

# Newsletter



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I am pleased to inform you that the school has joined a new national Montessori representative body called “**Montessori Schools and Centres Australia**” (MSCA). This new entity was established in the later part of 2019 with its official launch in January this year.

MSCA is a not-for-profit organisation which will provide a united voice for Montessori within Australia. The Mission of MSCA is to connect, unite and serve the Montessori community. This year, in MSCA’s inaugural year, a number of events have been planned to ensure Montessori educators from around Australia, (*including our New Zealand and Indonesian neighbours*) have access to high quality professional development and opportunities to share practices and make connections with other Montessori educators and professionals. I am pleased to be currently chairing the MSCA Board working alongside a number of other Montessori leaders from around Australia.

Our school is hosting the first MSCA event on Friday 27th March where Montessori Child Care Centre Directors from around Australia will congregate for a day to share practice, tackle common challenges and build connections, collaborations and networks. MSCA is built on the belief that we have much to learn from and much support and inspiration to offer each other.

*Cathy France –Principal*

PROUD 2020 MEMBER



PROUD 2020 MEMBER

**MONTESSORI**  
SCHOOLS AND CENTRES AUSTRALIA



Old Scholar; Ruby Thomas in Nepal

## LET'S CELEBRATE!

### CELEBRATING OLD SCHOLARS' ACHIEVEMENT

#### Engaging in learning and taking up opportunities

In 2014 and 2015 five girls graduated from Year 10 at Wairoa, the first students to complete both Cycle 4 and the senior year. Right now they are in the middle of a year of 21st birthdays, crossing paths with each other recently at a couple of celebrations.

**Maggie Carter** (studying Commerce and International Security) was back visiting from Australian National University in Canberra.

**Maggie Garsed** (studying Health and Medical Science) had just returned from a semester exchange in Edinburgh, Scotland.

**Jasmine Lanzilli** (studying Maths and Education) has headed off for a semester exchange in Wellington, New Zealand.

**Isla Heath** and **Ruby Thomas** (both studying Chemical Engineering) are currently away on design projects run by Engineers Without Borders; Isla in Cambodia and Ruby in Nepal.

Go girls!

## RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

As most people are aware, our school is in the process of formalising a **Reconciliation Action Plan**. Our working group consisting of two parents, three cycle 4 students, two Cycle 3 students and three teaching staff have now met twice. We have had consultation from Uncle Ivan (*Peramangk elder*), who has written a beautiful Acknowledgement to Country, which is specific to the hills and our local lands. We have also drafted a vision statement which has been reviewed by the working group and sent to Uncle Ivan for feedback. The next steps are to explicitly outline all actions which our school currently does to promote the concept of reconciliation. This takes place in the classroom, in our school community and in the wider community through respect, relationships and awareness. It's an exciting time, as our school unites to go through this process. We not only believe it's important to recognise what we do well as a school but work towards always evolving, always improving and collectively thinking of ways to make a difference towards betterment of humankind. If you have suggestions or ideas about how we can embrace the concept of reconciliation in our school, we would love your input. This is a whole school journey.

*Nat Costello, RAP Chairperson*



Reconciliation Action Plan team

# School News

## BOARD COMMUNIQUE

In our first meeting of the year, we welcomed Suzie Saffin as the staff representative on the board. We discussed the Board's action plan for this year and heard from many of the committees about the upcoming work they are doing. Cathy reported on the staffing and administrative work that was undertaken during the school break and presented the Professional Development program the staff will undertake this year.

*Jade Crathern – Board President*

## TERM 1 CHATS - YULTIWIRRA

Next week Yultiwirra parents will be emailed a link that will take them to the "Interview Schedule Portal" for booking a Term 1 Chat and details of how to make this on-line booking.

**Yultiwirra Term 1 Chats** – parent/teacher interviews will be held in Week 8 (16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March). If you do not have access to a computer, please phone or come into the office to make a booking.

The "Interview Schedule Portal" will be open for only **ONE WEEK** (until Wed 11 March) to make interview bookings.

### FREE CHILD CARE during interviews

If you require child care for your child/ren during the interview time, please complete the eForm via the SkoolBag app by Wednesday, 11 March. Free Child Care is available for students 3 years and over during your interview time, but **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**. If you do not book you will be charged for this service as we need to know numbers for staff:student ratios. You must also sign your child/ren in and out when using this service, otherwise you will be billed. Please note: this child care is separate to any previous OSHC bookings you may already have. Typically, Yultiwirra Term 1 Chats are just between parents and teachers.

**Wairoa Term 1 Chats** – parent/teacher/student interviews are being held this week.

## PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP

### Keeping Safe Conversations with our Kids Friday 13th March

Talking to our kids about ways to keep safe and what to do if they feel unsafe can be a difficult conversation to have & we may feel unsure about how to raise this important topic.

This session is all about ways to talk to your children in age appropriate ways about who are their trusted adults, their right to feel safe in their interactions with adults and other children and young people, and what to do if they feel unsafe. Resources and books will also be shared, which you can take home to use with your children and family.

*All parents are invited to come along to the parent discussion group facilitated by Libby to be held in the staffroom at Yultiwirra. Please RSVP via Skoolbag.*

## OPEN DAY – YULTIWIRRA

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> March Tours 10 am – 12 noon**

Our greatest marketing tool is positive affirmation through "word of mouth" by current school families. Please let anyone you know who may be interested in visiting our school or enrolling a child, the date and time of our Open Day at Yultiwirra.

## 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, 4<sup>th</sup> March,**

**6.30pm – 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.*

## CATHY'S LEAVE

For your information **Cathy France**, our *Principal* will be taking leave in Week 5 and 6 of this term. During this time our Assistant Principal **Susan Harris Evans** will step up into the role of Acting Principal.

## BOARD VACANCY

Currently there is a vacancy on the Board. If you are interested in joining the Board, please come into the office and complete a nomination form &/or speak to Paul Noon (*Business Administrator*) about the commitments of the position. Nominations are due by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

## RUNNING CLUB @ WAIROA

**Starts: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Every Wednesday until week 10 (1st April)**

**Time: 08:00am-08:30am**

**Venue:** Wairoa, 142 Mount Barker Rd, Stirling

Attila is holding a Running Club during this term at the Wairoa Campus (142 Mount Barker Road, Stirling, and follow the signs)

**Every Wednesday - Weeks 5 - 10 - 8.00am - 8:30am**

½ km course around Wairoa oval and basketball court – run as many laps as possible in the time given.

**Primary school students welcome to join.** Parents will need to supervise (*join in if you like*) and then transport students to Yultiwirra afterwards.



# Cycle News

## CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL

Our outdoor area allows children to discover and connect with nature. We encourage our students to foster an appreciation of the natural environment and be curious learners. This term we discovered a spider in our garden that we have never seen before. We found out that it is called an Austracantha minax, commonly known as the jewel spider. It is a member of the orb-weaver family and isn't poisonous. To enhance the children's learning about the jewel spiders they have taken photos, looked through library books and made plasticine models.

*Noah* "They have six spikes"

*Cooper* "The body is a round shape. I can see yellow spots on it".



## CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

In Cycle 1 Primary we cook every week to develop practical life skills, fine motor control and concentration. The children experience a variety of textures and flavours to further develop their knowledge of food groups. They learn to follow a recipe, to use knives safely and explore the flavours of many foods, some of which they may never have tried before. On this day the children made cold rolls. They grated carrot, cut up cucumber and learnt to roll up rice wraps. All but one child refused to try the rolls. With encouragement they did eventually taste the food and all of them decided they liked the rolls.

*Layla said*, "They're delicious, I love them. I'll eat this for breakfast, dinner and lunch".

*Xavier said*, "I'm having my third roll. I love it".

*Mae said*, "They're yummy".

*Pippa said*, "They are yummiier than anything".



## CYCLE 2

After a busy first few weeks, all of our new and returning Cycle 2 students have settled into Term 1 very well. As part of the maths curriculum, students have taken part in traffic tallying by observing passing cars and categorising them based on colour. This has been a fun and active way for them to practise their observation skills, learn to collect and classify data, and apply their mathematical understanding outside of the classroom.



In Week 4, we read the book 'Stuck' by Oliver Jeffers and have been practising our reading comprehension skills via a board game. In addition to answering questions about the book, the children have demonstrated their cooperation skills by negotiating how to fairly determine who goes first and helping each other to recall details from the story. It has also been wonderful to see the older class members support their younger peers with this game.

## INFANT PROGRAM

Ellis is using the manual blender to make a summer smoothie, which has been an activity we have been doing in Infant Program as part of our focus on summer this term.



## CYCLE 3

Every Friday afternoon Nat and Christine's class have been participating in 'community groups'. There are four different groups with mixed ages. The learning focus is to get to know other people, work as a team, develop friendships, identify emotions and build a sense of belonging, support and community spirit. We have done this in learning areas such as STEM, drama and some spontaneous challenges requiring problem solving and creative thinking skills. The group pictured built a friendship wall, with the foundation layer being the most valued traits of a friend, to the top layer, least valued.



## CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS



Students were empathising with Chinese peasants in the Yuan Dynasty protesting Mongol rule.

Wairoa students representing linear equations on the Big Day out in the city.



## MUSIC WITH BONNIE

This term, the preschool children have been exploring different ways to move their bodies to the beat and tempo of various musical pieces. They have further practised this skill by playing drums, claves, and shakers to the beat. In Cycle 1, we have been focusing on auditory discrimination of duration and pitch. The children have particularly enjoyed trying out a range of instruments to see how they can use them to produce short and long sounds. In Cycles 2 and 3, the students have been working on beat and rhythm patterns. Cycle 2 classes have been creating dance movements to perform to the beat of "Kye Kye Kule" and Cycle 3 classes have been using a range of percussion instruments to perform a call and response song in small ensembles. Their next task will be to compose their own.



# School Dates & Info

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

### Thursday February 27

Wairoa Café 9am – 10.30am. All Welcome!

Policy meeting 4.00pm

### Friday February 28

Schools Clean Up Day

Cycle 2 'Festival' excursion

Cycle 3 Hockey Clinic

### Monday March 2

Bali Info session for Wairoa Yr 8 & 9 parents – 6.00pm

### Tuesday March 3

I & PC meeting @ Wairoa 8.00am

### Wednesday March 4

Parent Education Evening – 6.30pm

'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

### Monday March 9

Adelaide Cup public holiday

### Tuesday March 10

Snippets with Susan 9.10am. All Welcome!

Finance meeting 6.00pm

### Wednesday March 11

Year 8 Immunisations

## KEY DATES FOR TERM 1 2020

### 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

## PARENT GET TOGETHER - WAIROA CAFE

Looking for a great atmosphere, beautiful surroundings, delicious cake and good, hot coffee?

Come along to the Wairoa Summer Café THIS  
Thursday 27 February 9am

Bring your friends and family along! Great place to catch up with other parents!



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"The essential thing is to arouse such an interest that it engages the child's whole personality".*  
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

## SHARING ASSEMBLIES- YULTIWIRRA

We wish to invite all parents/caregivers to our "sharing assemblies" this term held at Yultiwirra campus, where students will have the opportunity to share their work with the rest of the school. Please make a note of the dates and place them in your diary

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am – Cycle 1 & 3 sharing**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm – Cycle 2 & 4 sharing**

## CAKE STALL – WHOLE SCHOOL

Members of the Fundraising Committee are organising a Cake Stall to be held at the **Stirling Markets on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** 10.00am – 4.00pm.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

We are hoping that as many families as possible will support this fundraiser as we need plenty to sell as it is always a very successful day. **If you can bake, provide produce or help on the day please come and let us know in the office asap.**



A roster is in the office for people to sign on!

## 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 & continued this week!

### Snippet Session 3: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Aldgate Cricket Club Family Outdoor Movie Night – Toy Story 4.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> February @ Aldgate Oval, Churinga Road, Aldgate. Gates open 7.30pm, movie starting 8.30pm. EFTPOS & bar facilities available.

\$15 children – includes movie, sausage, drink & popcorn

\$15 adult – includes movie & bowl of Paella

\$50 family – 4 adult or children tickets included

Further information contact Rachel Cordes 0401 229 510 or email [aldgatecricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:aldgatecricketclub@gmail.com). Proceeds from all ticket and raffle sales to be donated to Aldgate CFS.