

Newsletter



The Hills
Montessori
School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

There is very little to say that offers a fresh perspective of the situation we find ourselves in, and in reality, I am receiving information from official channels at the same time as staff, parents and others in our community. As you are aware, advice and information is changing on a daily basis, sometimes hourly basis, which makes it incredibly hard to make decisions and put firm plans in place. What we are learning is that we need to be incredibly flexible in this unprecedented, changing landscape.

Schools may be directed to close in the near future, but we just don't know, and so as a staff we have started to plan for this possibility. Teaching staff are currently working on and developing learning programs and activities to be delivered online so that students and families can access these at home. This will help keep our students engaged in their learning and keep our school community connected.

There is much we don't know about how the next few months will play out, yet as a school community our key concern is that of the health and wellbeing of our students, parents, teachers and extended staff.

We will of course keep you updated as information comes to hand in regard to COVID-19 and the effect and impact it has on the operations of our school and our learning programs. I wish all of our families well and I particularly wish you all good health.

Cathy France –Principal



LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At the last Board meeting, one person was nominated for Life Membership of the 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."* Written nominations need to be submitted to the Board by four School members setting out the details of the nominee's service. Nominations then need to be displayed for 14 days calling for any further written submissions supporting the nomination prior to the Board voting on the appointment.

Paul Daly has been nominated for Life Membership. It is customary that Life Members are inducted at a formal presentation at the AGM. *If you wish to support this nomination in writing please do so and submit it to me by Wednesday 8th April.*

Paul Daly has had a long association with The Hills Montessori School – since 2008 (13 years) Paul's three children have attended the school, Jonathan (2008 – 2017) & Matthew (2008 – 2018) and Charlotte (2008 to present day). Charlotte is currently in Year 8 at the Middle School.

Paul has given generously of his time and expertise over the 13 years that his family has been associated with the school. He became a Board member in May 2011 and stepped straight into the role of Treasurer. In May 2014 Paul was nominated and stepped into the role of President of the School Board and remained in that position until May 2019. Paul sat on the Finance committee and the Executive during his time as a Board member.

Over the eight years that Paul was on the Board he diligently led the Board and helped guide the school to fulfil our Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan.

Paul is known for his attention to detail, whether it be reviewing policies, analysing financial papers or implementing good governance practices. He has ably steered the school in a positive direction whilst always honouring the Montessori philosophy and our school values.

Paul has also been a Director of HMS Mercantile Pty Ltd, the unit trust that has financed the Wairoa campus and he continues in this role currently.

Paul has given so generously of his time and expertise over the eight years on Board and his input and contributions are deeply valued.

Paul is community minded, diligent and loyal and has volunteered his services not for recognition but for his own sense of worth.

Over the 13 years that Paul has been associated with the school he has always supported the school and been a strong advocate of Montessori Education.

Paul Daly has been nominated as a Life Member of The Hills Montessori School in recognition of his long standing and generous service to the school.

LET'S CELEBRATE! CELEBRATING OUR STAFF



At this moment in time I think it is important that we celebrate the amazing staff that we have at The Hills Montessori School. They are dedicated, hardworking and committed to the important work that they do on a daily basis. In tough times, such as this, they pull together, support each other, stay positive and show incredible resilience.

I have always said that the best thing about working at our school is that I spend every day with like-minded people. Interesting, creative, talented, passionate, dedicated people who believe that this is how children should learn and this is how children should be treated – following the Montessori philosophy, methodology, key principles and curriculum. And because we are like-minded, it makes for a very harmonious place to work and spend time in. I am very grateful to lead and be a part of our wonderful staff.

Cathy France - Principal



School News

BOARD COMMUNIQUE

We trialed our first Zoom video board meeting last week so that all our members could attend. It was a success and we will continue to meet online for the next little while. We covered the current work of the committees, the budget forecast and the plans enacted within the school for COVID-19. The Board thanks our community for its support and we wish our families good health.

Jade Crathern – Board President

HEALTHY LUNCHBOX HINTS

This year the Class Parent Reps are going to review the school's Healthy Eating policy and also produce a flyer for parents to assist with 'Healthy Lunchbox Hints'. The Parent Reps also thought it might be a good and helpful idea to provide Healthy Lunchbox Hints regularly in the Newsletter. Thanks to Alexis and Chantel for providing these recipes.

YUMMY SAVOURY SNACKS.

Grate or finely chop any of your children's favourite vegetables or whatever is left in the fridge!

(Carrot, Zucchini and Cauliflower are some of the vegies we use)

Add 6-8 eggs

1 cup of grated cheese

Add chopped ham or cooked sliced bacon (if you eat meat)

This should make a dozen.

Mix altogether and then place in a greased muffin tray.

Bake at 180degrees for 20 mins.

These freeze well and are an easy dinner for tired families.

This recipe can be as simple or as complicated as your fridge allows.



Photo & recipe credit @thelunchpunch @theorganisedhousewife

CHESS LIFE CLASSES CANCELLED

Due to the current and ever changing predicament with the COVID-19 pandemic Chesslife classes will not continue this term. Please see details on Skoolbag in regard to accessing online chess classes with Chesslife.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please enter Tuesday, 26th May 6.00pm in your diary as the date of the school's AGM. At this stage the AGM will be held as a Zoom meeting online. Closer to the time families will be sent the online link. Board nomination forms and information about the AGM will be sent home next week. Board Nominations need to be lodged at the school office by Friday 1st May. If you would like to discuss Board member obligations, please email Cathy.

VACATION CARE

Due to the current and ever changing situation with COVID-19 we have decided NOT to offer Vacation Care for this coming holiday period. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause families.

CELEBRATE PARTICIPATION!

We celebrate Neila, a Cycle 4 student, who recently played in the SAPSASA State Tennis Carnival. The event was held at the Millswood Tennis Club and she played against other teams from Southern Fleurieu, Riverland, Southern Yorke Peninsula, Onkaparinga North, Salisbury East, Adelaide and the South East. She had a wonderful time playing against some tough opponents and felt very proud to be representing our school and the Hills. Congratulations Neila!



CYCLE 4 & SENIOR STUDENTS

In these strange times we've kept up a positive, productive and kind atmosphere at Wairoa.

Students have reflected upon what they have enjoyed over the last couple of weeks...

- I loved going on the walk to Woorabinda and the observation time.
- I've appreciated the cleansing of door handles and the efforts people are making to maintain hygiene.
- I appreciated having time to be quiet.
- I enjoyed the 'pigs' game and lunchtime storm-the-lantern and other games.
- I was really glad to come back to school.
- I really enjoyed some quiet time doing art.
- I appreciated Harry and the IT team sorting out the chromebooks.
- I've loved the 'strong girls' fitness group.
- I liked our yummy lunch on Thursday, and the delicious tasting lunch that Denise made.
- I liked having immunisations – it's interesting!
- It was great having book group seminar outside on the logs in the beautiful weather.
- Afternoon sleepy time was so good and so quiet - some people rested, or read or drew, and lots of people got on with their work.
- I liked the crazy creative alternatives to handshakes.
- I liked being here, with my friends.
- I've appreciated my own health and not getting sick.
- I've appreciated my teachers being here.
- It was funny singing happy birthday to cro-vo, twice, every time we wash our hands.
- I love discussing something I'm passionate about, like in Music 101.
- One thing I have celebrated is school not shutting down yet.
- I appreciated being here and still learning.
- I loved... trophy heads/drawing/music/reading
- Bookgroup has been fantastic with great discussions.
- I appreciated having the freedom and friendliness in our community.

Stay calm people!

From the students of Wairoa

Cycle News

CYCLE 1 PRESCHOOL

In the preschool we have been responding to current community challenges and making the most of the beautiful weather by holding a majority of our learning outside in the fresh air. Students have been potting plants, watering gardens, exploring media techniques by painting on a variety of natural surfaces such as gum nuts and bark, receiving sandpaper letter presentations on the deck and music lessons on the grassed area. We have also had a strong focus on our Grace & Courtesy and Practical Life Curricula with lessons on hand washing and cough and sneeze etiquette. We are all working very hard to ensure that your child's learning and routines continue in their usual calm, harmonious and supported environment.



CYCLE 1 PRIMARY

Early in the term both Cycle One classes had an idea to create some shoeboxes of love to help people involved in the Adelaide Hills' bushfires. We contacted the Shoeboxes of Love organisation and found out that items were needed to help both babies and men. We collected some items and sorted them to make two boxes for babies and two boxes for men. They were arranged into the thoughtfully decorated boxes and some cards with positive messages were placed in each box before dropping them off. 'It made me feel good, I made a card for a man' Chloe 'I brought in cream, baby toys and dummies because people lost things in the bushfires' Iris 'We made them because some people's houses got burnt' Bede 'I put love hearts on my card to share all of our love' Mia



CYCLE 2

Over the past few weeks new students have been involved in our Move to Learn program. A movement program designed to improve children's co-ordination and concentration. Some of our older students have been working on independent research tasks and presenting their projects to the class. Our class has heard and been involved in activities around the first three Great Stories. Bonnie has been working with the class on various art activities. They have been exploring nature through art, initially focussing on watercolour landscapes and Australian wildlife using acrylics on canvas. More recently the students have been developing their skills making clay pots.



INFANT PROGRAM

Finn is squeezing drops of vinegar onto a tray of powdered dye covered with a layer of bicarb soda to create a bubbling effect and a beautiful rainbow mosaic. He is using his fine motor skills, concentration and having fun.



CYCLE 3

On Wednesday 11th March the Year 6s ventured off site, for their annual leadership day. The group walked from school to the Bridgewater oval to participate in billy-cart construction and racing. The cohort were divided into four groups, with the aim of the day to collaborate, work as a team, develop further responsibility and resilience and to have fun. Each team had to construct their billy cart, invent a team name, design some decorations for their billy cart and then take turns to push, steer and cheer each other. A successful and enjoyable day was had by most, particularly those who enjoy hard physical work and hands on tasks. Others, stepped out of their comfort zone and should feel proud of their positive attitude regardless.



PE WITH ATTILA

Students in all Cycles have explored the importance of working together in teams and have looked specifically at the role of communication, participation and encouragement during group activities.



Lacrosse has been our focus for the second half of the term. Jim McBryde has been working with some of the classes. He has taught students a number of different skills, relays and games.

Cycles 2 and 3 have also enjoyed a one off hockey clinic run by Brad West who introduced students to some of the basics of the sport.

I'd like to thank Brad and Jim for giving up their time and coaching expertise. It is a great reminder of the range of sports available in our community!

School Dates & Info

TERM 1 DIARY DATES (for the coming fortnight)

Friday March 27

Tastes of the World – Wairoa – CANCELLED

Monday March 30

Sharing Assembly 2.30pm – CANCELLED

Tuesday March 31

Class Parent Rep meeting 2.30pm – Zoom online meeting

Thursday April 2

SPTC Meeting 9.00am – POSTPONED

Wairoa Wellbeing Festival – POSTPONED

Festival of Arts – POSTPONED

Sunday April 5

Day Light Savings Ends

Tuesday April 7

Snippets with Susan – CANCELLED

Wednesday April 8

Finance meeting 6.00pm – Zoom online meeting

Thursday April 9

Community breakfast @ Yulitwirra – CANCELLED

Term 1 Ends

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The education of the senses makes men observers.”

Maria Montessori

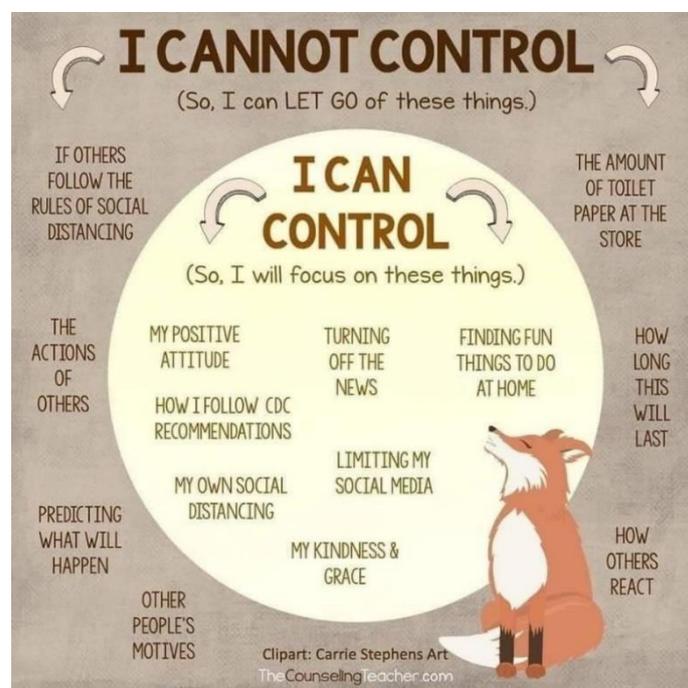
2020 TERM DATES

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



Fun activities to do at home with kids

1. Treasure hunt (with clues, hide a favourite toy somewhere in the house)
2. Make a batch of play doh
3. Create an obstacle course
4. Build a bug hotel
5. Use a mirror to draw a self portrait
6. Try shadow drawing, leaf rubbings, painting bark or stones
7. Make your own bubble blower
8. Thread pasta into jewellery
9. Create a “God’s eye” weaving using sticks and wool
10. Go through recipe books together and have a bake off challenge
11. Do a backyard scavenger hunt
12. Make Origami animals or paper ninja stars
13. Gardening – pull weeds, trim bushes, collect flowers for a vase
14. Make a mud kitchen in the garden, make different coloured rock paint
15. Practice hammering nails into a plank of wood
16. Find 10 different shaped leaves in the garden
17. String up a sheet tent in the backyard
18. Find three toys to give to charity
19. Using Lego characters or other small toys, make a stop motion movie (download the app Stop Motion to your phone or Ipad)
20. Write a short story or poem that includes a dog, an umbrella and some sushi
21. Write notes of love, compliments or doodles and hide them around the house for family to find
22. Do a marshmallow toothpick engineering challenge
23. Have a handball tournament
24. Try leaf threading and make a nature chandelier
25. Use a mirror to draw a self portrait
26. Make pom poms out of wool
27. Learn to braid hair
28. Build a fort using the couch and every cushion/pillow you can find
29. Go through your board/card games and challenge yourself to play them all. Design your own game

More Fun activities to do at home with kids!

30. Fold paper planes and see how far they will fly
31. Build the highest block tower you can
32. Learn how to bake bread
33. Make greeting cards for the stationery cupboard to be used for birthdays and other occasions
34. Create a paper crown for a member of your family and decorate it
35. Choose an inspirational quote and create a poster for your room
36. Listen to a kid’s podcast or audio book.
37. Jump rope – can you get to 100 without stopping?
38. Research your family tree – see how far back you can go
39. Make a time capsule of this time to be opened in 10 years
40. Write a letter to a friend, relative or teacher to mail
41. Learn to finger knit, french knit or braid wool into friendship bracelets
42. Can you draw or paint with your feet?
43. Interview the members of your family
44. Build a house with a deck of cards
45. Press flowers within a few heavy books