

# Newsletter



The Hills  
Montessori  
School

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to welcome students, parents and staff to the 2020 school year. I particularly welcome the new 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.

At the start of this year, a number of meetings were held for staff, and teachers and school assistants undertook a full day's training in "Keeping Safe: A Child Protection curriculum" (KS:CPC). The KS:CPC is a child safety program for children and young people from age 3 to year 12. It teaches children to recognise abuse and tell a trusted adult about it, understand what appropriate and inappropriate touching is and understand ways of keeping themselves safe. All children and young people have a right to:

- Be treated with respect and to be protected from harm
- be asked for their opinions about things that affect their lives and to be listened to
- feel and be safe in their interactions with adults and other children and young people
- understand as early as possible what is meant by 'feeling and being safe'.

Many of the topics and themes covered in the KS:CPC we already deliver as part of our curriculum and this year, as a staff, we will be spending time talking further about how we deliver this full program to our classes.

Each year, as a school, we have a key focus for our community. This year we have decided it will be "Celebrate". There are so many amazing things that happen in our community and school and it is important that people (adults & students), events, triumphs, efforts and achievements are celebrated and acknowledged. If you know of or hear about anything within our community that deserves recognition and acknowledgement please let us know throughout the year. It is important to acknowledge the good, the positives and celebrate!

The Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island communities have had a tough start to 2020. Our hearts go out to all that have suffered loss through the recent bush fires. I would love to hear from our community as to how we might be able to collectively support, assist and help those in need. We will gather input from students, staff and parents and then let you know how we will support the cause. I hope 2020 is a positive and fulfilling year for everyone full of wonderful learning experiences and opportunities.

Cathy France –Principal

## WE WELCOME OUR STAFF

We welcome the following staff members to new roles within our school:

**Bonnie Scott** (Cycle 2 & Music teacher)

**Roxy Lewis** (Cycle 1 School Assistant)

**Sam Cameron** (Cycle 3 School Assistant)

**Lauren Kervers** (Cycle 3 Teacher)

We also welcome back to our staff:

**Sammi Rolt** (Preschool Assistant)

**Alice Nisbet** (Cycle 4 teacher)



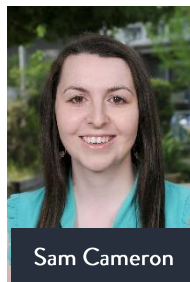
Bonnie Scott & Roxy Lewis



Alice Nisbet & Sammi Rolt



Lauren Kervers



Sam Cameron

## FAMILY WELCOME

FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 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 provided by the Amazing Drumming Monkeys 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!*

## VALE KIM THOMPSON

4.1.1958 – 13.12.2019

It is with much sadness that we grieve the loss of our long standing staff member Kim Thompson. Kim has been associated with our school since the early days as a teacher at our first campus at Nairne and more recently working in our OSHC and Vacation Care program at Yultiwirra campus.

Kim was a strong advocate of Montessori Education and The Hills Montessori School. She has touched the lives of hundreds of our students. Last Sunday the school hosted Kim's celebration of life. We are sincerely grateful for her input and friendship over the many years and we will treasure the memories. *Our love and thoughts are with Tim, Jemima and Mat.*



# School News

## NOVEL CORONA VIRUS

Regarding the recent Novel Corona Virus outbreak, we have been advised to inform families to take the following action.

If you have been informed by Public Health authorities that your child is a close contact of a confirmed case of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), even if they don't have symptoms, they cannot attend school until Public Health informs you that it is safe for them to do so, which would normally be 14 days' exclusion. If you have travelled to China in the holiday period, please notify the school immediately. For further information please access [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au). A fact sheet will be sent to all families via Skoolbag.

## TRANSPORT TO & FROM SCHOOL

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 students who catch the bus or walk home; however if you do not receive one of these forms please come to the office to complete the required details.

## FIRE PROCEDURES

The Fire procedures are emailed with this Newsletter to inform families of school procedures in the case of a bushfire. Please read the procedures carefully so you are well informed. In light of the recent fires it is vital that everyone reviews their own bush fire survival plan.

**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 daily.

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers can make a significant contribution to the life of The Hills Montessori School by sharing their time, interests and expertise to complement programs and add 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 **Working with Children Check** and attend a Volunteers training session. A **Volunteer Training Session** will be held on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 9.15am**.

Please register your interest at the office.

## WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

*We welcome the following new students and their families to our school as well as some new Infant & Transition Program families.*

**Cycle 1 Preschool** – Mila, Leonardo, Coralie, Emilio, Chloe-Jayne, Indiana, Soraya, Rachel

**Cycle 1** – Ren, Pippa, Mae

**Cycle 2** – Matilda, Audrey, Arana

**Cycle 4** – Teigue, Charlie, Ember, Levi

## SKOOLBAG

If your child has moved cycles/classes in 2020 you will need to make slight changes to your Skoolbag preferences and re-select the push categories in 'Set Up', to the class that your child has moved to.

*The Skoolbag app is our main form of communication with parents.* 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.

## INFORMATION NIGHTS

**Wairoa Campus Information Night will be held on Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Feb**

**Yultiwirra Campus Information Night will be held on Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Feb**

At Information Nights teaching staff provide parents with vital information covering their program and plans for the year and expectations of the classroom and cycle. Parents will also have the opportunity to ask questions and meet other parents. We seek your attendance and support as 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 book your child's place via Skoolbag ASAP.



### LET'S CELEBRATE!

#### CELEBRATING BRAVERY & SERVICE

Thank you to staff member **Roxy Lewis** for playing her role as a CFS volunteer and attending and fighting fires at both Cuddlee Creek and Kangaroo Island. Thank you also to other volunteers in our community who have assisted in the aftermath of the bush fires in many ways.

#### CELEBRATING & ACKNOWLEDGING

Congratulations to parent **Carmen Garcia** who received an Australia Day Award – the Award for Inspiring South Australian Women commendation.

#### CELEBRATING IMPROVEMENT

We love the new blue stone walls that have been constructed around Cycle 2 and the entrance of our school.

# Vacation Care News

## Happy New Year from OSHC!

Despite a sombre start to our year of Celebration with many fires and losses, we still managed to bring many hours of fun and joy to the children throughout the school holidays. In our Vacation Care program we have juggled everything from catastrophic fire days to crazy, unseasonal wet and windy weather. Excursions and activities have been juggled and reprogrammed and still the show carried on! A huge thank you to staff, families and especially the children who have been flexible and understanding with all of the changes we made on the hop. Our last week in December was a highlight for all; children ended up drenched every day and loved turning the infant program courtyard into a water park. Every vessel that could tip, pour, squirt or cart water was utilised and our tiny little blow up pool was treated like the arc of daily joy. A simple equation.... children + water + ice blocks = happiness!!

Vacation Care Part 2 started with the introduction of our new OSHC pet - "Valentino the Knob Tailed Gecko." She will live in the gym from Monday to Friday until she is fully grown and then will stay permanently. After some initial hiccups with icy crickets, we have ironed out all the bugs and our little gecko is settling in nicely. The children are now trying to convince me that we need a Tarantula, Scorpion, Turtle and even a crocodile was suggested. We visited Cleland Wildlife Park, the Mount Barker Cinemas and The Bridgewater Playground as part of our excursions and all had an excellent time. We learnt what to do if you have thirsty koalas in your backyard, we saw some butterfly chrysalis' and heaps of snakes and reptiles. We learnt that when kangaroos are sitting under trees they aren't that interested in food even when it is placed directly on their backs. We were affirmed that Sean the Sheep is in fact the funniest sheep that has ever been created and we re-discovered how much fun can be had in the Bridgeway Creek. Back at school, we set up a blindfolded maze all around the bush, had treasure hunts, made ice slushies (iceblocks that didn't freeze and wouldn't come out of the moulds, but were still delicious) watched movies, hosted a bae-blade tournament, spent many hours playing games in and around the school grounds, and of course became adept at negotiating, designing, building and re-constructing soooo many cubbies that myself and the staff team are totally cubbied out. Moving forward, our OSHC team stays the same, you will see Roxy and Holly in the mornings and Megan every afternoon along with Angus, Maddy and Clinton. Our program will focus on Celebrations from around the world with each month focusing on a different country and activities around the celebration. We start out with the Lunar New Year- here's to the Year of The Rat.

*Megan Lynch*

*OSHC Co-Ordinator*

*For an OSHC registration form or OSHC rates, times and information please speak to Reception or Megan and we can provide the information.*



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

0455 232 424 OSHC mobile

8339 6842 Ext #3

[oshc@montessori.sa.edu.au](mailto:oshc@montessori.sa.edu.au)

# School Dates & Info

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

### Friday January 31

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

### Tuesday February 4

Infrastructure & Planning Committee (I&PC) Meeting 8am - Yultiwirra

Marketing Meeting 4.00pm

### Wednesday February 5– Friday February 7

Adolescent Orientation Camp

### Thursday February 6

SPTG Committee meeting 5.00pm

### Tuesday February 11

Snippets with Susan 9.10am Yultiwirra staff room

Chess club begins 3.45pm – 4.15pm

Finance Meeting 6.00pm

### Wednesday February 12

Students wellbeing group meeting 4pm

Cultural Understanding Group meeting 4pm

Wairoa Information Evening – 6.30pm

### Thursday February 13

Yultiwirra Information Evening

### Tuesday February 18

Wairoa Open Day 9.30am

Executive Meeting 6.00pm

Board Meeting 7.00pm

### Wednesday February 19

Volunteers Training session 9.15am

### Thursday February 20

WHS meeting 4.00pm

## KEY DATES FOR TERM 1 2020

### Week 5

Interview week @ Wairoa

### Thursday February 27

Wairoa café 9.15am All Welcome!

### Wednesday March 4

Parent Education Evening – 6.00pm

'Introduction to Montessori Philosophy'

### Thursday March 5

Games Day – Cycle 2, 3 & 4 students

### Friday March 6

Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus

9.30am – Parents Welcome! Cycle 1 & 3 sharing

### Week 8

Interview week @ Yultiwirra

### Tuesday March 17

Open Day – Yultiwirra campus 10am-12noon

### Sunday March 22

Cake Stall @ Stirling Market

### Monday March 30

Sharing Assembly – Yultiwirra Campus

2.30pm – Parents Welcome! Cycle 2 & 4 sharing

### Thursday April 2

Wairoa Wellbeing Festival

Yultiwirra Festival of Arts

### Thursday April 9

Community breakfast @ Yultiwirra

Term 1 Ends

## 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*

## 2020 TERM DATES

**TERM 1:** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April

**TERM 2:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

**TERM 3:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September

**TERM 4:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Wed 9<sup>th</sup> December

## DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters are emailed to all families and can also be accessed on the *Skoolbag* app. We also print a few hard copies which families can collect from the office if they would like 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, Ukulele 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. Cycle 2 & Cycle 3 choirs will start in week 1. This year Megan Fishers is unable to teach voice lessons. We are currently trying to source a new voice teacher. Megan will continue to teach Choir to Cycle 2 & 3.

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

Piano	Lisa Taverna	0423 173 383
Guitar/ukulele/drums	Sanjay Taverna	0417 080 325

## CHESS CLUB

David Koestler from Chess Life offers Chess Club after school starting on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February** and continuing on a weekly basis. Chess Club is being offered to Primary & Adolescent Program students. Chess club operates from 3.45-4.15pm. Register online:

<https://www.chesslife.com.au/register/hills-montessori-school-2020/> or contact Chesslife for further details.

Stephanie Gordon 0490 474 316 Email:

[admin@chesslife.com.au](mailto:admin@chesslife.com.au) [www.chesslife.com.au](http://www.chesslife.com.au)

## PARENT GET TOGETHERS

The **"Wairoa Café"** is a great opportunity to visit the Wairoa campus where the adolescent students provide coffee & cake as part of their micro-economy enterprises. This is an opportunity for parents to meet, mingle and chat. All parents are invited no matter which campus your child attends! *"Come along and have a cuppa in this beautiful setting!"*

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February – 9.15am – Wairoa Campus**