

16th May 2012 Vol. 21 No. 11

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Dear Parents,

NAPLAN

As I am writing this piece for the newsletter I am also observing our grade 5 children completing their writing NAPLAN test. It is their second test for the day and they have almost completed it. The room is silent! Their task is to write a persuasive text to convince the reader of their opinion about whether 'Everyone should learn to cook'. Every child is engaged in this writing task – gazing upwards for inspiration, rubbing out words and replacing them with better ones, reading it back to ensure it makes sense, or raising their hand for assistance from Mr Karas or Mrs Brady. If you were here now watching your child, I know that you would feel the same sense of pride and admiration that I do. I am particularly taken by the collective sense of calmness, confidence and focus. There is no doubt that everyone is keen to do their very best. The silence is broken when Mrs Brady announces that just 5 minutes remain. Even then – not a whisper is heard – just the sound of pencils making a mad dash towards the finish. Finally, the time is up and pencils go down. I know that these children will sleep soundly tonight as will our grade 3 children who have also completed the two tests today.

Today they were back in the GP Hall to complete their reading test and yet again tomorrow to complete their numeracy test. Once again they will concentrate hard and show their upmost respect to their peers by remaining silent throughout. Of course they are not alone as all grade 3 and 5 children (grade 7 and 9 students too) across the country are also sitting exactly the same tests on the very same days. This includes my own two children and they certainly felt a little more tentative about fronting up to school today.

Every year there is considerable debate within the education industry and more broadly through the media, about the pros and cons of NAPLAN testing. The opinions are wide ranging. However I am convinced that the experience of formal testing for our children has been worthwhile. Just being able to sustain concentration for the duration of the test is an important quality for any successful learner. In fact I believe the experience of completing the test is just as valuable as the results that will eventually come back to us sometime in September.

Cross Country

We were very lucky to squeeze our Primary cross country carnival in between the rainfall periods on Friday. In fact the conditions were mild (especially compared to last year!). There were many great individual performances, our children cheered and supported one another from start to finish, and Mr Colson made it through the day without falling off his bike! Many thanks to Mrs Colgrave for her smooth running of the morning and it was wonderful, as always to have Mr Gee back to start each race. I would like to congratulate those children who have made it into our school cross country team. They will compete in the LSSSA carnival at Waverley Primary School on Friday 25th May at 12:55. The team will be announced by Mrs Colgrave next week and published in next week's newsletter.

Walk Safely to School Day

This Friday (May 18) is the national Walk Safely to School day to promote good health and wellbeing. Mrs Colgrave would love to have families join together at the South Launceston Football Oval on Friday morning at 8:20am and walk together to school. Your child will have details of this in their communication book today. To participate, at least one parent will need to accompany their children all the way to school.

Coles Vouchers

Thank you for supporting our school in 2011 by collecting vouchers for the Coles Schools for Sports initiatives. Last year we collected over 70,000 vouchers which has resulted in a big boost to our sports equipment - see photo over page.

Troy Roberts
Principal





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday, 17 May 2012

1:40 PM Prep - 2 Assembly
1/2 Lloyd to host

Friday, 18 May 2012

Black & White Day - YSL fundraiser for Devil Facial Tumour Disease Research, Staff, students & parents to wear black & white - gold coin donation

4:30 PM Taekwondo using GP Room
4.30pm-6.00pm

Tuesday, 22 May 2012

9:30 AM Performance K - 6 - Let The Music Move You

Wednesday, 23 May 2012

9:00 AM Brayden McGee (Sth L'ton Footy Club) here to take clinics with Gr 1-6 students

Thursday, 24 May 2012

9:00 AM Brayden McGee (Sth L'ton Footy Club) here to take clinics with Gr 1-6 students

Friday, 25 May 2012

LSSSA Cross Country @ Waverley

4:30 PM Taekwondo using Multi-purpose room
4.30pm-6.00pm



Food Allergy Awareness Week May 14th to 18th

This week is the National Food Allergy Awareness Week. A food allergy is an immune system response to a food protein that the body mistakenly believes is harmful. When the individual eats food containing that protein, the immune system releases massive amounts of chemicals, triggering symptoms that can affect a person's breathing, gastrointestinal tract, skin and/or heart. Here at Youngtown Primary School, we have a number of students who suffer from food allergies, some which can result in Anaphylactic reactions. Approximately 1-2% of all Australians have a food allergy and 10% of infants aged 1 year have a food allergy (*Health Nuts Study Murdoch Institute 2011). Attached to this week's newsletter is a Food Allergy Basics Fact Sheet to provide you with some of the basic facts regarding food allergies. For more information visit www.allergyfacts.org.au

Black and White Day

The Tasmanian Devils are suffering from DFTD which stands for Devil Facial Tumour Disease. This Disease is Fatal!

Black and White Day happens every year and in 2012 it is Friday May 18th and it is the 6th Anniversary. On this day we ask for school students and businesses to dress in Black and White or have a morning tea, or talent quest and donate a gold coin. Wear black and white shoes, or black and white laces and even as simple as black and white ribbons. Its simple, but great because everyone has something either Black or White in their wardrobes.

<http://www.blackandwhiteday.com.au/index.html>

This year Youngtown Primary and YSL will be supporting 'Nature Nic' and his efforts to raise funds for DFTD research. Students, staff and parents are asked to dress in Black and White and make a gold coin donation on **Friday the 18th of May.**



1.

HelpSheet

Food Allergy Basics

- A food allergy is an immune system response to a food protein that the body mistakenly believes is harmful. When the individual eats food containing that protein, the immune system releases massive amounts of chemicals, triggering symptoms that can affect a person's breathing, gastrointestinal tract, skin and/or heart.
- Symptoms of food allergy can include; hives, swelling of the lips, face and eyes, swelling of the tongue, breathing difficulty, abdominal pain, vomiting or a sudden drop in blood pressure. If left untreated, these symptoms can be fatal.
- It is estimated that up to 2% of Australians, including 1 in 10 children*, have food allergy and some of them will experience a life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).
- There are more than 170 foods known to have triggered severe allergic reactions. Examples include kiwi fruit, banana, chicken, mustard and celery.
- Currently, there is no cure for food allergy. Avoidance of the food is the only way to prevent a reaction.
- Adrenaline is the first line treatment for severe allergic reactions and can be administered via an auto-injector called the EpiPen® or the Anapen®.
- Food allergy is the leading cause of (severe reactions) anaphylaxis outside the hospital setting.
- Approximately 10 people die from anaphylactic reactions each year in Australia.

* Osborne et al. Prevalence of challenge-proven IgE-mediated food allergy using population-based sampling and predetermined challenge criteria in infants. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2011; 127: 668-676

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www.allergyfacts.org.au

AAI® 2011



AnaphylaxisAustralia

A charity committed to helping keep those with severe allergy safe



Knowledge for Life. © 2008

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COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Launceston Swim School

School Holiday Swimming Program 2012.
Independent classes for 4 years & up. Great for anyone from beginner through to stroke correction 9 days 4th June to 15th June or 5 days 4th June to 8th June. For more information please ph 6343 3565.

Northern Children's Network June School Holiday

Come and join us for great fun at Amy Road, Newstead. Cook, Swim, Farm, Create, Camp & much more. Book now! Child care benefits available. Please phone 6341 1555.

Fijian Flood Relief

Garage Sale - Saturday 19th May
56 Alma Street, Youngtown 8.30am - 1.00pm.
Sausage Sizzle from 11.30am. All monies raised will benefit Korovuto Village. Hope to see you there.

Newstead Harrier Club Cross Country Season 2012
Paper Beach Saturday 19th May, 1.00pm start, 8km, 4km & 2km. \$3 adults, \$2 Children & \$6 per family. Enquiries please phone Catherine 0407 319 861.

Take Home a Big Brother or Big Sister

By hosting a short term exchange student. Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2012 for a short term of only 3 months. All arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au or call us toll free 1800 500 501.

Cavaliers Netball Clinic

Monday 4th June at Hobblers Bridge Netball Courts, 9.00am - 2.00pm (lunch break 12 - 12.40). For ages 8 -16 year olds. RSVP to your netball club as soon as possible for planning purposes.

Carswell Coaching Holiday Tennis Clinics

Clinic Monday 4th June - Wednesday 6th June. The clinics will be held at the Newstead Tennis & Squash Centre from 9.00am till 11.00am each day. The cost for each Clinic is \$70.00 or \$25 per day. Enquiries or to enrol please phone Carswell Coaching 6326 1020 or 0417 390 261.

BOOK CLUB ISSUE 3

Book Club orders are due back TOMORROW Thursday 17th May at 9.00am.

Thanks

Lisa Tatnell



COMING SOON! LAUNCESTON KIDS CHESS CLUB

Chess is known to have many cognitive and other developmental benefits.

This is an opportunity for children to learn and master the art of Chess.

A special invitation to this community project for:

Children on the Autism Spectrum

Gifted children

Children with difficulties such as ADHD

Please contact Dawida Rose-Nel
on 0417981770 or

e-mail: dawidarose-nel@hotmail.com

to REGISTER YOUR INTER

FOR LINKS TO RESEARCH that explores the
BENEFITS OF CHESS or
for COPIES of a FLYER to circulate.

Important Community Information

New Schoolkids Bonus—Parents will receive \$410 for each child in Primary school and \$820 for each child in High school as part of the new Schoolkids Bonus. It will replace the Education Tax Refund from 1 January 2013.

Senator Helen Polley

Labor Senator for Tasmania

CONTACT DETAILS

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Tasmania

Explore the possibilities