

Newsletter

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It was a difficult start to 2020 with the bushfires that have torn across our country and in particular the fires close to home at Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island. The devastation that they have caused with so many lives and homes being lost, not to mention the loss of wildlife. It has had a deep impact on everyone, and it has been heartwarming to see the support and response to this overwhelming crisis. People around Australia and indeed the world, have donated money, goods, food, furniture, clothes and many others have provided support by volunteering in some way. As I acknowledged in last week's Newsletter, we owe a great deal to the volunteer fire fighters in our communities and we are profoundly grateful for all that they have done and continue to do. I am sure that the majority of our school families have already provided donations and support in some way and I thank you for this.

The staff and students have talked about how we can also provide support. Classes have decided to write cards to our local CFS brigades to thank them for their supreme efforts. Cycle 1 is very keen to prepare some Shoeboxes of Love and the organisation has particularly asked for boxes for babies and adult males. We will send a flyer out about this if you wish to contribute to the boxes in some way. We are also planning to help with revegetation and so we will get involved (as we have previously done) with Trees for Life.

Cathy France –Principal



SCHOOL FOUNDATION

In 2019 a committee was established to investigate the viability and possibility of establishing a School Foundation. Near the end of last year the committee presented their findings to the School Board who voted in favour of the establishment of a School Foundation. A School Foundation will help support the strategic direction of our school through philanthropic activities providing enrichment for our facilities and programs for the future. A School Foundation will also provide opportunities for past and present students, parents, staff and friends of the school to stay connected.

There is a great deal of work to be done in establishing the Foundation, however it is an extremely exciting new venture. We are looking for interested parents to join this steering committee. *Please let the office know if you are interested in joining this team.* Meetings are monthly on Thursday mornings at 9am and chaired by Board member; Anwar Daou. The next meeting is **Thurs 2nd April**.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

HMS parent **Nicki Stewart** has just launched her super cool kids book: 'What's Out There? - Amazing plants, rocks, creatures and cultures that make Australia Extraordinary'. 'What's Out There?' is a gorgeous compendium of Australian history that delves into our country and culture, from millions of years ago to today. Written and illustrated by Nicki, the book is a colourfully chaotic mix of illustrations, eye opening insights and fascinating facts that are wonderfully comprehensive and thoroughly entertaining! Thanks Nicki for donating a book to the school library.



NUDE FOOD

Our school aims to achieve "Nude Food" day at least once a week and encourages families to use minimal packaging in lunch boxes. We acknowledge that trying to do every day of the week can be difficult, but we feel that asking for one day a week is probably achievable!

We ask that all students at both Yultiwirra & Wairoa bring a lunch box with minimal packaging on **MONDAYS**. Staff revisit this concept regularly with their classes encouraging thoughtful environmental practices. *We seek parental support with this initiative.*

Classes also recycle soft plastic through the **REDcycle** program. Any empty bread bags, biscuit packets, frozen food bags, rice and pasta bags, confectionary packets, zip lock bags & plastic shopping bags etc can be recycled. Each class has a container and this plastic is then recycled into outdoor furniture for schools.

COMMUNITY PRODUCE SWAP

The Community Produce Swap happens **EVERY MONDAY** at Yultiwirra.

Our community is invited to bring any edible excess along, be it fruit, veggies, nuts, seedlings or seeds and swap it with others. Not only can gardeners fill their larders in exchange for excess veggies, the Produce Swaps are an exercise in sustainability, waste reduction and, most importantly, community connectivity.

Please bring along any spare produce and drop it off at the table in the courtyard (near the piano room window) and see what you can source for free!

If you don't have any produce but would like to take some produce you might like to make a donation. Any money donated will go towards our gardening program. Produce will go out every Monday and be cleared away Tuesday morning. It would be nice to have nothing left, however excess produce will be donated to the Wairoa food program.

Thank you to Janene Thompson for managing this great parent initiative!

School News

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

It is at this time of the year that we ask our school community if there are any nominations for Life Membership of our school. Our school Constitution and Regulations state that... *"a person shall be made a Life Member of the School as a recognition of consistent, long standing and excellent service rendered to the School by that person and such person shall be of good standing in the community and held in high regard by other members of the school"*.

If you would like to nominate anyone who you believe is worthy of this recognition, please submit a written nomination to the Board. The nomination needs to be supported and signed by four school members setting out the details of the nominee's service and reasons for the nomination. Nominations need to be displayed for 14 days calling for any further written submissions supporting these nominations prior to the Board voting on the appointment. We currently have sixteen Life Members of our school who have been bestowed this honour over the years. Life Members are usually presented with this tribute at our Annual General Meeting. Written submissions need to be forwarded to the Board by **Friday 6th March**.

SNIPPETS WITH SUSAN

Come and join Susan on alternate Tuesdays 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 in the staffroom from 9.10am – 9.30am fortnightly & started this week!

Snippet Session 2: Tuesday 25th February:

Exploring geography in the Montessori curriculum

Snippet Session 3: Tuesday 10th March:

Supporting your older child with reading challenges

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

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 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 19th Feb 9.15am**.

Please register your interest at the office or via the eForm on Skoolbag.

STUDENT WELLBEING APPOINTMENTS

If parents would like to make an appointment to meet with Libby Roberts, our Student Wellbeing worker she is available to do this on Thursdays and Fridays at Yultiwirra. Please phone or come into the office to book an appointment at reception.

PARENT EDUCATION

An Education and Information Session is being presented for parents, particularly new parents, who are interested in learning more about the Montessori Philosophy.

"The Montessori Philosophy - An Introductory Talk"

will be held on **Wednesday, 4th March,**

6.30 – 8.30pm at Yultiwirra Campus.

This session will highlight key aspects of the Philosophy & Methodology and how the Montessori approach to learning differs from mainstream schooling. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about how the Montessori Philosophy is applied at our school. Knowledge gained may assist you to further support the Montessori Philosophy at home. By knowing the values and basis of the Montessori Philosophy you will be able to further capitalise on opportunities for consistency of approaches presented to your child between home and school.

We urge all new families to attend this informative session and any existing families who have not attended one of these sessions.

A crèche will be available for any child/ren over 3 years of age – prior bookings are essential and can be made at the office.

We hope that you are able to join us for this important session.

An invitation will be sent to new families, however anyone interested in attending should notify the office or RSVP via the eForm on Skoolbag.

INFORMATION NIGHTS

***Yultiwirra Campus Information Night will be held on
Thurs 13th February***

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 were sent out via Skoolbag.

CHICKEN POX

There has been a confirmed case of Chickenpox (varicella virus) in Lisa & Debbie's class. The child did attend school during the infectious period, as the infectious period begins two days before the rash appears. Please note pregnant women are particularly susceptible to Chicken Pox.

CALL OUT FOR BARBIE AND KEN DOLLS

Seeking preloved Barbie and Ken dolls for Wairoa's art history project. Do you have any lying around that you would be happy to donate to our project? Beware, they will not be returned in one piece! End date: 20th February 2020. Thank you, from Gabes and the Wairoa Creative Expressions crew.

Cycle News

CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL

In the preschool we have started the term off learning about Australia's geography and culture. To begin, students have enjoyed celebrating Australia's First Peoples by learning the words and actions for an Acknowledgement of Country poem, by Play School. We have been working on building connections to Country through reading a range of vibrant and engaging children's books and exploring our natural environment to observe, appreciate and gather (i.e. fallen gumnuts & leaves). Children have also enjoyed celebrating Australia's First Peoples through making Aboriginal flags, cooking damper and studying the works of Indigenous artists. We hope to have some visits from local Elders soon.



CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

In Cycle 1 we focus on preparing a learning environment with a differentiated curriculum. This is evident in the way children develop fundamental language and maths skills as they explore a variety of tactile concrete material. As children develop their understanding of number they are introduced to the processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and use the materials to solve sums often into the thousands. They gain a real sense of accomplishment when they understand how the process works and can see it happening in front of them.



Quote: Johnathon said "The materials help me to count"
Quote: Sahara said "the strip board helps me to count and add numbers together"
Quote: Jasper said "I can use the golden beads and add numbers up to one thousand"

CYCLE 2

We began the term celebrating the Chinese New Year by eating fried rice, cooked with assistance from Ashlee White & Ashlee Golding. Most children thought it was delicious! Avi said, "Rosi, you make the best fried rice!" "Can we have thirds?" was also heard echoing around the classroom! The children used their practical life skills to help wash their dishes and tidy up. We made masks of our animals in the horoscope and performed a version of the story called "The Race for the Chinese Zodiac" for Penny's class. Avi read the story with expression and animation to the class.



INFANT PROGRAM

Infant Program started the New Year with celebrating summer and doing lots of outdoor activities. Jack is embracing the theme and being very creative in the dirt/mud patch.



CYCLE 3

This term Cycle 3 is focusing on ICT. Each week students will participate in basic skills tutorials and will complete projects focused around using iPads, Macs and Chromebooks. Projects include making advertising posters, information slideshows, data spreadsheets and getting creative with a range of art and design tasks. They are also learning how to touch type! A 'big part of the program looks at Cyber safety with a focus on keeping safe online and understanding the impacts of using ICT.

CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS

The adolescent community has hit the ground running - heading out on camp last week at Woodhouse. Beautiful weather allowed for a terrific shelter building activity and the annual team maze runner event. With boys' camp and girls' camp divided by a river, a real highlight of the camp was an impromptu 'sing-off' initiated by the girls standing on the bank and belting out some classics. The boys rallied but were probably outclassed in the end. Later in the evening, the boys created a beautiful space to serve the girls dinner in the forest, complete with bow ties - a favour returned by the girls at breakfast time the following morning. It has been a great time of togetherness that has helped to set up an excellent start to the year.



INDONESIAN WITH ELLIS

Young learners develop their oral language and communication repertoire by participating in guided class activities such as games, songs and simple tasks. Use of practical language is naturally embedded in class routines, such as common instructions, and everyday exchanges, such as expressing thanks, greetings and taking leave. In board games like 'Let's Sail through the Indonesian Archipelago' (pictured), students not only practise their numeracy skills in Indonesian, they also learn useful expressions like 'Giliran siapa?' (whose turn?), 'Giliran saya!' (my turn!), 'Giliranmu!' (your turn!) or it's 'giliran' (so-and-so!). They actively listen to and repeat words/phrases modelled by the teacher and are encouraged to use them among peers, e.g. reminding friends to 'cuci tangan dulu' (wash your hands) before 'makan siang' (eating lunch).



School Dates & Info

TERM 1 DIARY DATES (for the coming fortnight)

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

Parent Rep meeting 2.30pm

WHS meeting 4.00pm

Monday 24 – Wednesday 26 February

Interview week @ Wairoa

Tuesday February 25

Snippets with Susan 9.10am Yultiwirra staff room

Marketing Meeting 4.00pm

Thursday February 27

Wairoa Café 9.15am All Welcome!

Policy meeting 4.00pm

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1 2020

Wednesday March 4

Parent Education Evening – 6.00pm

'Introduction to Montessori Philosophy'

Thursday March 5

Games Day – Cycles 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

OPEN DAY – WAIROA

Wairoa Open Day - Tues 25th February Tours 9.30am

If you are interested in finding out more about the Middle School and our Adolescent Program (Yrs 7-10) come along on a tour! Alternatively, if you know families from outside the school who might be interested please let them know the details. The Wairoa Open Day is for both current school families and the wider community. Phone or book at the office for the 9.30am tour.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Our care for the children should be governed not by the desire to 'make them learn things', but by the endeavour always to keep burning within them the light which is called intelligence."
Maria Montessori

2020 TERM DATES

TERM 1: Wednesday 29th January – Thursday 9th April

TERM 2: Tuesday 28th April – Friday 26th June

TERM 3: Monday 20th July - Friday 25th September

TERM 4: Tuesday 13th October – Wed 9th December



"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK!

Have you visited our [Facebook](#) page? Facebook is another way we communicate with parents. 'Like' us on Facebook to keep up to date with school community news, events and activities. You might also like to let grandparents and friends know so they can also enjoy the news, photos and updates!

FOOTWEAR & SUN HAT PROTECTION

Please ensure that your child wears **appropriate footwear & clothing** to school particularly on the days they participate in PE or fitness activities. Check with your child's teacher as to which days these sessions occur. Thongs are not appropriate footwear for school as they provide little protection for children whilst they are playing in the bush.

Please remember that we are a **Sun Smart School** and all students are required to wear a **broad brimmed hat and appropriate clothing** to protect the skin when going outside for any activity. Sun block is provided by the school and students are taught by the school adults to apply it before leaving the classroom. Please ensure that your child has a **named sunhat** that can be kept in his/her bag or on the hat stand in the classroom.

School sunhats with the school logo are available for sale from the school office for \$15 each.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SA Dental Service – Have you received a letter from Medicare about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule? The School Dental Service is a Child Benefits Schedule Provider. Dental care is FREE for all babies, preschool and most children under 18 years at the School Dental Service Clinics. Call 8391 0858 for an appointment at the Mount Barker School Dental Clinic.

Grasshopper Soccer – Non competitive soccer program for girls and boys aged 2-12 years. Visit grasshoppersoccer.com.au for details and locations.