

Dear Parents,

## **New Chaplain Appointed**

I am thrilled to announce that we have appointed a new School Chaplain to Youngtown Primary. Kristy Hooper will take up the role later this month, working two full days per week to support children and other members of our school community in a variety of ways. Kristy has a rich background in supporting children and will be a very strong asset to our school. We will also benefit tremendously from the extra funding we have received which effectively provides us with double the chaplaincy time we have had in the past.

## **Making the most of an unexpected opportunity!**

An unexpected pupil-free day last Wednesday provided us with a golden opportunity to progress our professional learning. Our focus was on data! The systematic collection of data about student performance is a growing strength within the Department of Education and at the same time it presents an ongoing challenge for us educators.

We have access to measures of children's academic, social and physical development across their years of schooling which enables us to determine areas of strength and weakness. We also have the ability to dig deeply into test data such as NAPLAN and discover very specific gaps in individual children's understanding and also areas of relative weakness for our school as a whole in areas such as literacy and numeracy. Finding the time to analyse our data however is always a significant challenge. We also need to have a high degree of understanding of data (referred to as data literacy) in order to make accurate conclusions. The opportunity for our teachers to work together last Wednesday morning provided us with a much needed opportunity, and our focus was on developing our understanding of data and using this to assist our planning for individual children. This is a big step forward in achieving our targets from our School Improvement Plan.



## **Kindergarten Cocktail Party**

It was wonderful to see so many kindergarten parents attend our Kinder Cocktail party on Monday evening. They enjoyed a superb supper provided by our School Association and a great chance to meet other parents.

A feature of the evening was a presentation by our kindergarten teachers – Jane Stevenson and Jos Hewitt. They shared the theoretical background behind the kindergarten program including the National Framework – Belonging, Being, Becoming. They also shared some examples of Learning Stories and how these are used as a powerful description of children's skills and understandings and what is required to move them forward to the next developmental stage in their learning.



## **Breakfast Program**

I'm pleased to announce that the breakfast program will start next week on Tuesday morning. Again it will run from 8:30am – 9:00am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the GP Hall. Breakfast is available for all children from Prep – grade 6 and it is free thanks to the generous donation of food by Mr Will van Winden and for the great assistance provided by our team of parent volunteers who prepare and serve the breakfasts. As always we are keen to hear from anyone who would be able to devote their time to helping out with this on one or both of the mornings. If you can help out in any way please speak with Mr Mario Bergamin.

## **Communication Books**

The most common and indeed the most effective way to communicate with your child's teacher is through their communication book. Teachers use this regularly to report incidents, news or any other information concerning your child or their class. I strongly encourage you to take the opportunity to read it at the end of each school day.



## **Photographer at school next week!**

On Tuesday next week will have a professional photographer taking photos throughout the school of children participating in many aspects of school life. These will be used to update our website, postcards, and other school promotional material. We would appreciate having all children in full school uniform.

*Troy Roberts*  
*Principal*

## National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2012

In 2008, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) commenced in Australian schools. The program is scheduled to continue in 2012 with all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 to be assessed using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students in Tasmania have been participating in literacy and numeracy tests for a number of years, so there is familiarity with the test formats and the types of questions.

The scheduled dates for the tests in 2012 are Tuesday 15 May, Wednesday 16 May and Thursday 17 May.

These national tests will provide information on how students are progressing against national minimum standards of literacy and numeracy skills expected for each year level, as well as performance across the whole range of student abilities. The results will support improvements in teaching and learning for students.

Parents will receive an individual report that shows their child's results and a comparison of their child's performance against all other Australian students in their year level. The report will also indicate how your child performed in comparison to the national average and the levels of achievement expected at that year level.

For students in Years 5, 7 and 9, the results from the 2012 tests will provide parents and schools with important information on progress made since they last participated in NAPLAN testing in 2010.

The best way you can assist your child is by making them feel comfortable about the nature and purpose of the tests, and assure them that the tests will give them an opportunity to show what they have learned in class.

For more information about the national tests, including test samples, frequently asked questions, the test schedule and a parent information brochure, please visit the national NAPLAN website at: <http://www.nap.edu.au>



**Students at the Tas Science Talent Search Launch last week.**

### Outdoor Classroom News!

We are excited about our new blog for the Outdoor Classroom. Check it out on <http://Youngtownoutdoorclassroom.blogspot.com.au> It is a wonderful way to spread the message of children working 'outside the four walls of the classroom'. Special thanks to Mrs Felicity Brown for helping Mrs Shegog and Mr Bergamin learn about blogging!

Each week we will be posting new learning from the Outdoor Classroom with photos and writing. This is a wonderful way to promote and acknowledge our commitment to environmental learning in our curriculum.

A very special Thankyou to Mrs Cindy Belbin who has donated her time and expertise in helping to clean the garden from weeds after the Summer break. We sincerely appreciate her assistance as the time taken to weed and clean the garden is time that we are not able to work with children.

**Thanks**  
**Mario Bergamin**



### **LOST JACKET**

A size 6 school jacket has been lost, it is named.

Could you please check your child's and make sure you have the correct one.

Thankyou.

Tasmanian Association for the Gifted (TAG)

Parent Information Evening  
For parents of children of all ages.

Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30 – 8.30pm

Larmenier Catholic School  
38 Station Rd, St Leonards.  
(Shared entrance with Mt Esk  
Nursing Home)

Is your child smarter than the  
average bear?

An information evening for parents that will address  
the following points.

- How do you know if your child is gifted?
- What are the common characteristics of gifted children?
- What issues are commonly faced by parents of gifted children?
- What problems do gifted children experience if their ability is not recognised or their needs not met?
- What can I do to help my gifted child?
- How can you discuss your child's ability with the school?

Issues relating to gifted adolescents

Presented by William Briginshaw, Mel deClouet and  
Allison Cornish

For more information or to book a place,  
phone Allison on 0421 396 777 or email  
[tasgifted.north@gmail.com](mailto:tasgifted.north@gmail.com)

### **School Uniform Tax Refunds**

The Federal Government has changed the Education Tax Refund to include school-approved uniforms, for parents receiving Family Tax Benefit A.

Items of clothing including hats, footwear and sports uniforms approved by a school as its uniform .

The Education Tax Refund provides up to 50% back on a range of children's education expenses, up to a limit of around \$400 for primary kids and \$800 for secondary students.

You may need your receipts as proof of purchase.

More information can be found at  
[www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au/index.html](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au/index.html)  
or call 13 28 61

### **School Banking**



Student Banking will be available every Friday morning at school. Each student will receive a "**School Banking Program 2012**" envelope.

For new application forms for those families without internet access please enquire at the school office.



# **ONE WEEK PASS**

Are you looking for a casual, easy going & friendly gym?

Come and see if Orbit is for you - with our one week obligation free pass.

Orbit is a fully equipped gym with plenty of fun classes to keep you motivated, as well as personal trainers and a qualified childcare - morning, evenings & Saturday!

**Box-Fit Spin GROUP STEP GROUP KICK Spin-Box Tone Up**

**Yoga Pilates Spin-Core Fat Burner ATB & Over-60s**

Find our class timetable on Face Book or drop us an email and we will send one to you!

**We are now locally owned and operated.**

Contact Us - [info@orbitlaunceston.net.au](mailto:info@orbitlaunceston.net.au) 6343 5366

66-68 Melbourne Street,  
South Launceston 7249



## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

### **Life Centre Music**

Is offering positions to children who would like to be part of the choir. This is open to children from the age of 6 years. The choir meets fortnightly on a Wednesday from 4 till 5pm. If interested please call Lucy on 0408 443 436 or 6344 3436.

### **Carswell Tennis**

Children interested in having Tennis Coaching at School in 1st Term are to report to the School Tennis Court on Thursday 8th March at 8:30 am. Private lessons and adult coaching also available. Spare racquets are available if required. Enrolments or Enquiries Phone Carswell Coaching 63261020 or 0417390261.

### **2012 Primary All Schools Track and Field event**

It's an Olympic year so why not get right in to the spirit and participate at the 2012 Primary All Schools Track and Field event.

This year's Primary All Schools Track and Field will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March at the St Leonard's Athletics Track.

Every participant is in the running to receive spot prizes simply for turning up! All participants will also receive a small collection of Hero cards in the bid to support our Aussie athletes in the London 2012 Olympics

Please see the entry form attached or you can enter online via on [www.tasathletics.org.au](http://www.tasathletics.org.au)

More details on this event will be available next week via the website listed above.

### **Nicola McLaws (AMUSA)**

Piano Teacher for private lessons, if you are interested please phone Nicola on 0417 575 777.

### **Mini Cheer & Team Cheer at YMCA**

Introducing two new exciting programs for you at YMCA.

*Mini Cheer* is an action packed cheer leading program for children from Kindergarten to Grade 2. It will include learning basic cheer motions and movements, basic cheer routines, cheer leading themed games and activities with pompoms. Thursdays 4.00 - 4.45pm \$7.50 per session.

*Team Cheer* is a fun filled 8 session introduction to cheerleading for children in Grades 2 to Grade 6 where children learn and then perform a pre-choreographed cheer leading routine. Thursdays 4.45-5.30pm \$7.50 per session.

Team Cheer and Mini Cheer are delivered by Jacqui Wise, a qualified PE Teacher. Jacqui is happy to speak with you on 0439 118 400 after 6.00pm or email [Jacqui@flip-out.com.au](mailto:Jacqui@flip-out.com.au)

## School Association News

The AGM for the School Association will be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> of March at 7.00pm in the staff room.

We are seeking nominations for the positions of **Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary** as these positions are now vacant.

Anyone wishing to nominate for a position, can collect a nomination form from the office and return it to there.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Launceston Scout Group

**Looking for something fun to do?** Come and join our Joey Mob, Cub Pack or Scout Troop!

### **Joey's – 6 and 7 year olds**

Meet at 6.00pm to 7.00pm each Tuesday  
Leader in charge – Megan Leeder Ph: 63436980

### **Cubs – 8 to 11 year olds**

Meet at 6.00pm to 7.30pm each Thursday  
Leader in charge – Joy Bracken Ph: 63449134(AH)

### **Scouts – 10½ to 15 year olds**

Meet at 7.00pm to 9.00pm each Wednesday  
Leader in charge – Kerri Gray Ph: 63435555(AH) or 0409436610

Venue: Scout Hall  
Nunamina Avenue, Kings Meadows  
(near Carr Villa cemetery and the Kings Meadows bowls club)  
During school terms only

Cost: \$2.00 per night plus  
annual registration fee.

We are also looking for people interested in becoming Scout Leaders. Call in and see what is involved.

## CONTACT DETAILS

### YOUNGTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Phone: (03) 6341 3222 Fax: (03) 6343 3006

Email: [youngtown.primary@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:youngtown.primary@education.tas.gov.au)



Tasmania

Explore the possibilities