

# Youngtown News & Views



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Dear Parents,

## A Busy Term Ahead

There is much to look forward to and achieve over the remaining 8 (and a bit) weeks of this term. Already we have begun testing all children in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Our prep children will be tested using the Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS). This program assesses students against expected standards of Literacy and Numeracy. We have also introduced a new level of testing for literacy and numeracy progress using the Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) for all children from grade 1 through to grade 6. These are already being administered and the results will be analysed over the next fortnight to inform future planning, including setting targets as a part of our annual Operational Plan.

Just around the corner is our athletics carnival which, in line with other schools, has shifted its calendar spot from the end of the year to the beginning. The primary carnival will be held at the Youngtown football oval on Monday March 4. The Kinder – grade 2 carnival will be held here at school on Monday March 18th.

Coinciding with our first report to parents (progress report) will be our Parent/Teacher discussions. These will take place during the week beginning March 18. This will be a key time to discuss your child's start to the school year and some specific learning goals identified by your child's teacher.

Our grade 5 and 6 children will be attending a camp towards the end of this term. Mr Bergamin and the grade 5/6 teaching team are busy making final plans for this important learning experience which is based around the Aboriginal and Colonial history of Tasmania. This is an important component of the grade 5 & 6 History Inquiry units.

## Planning for the future

Throughout this year we will be spending time renewing our school vision and articulating our values. This process is the first step in developing a four-year strategic plan for our school. It is most important that all members of our school community have the opportunity to shape this plan and we

will be providing details about how you can be involved over the coming weeks. The culmination of this important work will help shape future directions for our school. The process we will be undertaking to achieve a renewed vision and strategic plan is an Appreciative Inquiry. An Appreciative Inquiry has become a widely practised process for many business and non-profit organisations to reflect on, and ultimately improve performance. A key feature of this process is that it focuses primarily on appreciating the strengths of an organisation. One article describes Appreciative Inquiry as involving the following four dimensions (or steps):

- **Discovery** – finding out about moments of excellence, core values and best practices
- **Dream** – envisioning positive possibilities
- **Design** – creating the structure, processes and relationships that will support the dream
- **Destiny** – developing an effective inspirational plan for implementation.

The first dimension therefore is the 'discovery' stage and as a school staff we have already begun sharing and reflecting on our core values and strengths. In fact this was the focus of our work together earlier this month prior to children returning to school. We explored what we consider to be

***“Appreciative Inquiry is used as a co-inquiry from multiple perspectives to understand organisational efforts to create a vision, serve its mission, obtain desirable goals and objectives and design the best strategies”***

the strengths of our school. The contributions from staff were many and varied and included the following:

- We have very high expectations for our children
- The staff are passionate, and highly committed to achieving the best outcomes for all children
- There is a strong culture of Positive Behaviour Support and Restorative Practises
- We are well tuned into the research on best practices
- There are great trusting relationships within our whole school community
- Teachers work collaboratively together to ensure there is consistent practise throughout our school

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- All children are highly valued as individuals and are deeply cared for
- There is great community involvement in the daily life of our school
- We create rich learning environments
- There are many opportunities for learning many different things, both within and beyond the classroom.
- Youngtown Primary is a very happy and enjoyable place to be

I know that as we consult with our parents and the children in our school we will gain further insights into our strengths as a school community and, through this, we will also be able to identify areas that we need to grow further. Through the newsletter I will continue to share the contributions of our school community through this 'discovery' phase of our inquiry and I will let you know of opportunities for sharing your insights as well.

### ***Dance Baby Dance***

Yes it's on again! We have confirmed with Andrew Palmer that the Dance Baby Dance program will run throughout term 2. The first week of lessons will begin on Monday May 6. Dance Baby Dance is an 8-week dance program involving all children from kindergarten through to grade 6. As we discovered last year this program is high energy and very engaging for everyone involved. Again the program will culminate in an evening performance where children will showcase their new dance moves to parents and friends. This evening is scheduled for the second last week in term 2 and specific details will be forthcoming closer to the time.

*Troy Roberts*  
*Principal*

## **ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 2013**

The grades 3-6 athletics carnival will be held at the South Launceston Football ground on Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>. The carnival will begin at 8.30am and finish around 1.30pm.

***If there are any parents who are able to help could you please leave your name at the office or email me ([lynda.colgrave@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:lynda.colgrave@education.tas.gov.au)).***

The Kinder – grade 2 carnival will be held at Youngtown Primary on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Tabloid events will be from 9.15am to 11.00am and races will be starting at 11.30am.



## ***School Banking***

School Banking will commence this Friday (15th February). There will be new rewards to collect by redeeming your tokens.

If you have any questions or wish to open an account for your child please leave your name and contact number at the office and I will return your call.

***Thank you,***  
***Kerri Camino***  
***Banking co-ordinator***

## **School Association News**

The first meeting for the School Association will be held TOMORROW Thursday 14th of February at 7.00pm in the staff room. All welcome!

### **Dates for the Diary**



### ***Welcome Back Picnic/BBQ***

Thursday 21st February  
5.00pm - 7.00pm

Sausages, Hamburgers & Drinks  
will be available to purchase.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Thursday, 14 February 2013**

7.00 PM School Association Meeting, in staffroom

### **Thursday, 21 February 2013**

5.00 PM Welcome back picnic/bbq

### **Monday, 4 March 2013**

8:15 AM Grades 3-6 Athletics Carnival at South Launceston Oval - Students to meet staff at the oval

### **Friday, 8 March 2013**

9:00 AM Solid State Circus performance

### **Monday, 18 March 2013**

9:15 AM Kinder - grade 2 Athletics Carnival at

# MEET THE STARS OF THE BLOCK



**COME & JOIN THE  
★ CELEBRATIONS**

**★ RED HOT PRODUCT SPECIALS**

- Sausage Sizzle
- Prizes and Giveaways
- Live Product Demos
- Fun for Everyone



**MEET DAN & DANI IN  
STORE AT LONGFORD MITRE 10**

**SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1.30 – 3.30PM**

**73 WELLINGTON ST LONGFORD PH: 0363 912 382**

**MIGHTY HELPFUL<sup>®</sup> MITRE 10**



## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

### TASMANIAN POLYTECHNIC

Unsure of future work/study pathway?

Join our **FREE Course**

Skills for work or further training

(do units or full course)

**Commencing: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

Wednesdays & Thursdays 9.30 – 2.30

And Friday mornings

Includes: computing, career planning, **first-aid**, study skills, achieving goals and boosting confidence.

**For further information or to enrol please ring**

**Julie 6336 2730 or Cheryl 6336 2708**



GLYS offers vocal tuition in a group environment for young singers from Grade 2 -12.

Directed by Denise Sam and Cherie Partridge, GLYS

rehearsals will start on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February from 4.15 – 5.15 pm at Newstead College.

For more information contact:

**Denise: 0419369781**

**Cherie: 0438902230**

**Email: glyschoir@gmail.com**



### Book club news!

Book Club orders are due back **next**

**Thursday 21st of February .**

Any queries please contact Lisa Tatnell,  
0418364861

# AmazonZ netball club

## Are you interested in playing Netball in 2013?

We have limited vacancies for players turning 8 (born 2005) up to seniors.

Training commences soon with matches starting in March and April!

Register your interest today!!!

To receive an info pack please phone Peta Reitsema on 0408 585 201

Or alternatively you can email us on [anc@hotmail.com.au](mailto:anc@hotmail.com.au)

Come along and join a fun and family orientated club where we focus on fitness, enjoyment and the inclusion of all ages and abilities!!

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Check out our info posts on fb - AmazonZ Netball Club

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