

Newsletter



The Hills
Montessori
School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Each year, as a school, we have a key focus for our community. This year we determined that it will be the "Year of the Three R's – RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, RESILIENCE". These three qualities and values are key tenets of the Montessori philosophy.

Over the year staff have been talking with students about Respect, Responsibility and Resilience and what they look like, sound like and feel like and I encourage parents to have similar conversations. Here are some ideas when discussing resilience with your child.

Resilience is the ability to cope when things go wrong. Resilience is what helps us to cope and get through hard times. Sometimes it makes us even stronger than we were before.

Resilience can also be described as:

- bouncing back after difficult times
- dealing with challenges and still holding your head up
- giving things a go or trying your best
- being strong on the inside
- being able to cope with what life throws at you and shrugging it off
- standing up for yourself

What helps develop resilience?

- having a positive attitude and positive thoughts
- finding good friends and having a supportive family
- feeling good about yourself and feeling like you belong
- helping others or 'giving back'
- learning from mistakes
- the ability to keep on trying
- talking to someone
- looking for the positives in situations
- accepting that change happens all the time
- accepting that negative things can happen
- finding things that help you feel calm
- working towards your goals
- getting help when you need it

Resilience is important for children's mental health. Children with greater resilience are better able to manage stress, which is a common response to difficult events. Resilience helps us to maintain balance in our lives during difficult or stressful periods of time and can also protect us from the development of some mental health difficulties. Together, let's support our young people to develop their resiliency.

Cathy France –Principal

Resilience



WHICH STEP HAVE YOU REACHED TODAY?

Success is not final,
Failure is not fatal:
It is the
courage to continue
that counts.

Winston Churchill

SNIPPETS WITH SUSAN

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 fortnightly in the Yultiwirra staffroom from 9.10am - 9.30am.

Snippet Session 4: Wed 19th June

Understanding the importance of Spelling, Sight Words and how to help at home.

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

WAIROA CABARET

Tuesday 25 June – Thursday 27 June

Cabaret is back again! This year we are performing 3 hilarious plays, linked by the theme of 'Timeline of Justice.'

The cabaret season is held from Tuesday June 25 till Thursday June 27.

Ticket sales have just opened for Wairoa families with remaining tickets then offered to Cycle 3 families soon.

Contact the school office for details.



School News

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

Due to legislative changes, as of the 1st July individuals who work with or volunteer with children must have a 'Working with Children Check' (WWCC). The WWCC is an ongoing assessment of a person's eligibility to work or volunteer with children and young people. It involves checking a person's national criminal history (*including all spent convictions, pending and non-conviction charges*) and other disciplinary and police information. The WWCC is a preventative and up to date monitoring system that will continually record a person's unlawful behaviour, whether they are charged or convicted. The WWCC replaces the DCSI Screening. Transition provisions apply for staff and volunteers who currently hold a DCSI clearance. There is no cost for a volunteer WWCC and the school can initiate the online process for any parents who want to obtain a WWCC if they wish to volunteer in the classroom.

Please come speak to the office if you would like to initiate this process so that you can volunteer.

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.

BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Sunday 16th June 8am- 4.30pm

The Fundraising Committee is running a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Mount Barker this Sunday. Drop in and buy a sausage to support the school.



TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

It is nearly the end of the Financial Year so you could take advantage of a Tax Deduction through making a donation to our school building fund. Many families already donate and have nominated to do this when paying their tuition fees. Your donations can make a very real difference for our students and we are extremely grateful for the donations we receive each year from families.

You can support through donations to the School Building Fund.

This fund is used to help cover the costs of new buildings, renovation & improvements to existing structures but **you only have until the 30th June for a tax deduction for this financial year.**

SCHOOL BANKING

Unfortunately, due to the closing of the local Commonwealth Bank in Stirling the school will no longer be able to offer a school banking service to students. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause the few families who utilised this service.

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!

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 17th 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 out via Skoolbag - please complete the eForm by **Friday 14th June** to book your place.

CYCLE 1 & 2 MUSIC CONCERT

Due to staff illness the Cycle 1 & 2 Music Concert has been cancelled and rescheduled to Tuesday 2nd July. (Week 10)

The concert will be held 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. Details and RSVP via SkoolBag.



CONGRATULATIONS

Zara Young (Cycle 3) competed in the South Australian Interschool Equestrian championships two weekends ago. Zara won first place and was crowned Interschool Champion. Zara is coached by former Olympic Games gold medalist Wendy Schaeffer.



Cycle News

CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL

It has been very exciting to watch the redevelopment of our outdoor area this term. The children have really enjoyed observing the workers in action, for example, operating the machinery, paving, decking, digging, demolishing and constructing. It has been a great opportunity for the children to meaningfully add longer words to their vocabulary and to see real people working as a team. The children have been broadening their friendships and further developing social skills through re-enactment of this 'work' in our current mud kitchen and school's bush area.



"They work as a team!" - Kai G

"I hope they don't smash up the boat. Oh no. Don't hurt the plants!" - Cooper

"Look, they are moving the rocks!" - Alexander

"I don't want them to move the pots." - Aurora VS

CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

We have been exploring fungi this term. We've been on fungi hunts and eaten mushroom risotto. The children have had several opportunities to explore and name the parts of a mushroom. 'I love, love, love mushrooms', said Jak. 'They have a stalk underneath', mentioned Hattie. Elise told us 'They have ring.' Emphasis has been placed on using and working safely with fungi. Mossy knew that 'Some mushrooms are poisonous', and Japer stated that 'Mushrooms are fungi'. Lucy declared, 'They grow on the ground and in trees. I think I have poisonous mushroom at my home. I hate mushrooms!'



CYCLE 2

In the last few weeks children have been designing their moving toy with great energy. This has been part of their STEM activities. The next stage of building the toy also created a lot of discussion and enthusiasm. It was wonderful seeing the students work in teams, re-designing, and rebuilding as they needed to. The testing of the toys created a lot of discussion and some more re-designing!



INFANT PROGRAM

Over the past couple of weeks, the children in Infant Program have loved peeling mandarins and using the 'apple machine' that peels, cores and spirals an apple. Lots of tasting sweet Adelaide Hills apples and sweet juicy mandarins which fits in with our focus on the exploring the senses. Harriet is using strength, dexterity and persistence to prepare her apple for eating.



CYCLE 3



Cycle 3 embarked on an excursion to visit 2 places of worship, St Peters Cathedral and Buddha House. This kicked off our topic 'World Beliefs'. The goal of our study is to develop an understanding of and celebrate the diversity of culture and beliefs in our world. Students will continue to explore this topic through art, research and group discussions. They will also listen to guest speakers.

CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS

The last couple of weeks have been hectic at Wairoa. We have hosted our Autumn Café and a visit by the Year 6 students, and a group of students are hosting a Biggest Morning Brunch this coming Thursday morning at 8am. (Please come along if you can – RSVP through SkoolBag.)

We've also held the Wairoa elections, and a Science day with workshops from SciWorld ranging through Chemistry, Energy and Robotics. This week our older students will be visiting University Senior College in the city for an extended Chemistry lab session.

We are racing towards our 2019 Coffeehouse Cabaret season. Three plays are under rehearsal, and our production design and event management teams are hard at work putting this show together. This week we began to assemble the theatre space in our main building.

INDONESIAN WITH LYNDAL

Listening to chunks of speech repeatedly until we can isolate syllables, words and then whole sentences has been a challenging and worthwhile focus for both cycles. Cycle 3 have also enjoyed making chatterboxes and completing scripts to showcase food and animal words. Cycle 4 students are finessing written pieces using higher order conjunctions such as 'nevertheless' and 'in order to' and extending their range of verbs.

School Dates & Info

TERM 2 DIARY DATES (for the coming fortnight)

Wednesday June 12

Cycle 1 & 2 Music Concert **CANCELLED** (to be rescheduled)

Friday June 14

Parent Discussion Group with Libby 9.15am

Sunday June 16

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

Monday June 17– Friday June 21

Collaborative Interviews - Yultiwirra

Monday June 17

Parent Education – Cycle 1 Transition 9.15am

Tuesday June 18

Executive Meeting 6.00pm

Board Meeting 7.00pm

Wednesday June 19

Snippets with Susan 9.10am

Thursday June 20

SPTG meeting 9.00am

Parent rep meeting

Policy meeting 4.00pm

Monday June 24

Parent Get Together – Yultiwirra 9.15am

Tuesday June 25

Marketing Meeting 4.00pm

Tues June 25, Wed June 26, Thurs June 27

Coffeehouse Cabaret – Wairoa

Tuesday July 2 - rescheduled

Cycle 1 & 2 Music concert – 6.30pm

Thursday July 4

Sharing Assembly 9.30am

Cycle 3 & 4 sharing. All parents welcome!

Friday July 5

Middle School Applications due

Term 2 Ends – **2pm finish**

KEY DATES FOR TERM 3 2019

Tuesday July 23

Term 3 Begins

Monday July 29 – Friday August 2

Roundtable Interviews - Wairoa

Wednesday July 31

'Respect, Responsibility, Resilience' presented by Andrew Lines 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Tuesday August 6

Sharing Assembly 9.30am

Cycle 1 & 3 sharing. All parents welcome!

Thursday August 15

Parent Get Together – Wairoa Café

Thursday August 29

Cycle 3 & 4 Music concert – 6.30pm

Friday September 13

Sharing Assembly 9.30am Cycle 2 & 4 sharing.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The one thing life can never do is to stand still."

Maria Montessori

2019 TERM DATES

TERM 2: Tuesday 30th April – Friday 5th July

TERM 3: Tuesday 23rd July - Friday 27th September

TERM 4: Tuesday 15th October – Wed 11th December

QUIZ NIGHT- HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have any items that might be suitable for our Silent Auction & /or our prize pool for the Quiz Night being held on 31 August?? We would love to hear from any school parents who are able to donate anything to help make our Quiz Night successful. This is one of our big fundraisers for the year so we would appreciate any donations. Please let us know in the office.

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 25th June to collect them; ask work colleagues, neighbours, grandparents and friends to collect them for us too!!

COMMUNITY NEW

Junior Flippers– are looking to fill empty spaces in their junior swimming program. Contact them to book for Term 2 or 3 and received \$50 off Term 3 fees (Voucher code: Cool4School). Contact Zoe Berwick juniorflippers@hotmail.com or find them on facebook.

Child & Adolescent Sleep Clinic Services at Flinders University provides assessment and treatment of common sleep problems in childhood (including infants from 6 months). After obtaining a GP referral, families pay a once-off assessment gap of \$300 (reduced for health care card holders), with no further out-of-pocket costs for subsequent appointments. Phone 8201 7587 or email casc.enquiries@flinders.edu.au for further information.