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Dear Parents, Building our Children's Assets

When you look through our school vision/mission statements and our agreed school values, there is an incredibly strong emphasis on children's character development and their social and emotional growth. This focus is the result of our widespread consultation last year about what parents, teachers and children value most from a primary school education. It is also the result of an abundance of research findings that clearly link these developmental areas with a range of other positive outcomes including successful learning, positive relationships, and general happiness. At Youngtown Primary we are therefore always looking to enhance our approach to developing children's social and emotional health. In light of this I'm especially pleased to be able to share with you an emerging partnership between our school, some other local public schools, and an organisation called Resilient Youth Australia. As the name suggests we expect this partnership ultimately to result in higher levels of resiliency among our children. I am also excited to say that the fundraising event Sally's Ride will support this partnership. Essentially our work together will involve measuring resiliency levels and planning ways to improve them. The framework within which we will work is known as the 40 Developmental Assets.

I first encountered the Developmental Assets last year when I attended an introductory workshop in Melbourne. In fact I shared much of the following information in an early 2013 edition of this newsletter. In essence the Search Institute in Minneapolis, which is the same institute that has developed the concept of 'sparks', has identified 40 positive experiences and qualities that all of us have the power to bring into the lives of children and youth, which are called Developmental Assets. Consistently studies show a strong correlation between the assets and such things as school engagement, positive relationships, workplace success and responsible behaviours during adolescence. In short, as parents and as educators who want our children to thrive – we ought to be active in ensuring our children have as many of the 40 assets as possible.

The 40 Developmental assets (20 external assets and 20 internal assets) are arranged into the following 8 categories as described by the Search Institute in their information booklet:

External Assets:

Support:

Young people need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate, and accept them.

Empowerment:

Young people need to feel valued and valuable. This happens when youth feel safe and respected.

Boundaries and Expectations:

Young people need clear rules, consistent consequences for breaking rules, and encouragement to do their best.

Constructive Use of Time:

Young people need opportunities – outside of school – to learn and develop new skills and interests with other youth and adults.

Internal Assets:

Commitment to Learning:

Young people need a sense of the lasting importance of learning and a belief in their own abilities.

Positive values:

Young people need to develop strong guiding values or principles to help them make healthy life choices.

Social Competencies:

Young people need the skills to interact effectively with others, to make difficult decisions, and to cope with new situations

Positive Identity:

Young people need to believe in their own self-worth and to feel that they have control over the things that happen to them.

So what does this all mean for us?

One result of this partnership for us here at Youngtown Primary will be stronger connections with you – our parents and our broader community. Only together can we support our children to have more assets. In addition to this we are continually exploring more ways to connect children with their 'spark', and to strengthen their internal assets through a positive behaviour support framework that includes the explicit teaching of social and emotional skills.

Fitness Traditions to Start with Your Family

Following are the next two tips from the article published on the Search Institute website by Dr Gene Roehlkepartain:

- **Set routines for cooking, eating, and physical activities.** The most common reason people say they don't get exercise or eat healthy is that they get too busy. It can help to have a standard routine for when you shop for groceries, take walks, and cook and eat meals together. If you cannot exercise or eat together every day, decide as a family when you will commit each week to doing these activities together.
- **Have healthy food available.** Children and teens tend to eat what is around the house. If there are high-calorie snacks, desserts, and meals, they are most likely to eat those when they are hungry. If those foods and drinks are not readily available, they are much more likely to eat fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods.

Reinforcing the Personal Safety Message at Home

As you know we are often reinforcing the message about being safe with the children in our school. Of course your role as parents in reinforcing this same message is critical as well. We believe that our children should always be reminded of this message, especially during their walking to and from school, including the following:

- Never go off alone – always stick with friends
- Never accept a lift off anyone
- Always tell a parent or adult they trust if they have been approached or frightened.

*Troy Roberts
Principal*

WANTED GUMBOOTS AND OLD LP VINYL RECORDS

If you have some gumboots at home that your children can no longer wear, we would really love them for our outdoor garden. We are also after any of your old LP vinyl records.

All donations would be greatly appreciated.



'SPARK' PROFILE

Name: Jessica

Teacher: 5-6A Blundell



My 'Spark' is: Netball

Where and when I enjoy my spark:

Saturday is the day I enjoy my spark Netball at Hobblers Bridge for the Generation Netball Club.

Why I Love it so much:

I really love this sport, because I am able to be a part of a team and get to try different positions. Most of all you make lots of good friends.

Highlights for me with my spark:

Being able to play netball in my favourite positions of Goal Attack and Goal Scorer

How could others get involved:

Contact Generation Netball Clubby phoning 0404 060 109

Written by:

Amelia and Kate

**Youngtown Primary
Market Day
Expressions of Interest**

The School Association is considering holding a market day to be held towards the end of August. If you or anyone you know would be interested in hiring a table and selling your craft/books/toys/clothing etc. please contact Kim Barker on 0407 519 940 so we may determine if this would be a viable event.



2014 TERM DATES

Term 2

Monday 5th May - Friday 4th July

Term 3

Tuesday 22nd July - Friday 26th September

Term 4

Monday 13th October - Thursday 18th December

Student Free Days 2014

Monday 21st July
Friday 24th October

**LSSA CROSS COUNTRY
TEAM 2014**

Grade 3 girls

Ella Fullbrook
Ella Walker
Isabella Colson
April Stebbings
Emily Watts-Hazelwood
Phoebe Fahey (reserve)

Grade 3 boys

Colby McKercher
Campbell Young
Liam Rose-Nel
Thomas Hawkins
Brodie Burns
Loki Middlecoat (reserve)

Grade 4 Girls

Liana Freestone
Chloe Barnett
Hannah Crawford
Taylor Emms
Remi Smith
Kiarna Parish (reserve)

Grade 4 Boys

Joshua Harris
Thomas Bergamin
Jacob Barker
Ziggy Woods
Evan Harrop
Joshua Belbin (reserve)

Grade 5 Girls

Grace Gillow
Sophie Fahey
Zoe Walker
Phoebe Withington
Phoebe Boon
Chloe Vanderheide (reserve)

Grade 5 Boys

Bailey Mitchell
Noah Waldron
Macklen Reitsema
Euan Rose-Nel
Alex Austin
Jonte Lee (reserve)

Grade 6 Girls

Tiana Lockett
Tsharne King
Eloise McKercher
Lily Pearce
Courtney Johnson
Amelia Bevan (reserve)

Grade 6 Boys

Hamish Lehner
Lochie Mitchell
Lucas Galvin-Ridge
Riley Cowling
Harley Crawford
Oliver Dobson (reserve)

Students will be competing in the Division B carnival at Waverley Primary School on Friday 20 June, commencing at 11.15am.

Uniform Shop News

Winter tunics and skirts are back in stock. Tunics \$70 Skirts \$65. A new supply of navy library bags are now available from the office for \$10.

Orders ready for Collection

If you have placed an order for uniform items, could you please check with Erica if yours has arrived.

Uniform Pre-Order forms for 2015

Pre-order forms should have come home last week. If you have not received one, another copy can be collected from the office.

While we understand that this is very early to be planning for 2015, our suppliers require 'Back to School' orders to be finalised by early August.

Please return your forms to the Office or Erica in the Uniform Shop by no later than Friday 27th June.

If you are unsure of the sizes you require you are welcome to come into the Uniform Shop and try on any items before placing your order.

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact Erica on 0439 795





stgiles

2014 DIY Workshops Visual Supports & Resources

Do you think visual supports will help your child or have these been suggested by the professionals working with your family?



Want to put together some individualized visual supports for your child?

Need to extend on the visuals you already have?



Want to replicate a visual support you have seen at St Giles, ECIS or

Need a visual time table for your child's morning or weekly routine?



Need a flip chart for destinations in the community?

Trialling and creating visual supports for your child can be a daunting idea but we are here to help. Have a chat to your regular team (teacher, OT, Speech therapist etc) about what would work well for your child, then bring your ideas to the session to get started on or bring your partially completed projects along.

Monday 14th April 12.30am - 3pm at ECIS

Thursday 19th June 9am - 3pm at St Giles

Tuesday 23rd September 11.00am - 3pm at ECIS

Thursday 27th November 9am - 3pm at St Giles

Drop in for all or part of the session.

For info call St Giles 63457388 or ECIS 63441729

Printing, laminating, scissors, velcro etc provided plus tea & coffee.

ECIS and St Giles staff available to help.

This session is for grown ups (childcare not provided, limited space).

2014 Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 12 June	Assembly 2pm—6A Thow
Friday 13 June	Friday Sport—Youngtown Primary v Waverley (Football) Depart school @ 1.05pm return by 2.35pm
Monday 16 June	Dance Baby Dance
Tuesday 17 June	Footy Clinic - Braden McGee from Western Storm
Wednesday 18 June	Dance Baby Dance
Friday 20 June	LSSSA Cross Country Carnival at Waverley Primary School Commencing at 11.15
Monday 23 June	Dance Baby Dance
Wednesday 25 June	Dance Baby Dance
Thursday 26 June	Prep - 2 Assembly 1.40 Prep B
Tuesday 1 July	Inquiry Sharing Session with Parents