

MEDIA RELEASE

Schools kids learn skills to become a Bean Bar Little Barista

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Adelaide's leading coffee franchise, **Bean Bar**, has continued to support the local community with a new initiative, the Bean Bar Little Barista Program for schools, where students learn professional skills on how to be a real barista and what it takes to run their own café.

The program, which started in July 2014 at the Southern Montessori School in Adelaide, was established for Year 7 and Year 8 students to undertake a Bean Bar Little Barista Program and learn how to become a professional barista, as well as other useful business skills such as budgeting, pricing, product turnover, staffing and café maintenance.

Director of Bean Bar, Nitin Jakhwal says the initiative has been a great way for Bean Bar to give back to the community by offering an opportunity for students to engage in the workplace environment.

"My wife and Steven Wallis, the Principal of Southern Montessori School, discussed the idea for Bean Bar to be involved in specialised Barista course," Nitin said. "Along with the support and interest shown by the students, the program was initiated to align with the curriculum of the Occupations and Micro Economies subject for Year 7 and 8 students."

"The students have shown terrific enthusiasm from the onset and often treat themselves to a well-deserved and individually made hot chocolate at the end of their working shift. As a business owner and active parent of the school, I want them to be successful in their business," he said

The Southern Montessori's own café, The Coffee Corner, is fully managed by the students. They undertake the Little Barista Program provided on behalf of Bean Bar, thus providing them with skills for part-time work outside school hours. Food, beverages and baked goods (from the technology class) from the café are sold to staff, other students and parents.

"The management of The Coffee Corner is a wonderful opportunity for the students to develop a variety of skills: budgeting, pricing, product turnover, staffing, café maintenance and cleanliness, marketing, identifying products to sell and cooperating with each other. Any profits are reinvested in the business for the purchase of supplies and equipment," he said.





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“It’s a fantastic program, and we are looking forward to developing relationships with local school communities in the future,” Nitin said.

Steven Wallis, Principal at Southern Montessori School says the Little Barista Program has received great feedback from both students and parents alike.

“We have been fortunate to have the support of several parents assisting with The Coffee Corner while the students find their feet with this enterprise,” Steven said. “With parent feedback and timely advice, we are starting to see a shift in thinking about The Coffee Corner from being a school activity to being a business. Developing a plan of action, then implementation, followed by reflection is fundamental to an authentic learning cycle.”

“We all (hopefully) learn from our mistakes and from the feedback we receive and as such, mistakes can be seen by us all as an opportunity to learn rather than as failure,” Steven said.

The Bean Bar Little Barista Program has been running since July 2014 at the Southern Montessori School and will continue until otherwise indicated. Bean Bar are looking to offer the same course to other interested schools. For more information on Bean Bar or the Little Barista Program, visit www.beanbar.com.au or phone Nitin Jakhwal on 0448 550 103.

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