondary schools. Following the graduation speeches and Exhibition of Learning the Wairoa students and staff had a sit-down dinner together at Wairoa and then a 'party' that the students organised themselves.

These graduation celebrations have become embedded in our school traditions and are a rite of passage for these students. Thank you to *Christine Perry, Natalie Costello & Suzie Saffin (Cycle 3 teachers)* and *Pippa Milroy, Tim Moore, Dave Coulter & Lauren Kervers (Wairoa teaching staff)* for all of the wonderful programs you offered these students throughout the year and the assistance you provided in helping the graduating students prepare for the transition and next part of their educational journey.



*We acknowledge the following graduating students.*

### *Cycle 3 – Year 6 Graduates*

*Amelia Barter  
Maya Bolzon  
Madi Brown  
Lucas Clark  
Charlotte Daly  
Michael Evans  
Macy Mae Gilbert  
Oliver Goodwin  
Isla Guerriero  
Sarah Hart  
India Horton  
Lilly Ingram  
Maddy Koh  
Rhianna Leske  
Oakley Lockyer  
Innis Nettle*

### *Cycle 4 – Year 9 Graduates*

*Renad Alhaji  
Christopher Birch  
Jacob Buringa  
Matthew Daly  
William Durham  
Neneh Kenny  
Jackson Lockyer  
Demelza Metha  
Corey Stewart*

### *Senior Year – Year 10 Students*

*Isaac Allchurch  
Nellie Carter  
Andrew Garsed  
Sebastian Osborne  
Hunter Walker*

# School News

## TOWARDS LEADING A GRATEFUL LIFE

- Acknowledge the good in life as this will amplify and reinforce positive emotions and thoughts.
- Express gratitude towards people in your life and people you come across.
- It is said that expressing gratitude may generate more optimism, but thankful people also don't shy away from the negative. The key to leading a thankful life is embracing setbacks as part of your overall journey. Tough times help us to be grateful for the good times.
- Be mindful and 'present' and stop every now and then to be grateful for small things & small everyday moments.
- Examine your own talents and use them to help others and provide service, because people become more grateful as 'givers' rather than 'receivers'.
- Small acts of kindness make a difference in a big way when it comes to cultivating gratitude. Thankful people make it a habit to acknowledge and pay forward each bit of kindness that comes their way.
- Be thankful for the life you have been given and for being the person that you are.
- Learn to be thankful for what you already have, while you pursue all that you want.



And finally remember gratitude is a choice that we make.....  
.....choose to be grateful.

*An excerpt from Cathy's speech at the 2018 Year 6 graduation.....*

## 2019 FAMILY WELCOME - WHOLE SCHOOL

At the beginning of every year we hold a Family Welcome and invite all families from all Cycles (Infant Program, Pre-school, Primary & Middle School) to come along to meet and chat with other families, both new and existing and with the staff. This night takes the form of drinks and nibbles – BYO drinks and glasses - nibbles are provided.

*Next year the Family Welcome will be held at the end of Week 1,  
Friday 8th February 2019 from 6.00 – 7.30pm.*

*This has always been a terrific social function and a good way to start the year. Please put the date in your diary - we hope you can come along and join in!*

## ACTION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Congratulations to [Lucy Whitson](#) (Cycle 2 student) who recently read her self-researched speech to over 500 people on the steps of Parliament House. Lucy participated in the National Strikes for Climate Action.



## STIRLING CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Stirling Christmas pageant was held a few weeks ago and once again we had a great number of students and parents participate. Our sincere thanks go to [Vanessa Baryczka](#) (parent) and her team of enthusiastic parent helpers for their creativity, efforts in pulling together the float and costumes. They expertly designed and helped to create the wonderfully creative float for the 'Christmas Around the World' theme. Congratulations to everyone involved! This is such a wonderful school occasion and also a great opportunity to engage with the wider community. Our "school entry" was once again visually stunning, and the participation rate and subsequent "size" of our entry portrays a very positive message of unity and a strong sense of community, whilst increasing the profile of the school. Thanks to all of the parents and staff who assisted in some way and supported this event. And thank you to the children for their enthusiastic participation!



# Cycle News

## CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL

The Extended Program children have been working on a recycled bottle top piece of art. As a group we chose a butterfly to coincide with our invertebrate topic this term. The children enjoyed sorting the bottle tops into the different colours and laying them out within the outline. We have now finished our colourful butterfly and it is proudly hanging on our playground fence.



## CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

Our Cycle 1 students continue their study of Technology and mapping. Students have been looking at magnets and the magnetic force around the earth including the cardinal directions North, South, East, West. They then explored the way structures, buildings and houses are mapped. Students were asked to imagine they were a giant who had taken the roof off their classroom and described the space from that perspective. Students drafted a map of their classroom and the school before making a 3D map which included Cycle 1 classrooms, playground, trees (including a nest), bushland area and school carpark. There was much discussion about the correct orientation of buildings and bushland!



## CYCLE 2

The last couple of weeks have been very busy in Cycle 2. We have continued our usual morning work cycle, however some of our afternoons have been working on our Christmas crafts and activities. The Cycle 2 students have diligently been practising songs for the Christmas concert. Last Tuesday Cycle 2 sang beautifully and confidently at the Stirling Library. We were proud to see them perform and also display their great audience skills as they watched St Catherine's Year 3 to 7 students perform. On Friday students cared for two 9 week old golden retrievers pups, they were all caring and responsible and gave the pups a very good first experience with younger children.



## INFANT PROGRAM

Play dough is a favourite activity in the Infant Playgroup and making it is also lots of fun and takes many cooks. Lucy, Florence and Freddie are sharing the task.



## CYCLE 3

Last week both Cycle 3 classes visited Preschool and Cycle 1 to share their recently published picture books. The Cycle 3 students started with the story idea, typed it up and illustrated each page themselves. Some children used watercolour paints, coloured pencils and textas. Upon completion each book was bound to make it a lasting, keepsake. It was wonderful to share them with our very receptive 'target audience'.



## CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS

Students in the Adolescent Program had their Exhibitions of Work and Learning on Friday (Week 8). They selected the work that they are most proud of and showed rich learning and displayed this for the wider community. Some highlights included paper mache trophy heads, documentaries about life at Wairoa, simple machine demonstrations, pallet furniture and Taran's handmade surfboard. The exhibition was followed by our graduation event where all of the students spoke beautifully and sincerely about their time in the program. A particular highlight was Demelza's speech which consisted entirely of theatrically performed rhyming couplets. We are very proud of all we have achieved this year!



## PE WITH ATILA

Cycle 3 students have enjoyed a yoga and dance clinic run by the MissFits Movement. The sessions focused on coordination, balance and mindfulness. It was great to see all students challenging themselves, particularly with the balance poses. Cycle 1 and 2 students have enjoyed exploring their cricket skills. We've practiced throwing and catching along with modified cricket games.



# School Dates & Info

## KEY DATES FOR TERM 1 2019

Monday February 4  
Pupil Free Day  
Tuesday February 5  
Term 1 begins  
Friday February 8  
Family Welcome @ Yultiwirra 6pm – 7.30pm All Welcome!  
Wednesday February 13  
Wairoa Welcome & Information Evening – 6pm  
Thursday February 14  
Yultiwirra Information Evening  
Thursday March 21  
Games Day – Cycle 2, 3 & 4 students  
Thursday April 11  
Community Breakfast

## CLASS PARENT REPS

Thank you to the 2018 class parent reps for undertaking their role this year and giving their time to the many facets of the role. They have assisted in building community spirit and a positive, supportive school environment.

## COMMUNITY PRODUCE SWAP

Thanks to Janene Thompson who has done a great job of organising the Community Produce Swap every Monday morning this year.

## WAIROA REPORTS

Wairoa Term 4 reports will be posted to families the week after school ends.

## CONGRATULATIONS

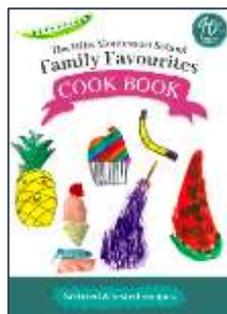
Congratulations to Emily Earl and Attila Nandori who have recently announced their engagement. We wish them every happiness for the future.



## 40TH BIRTHDAY RECIPE BOOK

The preparation of food and the sharing of meals is an important part of the practical life skills taught at The Hills Montessori School.

To commemorate our 40th year, a cook book of 80 tried and tested recipes has been produced. The Hills Montessori School Family Favourites Cook Book is on sale for \$20 with funds raised going back to our school. There is only a limited number of books - don't miss out!



## 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

## 2018-2019 VACATION CARE

December 2018 – February 2019

To help with your summer holiday planning you may wish to take note of the Vacation Care dates over December 2018 and January/February 2019.

Vacation Care will run from:

**THURS 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018 – WED 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018**

Vacation Care will close:

Thurs 20<sup>st</sup> December 2018 – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Vacation Care will reopen:

**Mon 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and run until Mon 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

The program has been sent home and can also be viewed on Skoolbag. If you are interested in your child attending Vacation Care please complete the booking form ASAP and hand into the office or directly to Megan. We are currently trying to finalise staffing and confirm excursion arrangements.

## CHANGES TO OSHC & CHILD CARE

All families have been sent a letter explaining the new changes to OSHC and Child Care due to new legislation introduced. Please read this information carefully. 2019 OSHC/Child Care Enrolment Forms have also been sent home to all families. If you intend using these services in 2019 you must complete and return these forms ASAP to the office.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Little People Big Feelings balm is an all natural, vegan, therapeutic grade balm range made by Grace, a fellow school parent.

Visit [www.littlepeoplebigfeelings.com.au](http://www.littlepeoplebigfeelings.com.au) to see the full range.

Use special discount code: LITTLEELF which is made available to The Hills Montessori School community until January 30 2019.

**EXPERIENCED TUTOR** - Kind and enthusiastic primary school teacher available for tutoring. Dedicating to helping children reach their potential, and with more than 15 years experience, I love what I do. Sometimes children just need a confidence boost or a recap on weaker subjects - and lessons over the holidays can really help. I also have experience working with children with dyslexia and Aspergers. For more information please call Alva on 0451806289.