

# Newsletter



The Hills  
Montessori  
School

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What a challenging time we have all endured over the past few weeks. Our world has turned upside down and we have all had to adapt and try and work out what is our "new normal".

Through the amazing dedication and hard work from our staff over their holiday period, we have started Term 2 and launched straight into the remote learning program. Following lots of great feedback from parents, and staff reflections from our trial days in Term 1, we have refined and tweaked the program to better suit the needs of our students. It has been encouraging to see so many students online this week connecting with their peers and engaging with their teachers and in their learning.

We are very aware of the additional pressure this new mode of learning places on parents and the home environment. Thank you so much to parents for assisting their children to access the remote learning program and modelling perseverance and patience when things go awry (*as they often do when technology is involved!*).

Please do not hesitate to phone the school if you are having difficulties with any aspect of the remote learning program.

The multitude of mixed messages that are appearing in the media and in the community have created a great deal of confusion and uncertainty for everyone. There are many different opinions and thoughts as to what schools should or shouldn't be doing. Decision making in this environment is extremely challenging. We have based our decisions not only on advice from the Government and the Association of Independent Schools but also by looking at the "big picture" and taking into account the context of our school and the many facets of our operations that need to be considered. Due to the ever-changing COVID-19 position, we are monitoring the situation in South Australia and are reviewing our decisions on a weekly basis. We will communicate with parents in Week 2 regarding return dates for face to face schooling and any changes. In anticipation I thank parents for their understanding and support.

*Cathy France –Principal*

## YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

Thank you to **Tim Moore** (*Cycle 4 teacher*) and **Lauren Kervers** (*Cycle 1 & 3 teacher*) for showing leadership and developing our closed websites for the remote learning program. We appreciate your skills and expertise and the support you have provided your colleagues during this time.



YOUTUBE.COM  
The Hills Montessori Remote Learning Program in Term 2  
The phrase 'rapidly changing environment' has taken on a whole new...

## BOARD COMMUNIQUE

A review of the changes in the schooling environment since the last Board meeting showed us all just how quickly the School has had to adapt to this new environment. This could not have been possible without the strong leadership that Cathy has shown and the amazing effort put in by all the teachers. I was really excited to hear about all the new skills both teachers and students were learning and I cannot overstate how much we appreciate the extra time taken to get to this point.

The remote learning program has brought both joy and challenges to all, it has been wonderful to see the way the students have adapted and connected with each other even whilst physically separated. Facing the school day with our students has been a new experience for most parents and if you're anything like me you may have even found yourself learning a thing or two along the way!

*Jade Crathern –Board President*

## LET'S CELEBRATE OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY



We greatly appreciate the amazing support and positive comments we have received from parents in regard to our remote learning program. Your encouragement and support have kept us going through this difficult time and made our efforts worthwhile.

The online platform and uploaded content is really great, thank you.

Huge thanks to all of you for the time and energy you invested into setting up the remote learning for the students. You did an amazing job with such a huge task in a short time. After a few days of home schooling we certainly have a renewed appreciation for all that you do for our kids!

Very well organised. kids really enjoyed the interaction with the teachers and the students. they have developed new IT skills already.

Thank you for your care and perseverance. We can do this!

Thank you. We really appreciate all the effort going into helping our kids transition, cope and stay connected in these strange times.

Thank you for all the time effort & energy each teacher/guide has put in over & above their normal workload on top of trying to look after themselves & their own families

Thank you to the HMS teachers and staff for always being so positive and caring, even in these hard times. The home learning pack is amazing too - so many wonderful hands on activities and even the sewing kit, lovely. It is keeping us busy and thank you for being so quick in creating the packs and online learning

You've all done so well to set up remote learning so quickly. I'm very impressed with and appreciative of your efforts.

Thank you all so much for the hard work you have done to ensure that the transition to remote learning was as smooth as possible for all your students. We are truly grateful for your mammoth effort, support and dedication.

Regular communication via a variety of communication channels with the same open, honest and caring tone has been the simple but effective recipe.

If there are any up sides to this pandemic it is that parents have had a real insight into the effort the school goes to, to educate and guide our children. I'm so glad we chose HMS and am very proud of the team's dedication and commitment.

# School Info

## THE EASIEST CAKE YOU WILL EVER BAKE!

This recipe is provided by Denise (*Wairoa Kitchen Specialist*) Denise is currently offering online cooking lessons with the Middle School students.

200g butter  
3/4 cup sugar (*raw sugar is nice*)  
2 cups self raising flour  
2 eggs at room temperature  
1 largish apple



Turn on oven to 180° fan forced. Melt the butter and sugar together in a pan on medium heat. Remove from heat and stir in the flour. Add beaten eggs one at a time and stir in. Careful because the mix will be quite sloppy. It doesn't matter if the melted butter is separating out a bit at this stage.

Line a 18cm x 26 cm shallow baking tin with baking parchment. Core the apple, no need to peel, and slice into 0.5 cm slices. Place the slices in a single layer on the bottom of the tin. Spoon the cake batter over the apples and smooth out with a silicon spatula. Sprinkle a dessert spoon of sugar over the top of the cake and place in the middle of the oven. Bake for 20 mins until deep golden brown. When it has cooled a little, cut into squares and serve straight from the tin. Variations: grate the zest of an orange over the apples before adding the cake batter.

Make with chopped dates and lemon zest. For a special treat slice a banana and add chocolate buttons pressing them lightly into the top of the cake before baking. Another option is to use a 20cm x 20cm tin and sandwich two chopped apples between two layers of batter and bake for 20 minutes. This is a bit more crumble-like and can be served direct from the oven with custard or pouring cream as a dessert.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"And such is our duty toward the child;  
to give a ray of light and to go on our way."*  
Maria Montessori

## 2020 TERM DATES

TERM 2: Monday 27<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

## COMMUNITY CHALLENGE!

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE – check it out on the home page of our REMOTE LEARNING SITE

### Week 1 Term 2 - Balloon Powered Vehicle

Create a moving vehicle powered by nothing more than the air within a blown up balloon. Be as creative as you like to create a vehicle that travels across land, water or air.

Base materials will vary according to the type of vehicle you choose to make but as a minimum you might like to experiment with: balloons, straws, tape, string, rubber bands, pegs, alfoil, paper, plastic bottles, cans.

Post a photo of your creations on the PADLET

<https://padlet.com/laurenkervers1/communitychallenges>



## SINCERE GRATITUDE

Special thanks to **Russell Burzacott**, a grandparent in our school who very kindly crafted **70 sets of insets** and matching frames for each of our Preschool students (ages 3-5) and Cycle 1 students (Reception – Year 1).

Inset activities refine hand control and develop movement of straight and curved lines in preparation for letter formation in younger students and a continual line which can assist with starting cursive letters with older students. Inset work encourages correct pencil grip, it strengthens fine muscles in the hand and fingers, and develops larger muscles required for sitting and maintaining posture for writing.

Thank you, Russell, for such a thoughtful gesture. Insets and matching frames were with the preschool and Cycle 1 take-home packs and are for the students to keep.

## Gratitude Scavenger Hunt

1. Find something that makes you happy.
2. Something to give someone else to make them smile.
3. Find one thing that you love to smell.
4. Find one thing you enjoy looking at.
5. Find something that's your favorite color.
6. Find something you are thankful for in nature.
7. Find something that you can use to make a gift for someone.
8. Find something that is useful for you.

 whole\_health\_therapist

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please enter Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> 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 have been sent out to families. Board Nominations need to be lodged at the school office by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. If you would like to discuss Board member obligations, please email Cathy.