

Adolescent Program Forum

“Cultivating Independence”

The Hills Montessori School / Southern Montessori School
Adelaide, South Australia

Thursday 23rd May – Sunday 26th May 2024



MEETING IN THE MIDDLE
MONTESSORI ADOLESCENT EDUCATORS FORUM

Dear fellow adolescent guides,

We hope the 2024 school year is going well, and imagine that you are all as flat out as we are – currently building routines and community, and developing the various aspects of our programs for the year ahead.

We are writing to invite you to the 2024 Meeting in the Middle forum – to be held across our two SA Montessori schools. Please get these dates firmly in your calendars! More details will follow very soon, and we are keen to get a program together promptly and encourage as many people as possible to come along. It is always refreshing and inspiring to get together with the awesome people who choose to work with and alongside our adolescents.

Meeting in the Middle is a grassroots initiative, with practitioners in Montessori Adolescent Programs coming together to share ideals, ideas and practice. It is built on the belief that we have much to learn from and much support and inspiration to offer each other. Our MAPs are built on common key principles, yet are unique and creative reflections of our contexts. We share many similar issues and tensions, and we've tackled these in various ways. It is always revitalising to have these conversations with one another.

Please find attached a **rough initial outline of the Forum** and an **invitation to nominate yourself or someone else to share a story or facilitate a session**. Information to help you to get your travel and accommodation bookings into place, and a registration form, will follow very soon.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in May. Meanwhile please don't hesitate to be in contact if you have any ideas, suggestions or questions.

Warm regards to you all.

Pippa Milroy and the Adolescent Program team
The Hills Montessori School

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DRAFT PROGRAM OUTLINE

Thursday 23rd May @HMS

2.00pm	Student tours of community work at The Hills Montessori School
4.00pm	Registration Welcome drinks and nibbles
-6.30pm	Transport to Hahndorf accommodation
Evening	Own arrangements – many options

Friday 24th May @HMS

8.30am	Transport to HMS
9.00am – 4.00pm	Forum sessions <i>Essential ingredients, elements of programs, aspects of practice</i>
-4.30pm	Transport to Hahndorf accommodation
7.00pm	MiM dinner in Hahndorf (included in registration)

Saturday 25th May @SMS

8.15am	Transport to SMS
9.30am – 3.30pm	Tours of Southern Montessori School Forum sessions <i>Finding purposeful work, utilising place, building community 12–15 program / 15–18 program – structures and schedules</i>
-4.00pm	Transport to Hahndorf accommodation
Evening	Local brewery/local pub – TBA – many options for good times

Sunday 26th May @HMS

9.00am	Transport to HMS
9.30am – 12.00pm	Final forum sessions and discussions Requested meetings Forum wrap-up and reflection

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YOUR INVITATION TO HELP US BUILD THE PROGRAM...

Sessions will include one or two **short** (10-15 minute) presentations to get us thinking. **There will be plenty of time** for facilitated discussion.

Ideally presentations should be **specific stories or examples**, yet **raise questions** that invite participants to think about their own programs and contexts. The starting point could be a dilemma or challenge within an adolescent community or program or an example of practice. We are looking for **specificity** and concrete detail. **Tell it like it is, give details, be honest, and pose questions.**

Topic threads...

- Essential ingredients – revisit key principles and elements of our programs – ALL TOGETHER DAY ONE
- Elements of programs – learning area specific; advisory; creative expression; other language etc.
- Underpinning practice – this is not a training setting, but we can explore underlying Montessori principles
- Aspects of practice – practical strategies on managing classrooms, organisation, planning, assessment
- Finding purposeful work – the relevance factor; production and exchange; social enterprise; occupations
- Utilising place – how we make rich use of our own site, our local area, other places and people
- Building community – how we turn a cohort into a community; channels of communication; student voice; adolescent responsibilities; eating and meeting together
- Other – start-up programs; early career guides; marketing and retention; 12-15/15-18 scheduling etc.

Please consider the topic threads and then

- **Email directly with any topics or ideas that you would like to see included.**
- **Email directly to nominate yourself or a colleague to present or share a story.**
- **Email directly if you are interested in facilitating a session.**

Feel free to make contact to discuss any aspect of our Meeting in the Middle program. We will also make phone contact with program coordinators in the next couple of weeks to encourage offers of involvement!

We will then be in touch by the middle of this term to follow up on offers to be involved, and issue a detailed program well before the holidays. **Please don't hold back – we want to hear from you!**

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(08) 8339 6842 / 0408 169 322

IMPORTANT EXTRA INFORMATION

The Hills Montessori School / Southern Montessori School
 Adelaide, South Australia

Thursday 23rd May – Sunday 26th May 2024



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THE NEW DATES are Thursday 23 May (afternoon – optional) to Sunday 26 May (noon).

Dinner is at **Comida** – a Spanish restaurant in Hahndorf – their Fiesta menu includes tapas, paella and sides. (Drinks and any extras such as dessert or coffee are pay as you go.)
<https://comidahahndorf.com.au/>

Accommodation can be booked at The Manna – Options are set out below...

They have a range of accommodation options listed below.
 We have several rooms held – but you can book anything available at the following group rates.
(Let them know that you are part of the Montessori School group.)
<https://www.mannagroup.com.au/>

CHECK IN: Thursday 23rd of May 2024

CHECK OUT: Sunday 26th of May 2024

The Manna – 4.5 star Hotel

Set back just off the historic Hahndorf Main Street, The Manna offers 51 Scandinavian-inspired rooms offering great comfort and quality.

Room type & configuration	Qty	Price
Superior Queen Room (1 Queen)	2	\$174
Superior King or Twin Room (1 King or 2 Singles)	6	\$174
Executive Room (1 King)	2	\$199
Executive Family Room (1 King or 1 King + 2 Single trundles)	3	\$199
Spa Indulgence Suite (1 King + Balcony + Spa Bath)	2	\$229

The Lodge – 4 star Motel

Centrally located the 19 motel rooms are in a relaxed setting tucked back off the Hahndorf Main Street.

Room type & configuration	Qty	Price
Standard Room (1 Queen or Double+ 1 Single)	8	\$144

The Studios – 4.5 star apartments

Set back off the Main Street, The Studios are self-contained units in a beautiful landscaped setting.

Room type & configuration	Qty	Price
Studio (1 King or 2 Singles - upstairs/downstairs on request)	8	\$209

For further information on our properties and room types please peruse - [Manna Group](#)

Group Terms and Conditions:

- The above room rates are based on a two-person stay for the room only, priced per night and are subject to change and availability.
- Charges apply for additional guests and are not applicable in all room types, additional occupants are \$25 per person per night.
- A \$50 pre-authorisation is required on arrival to cover any extras (either a hold on your credit card or cash).
- We accept all credit cards, however, a 1.99% surcharge is applicable for AMEX & Diners. Cheques are not acceptable unless used to pay advance deposits, allowing time for clearance prior to arrival.

When do I pay the full amount?

A rooming list is due 7 days prior to the groups arrival and payment is due 7 days after departure, invoice will be sent on departure.

Rates & Commission

The rates quoted for this reservation are applicable for this reservation only.

In case of amendments or cancellations, am I charged?

There is no charge if rooms are cancelled or modified up until 30 days prior to the group's arrival.

If a cancellation or modification is made 29 days, or less, to the arrival date, 50% is retained regardless of one room or all rooms are cancelled.

No refunds are applicable for any cancellations or modifications which are made 14 days or less prior to arrival.

We reserve the right to request/retain full amount for any no shows (where the guest does not arrive). If for any reasons beyond our control, need to make amendments to your booking we reserve the right to offer a suitable alternative.

Additional Information:

- Check-in time is 2:00pm and check-out is 10:00am (early check-ins and late check-outs cannot be guaranteed).
- The reception at The Manna is currently open daily 7.30am 'til 6.30pm
- The reception at The Lodge is currently open from 1pm 'til 8pm. On check out keys can go into the key box provided next to reception or check out is available at The Manna reception, this is located 100 metres from The Lodge reception area.
- All bookings for The Studios need to check in across the road at The Manna, 25 Main Street.

[BOOK TICKETS HERE](#)