



Dear Parents,

NAIDOC Week Celebrations

Next week we will be celebrating NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) week with a wide range of experiences aimed at developing awareness and understanding of Aboriginal culture. As you are already aware, this year our school is an Aboriginal Focus School and, consequently we have been fortunate to have the additional support of our Aboriginal Education Worker Bonnie Starick. Bonnie is coordinating the week's celebration activities which will begin with a Flag Raising Ceremony for our grade 3-6 students and invited guests on Monday morning. Throughout the week there will be many learning opportunities for our children including an Art and Culture Exhibition in our Literacy Resource Room (beside Mrs Coombes' classroom). During lunchtimes Aboriginal guests and Bonnie will offer cultural workshops and related activities. Other opportunities include an art competition based around a creation story and a friendship hands activity. On Wednesday there will be an official opening of our new Aboriginal Garden and in the last week of term our whole school assembly will also be devoted to NAIDOC week celebrations.

Engaging Our Children in Learning

Like many parents, on Sunday morning I took my two sons to their football games. It was freezing – in fact I'm sure it was nearly snowing. My youngest son was playing early at 8:30am and he was visibly chilled before the game had even commenced. It was obvious that he didn't really want to be out there playing and consequently, he didn't really engage in the game at all. He certainly did not perform to his capability. I guess this is the same for some children when they attend school. If they do not feel connected and motivated to be at school then they will not perform to their capability!

In the Examiner last week a small story appeared that summarised a very significant research study. Perhaps not significant to everyone – but certainly to those of us devoted to setting up our children for success later in life. In essence the research indicates that children's engagement in school is a stronger indicator of their future success than their academic achievement levels. In other words children who enjoy a positive connection with their schools and with the learning opportunities provided are more likely to achieve future success (20 years later).

The study was conducted by the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania using data collected from 9 – 13 year old children, and again 20 years later when they were young adults. Those children who were most engaged during their school years (motivated to learn, feeling of belonging, participation in extra-curricular opportunities) were much more likely to go on to a professional, semi-professional or managerial career.

This research certainly confirms the view we hold here at Youngtown Primary that children's self-confidence and love for learning must be a primary focus for our work as educators. Once again the feedback we received at our parent forum reinforces that these same areas are broadly regarded as a priority for our parents. Furthermore when we ask our children what they love most about coming to school we hear resoundingly that what they look forward to most is their connection with friends, their teachers, learning things that are personally relevant to them, having the opportunity to try new things and pursue things they are passionate about. So what does all of this mean for us?

At Youngtown Primary there are many ways through which we are already nurturing self-confidence and a love for learning. Positive Behaviour Support is all about promoting self-confidence and self-efficacy through the acknowledgement and active teaching of positive behaviours and thinking habits. More recently our teachers have researched how to further engage our children in their curriculum learning through an inquiry or problem-based approach. An essential feature of this is to ensure that the learning is personally relevant to the student.

Another very exciting direction that our school is embarking upon is related to children pursuing areas that they are passionate about. This work is currently being led by Mario Bergamin and is based on some research and developments by the Search Institute which is based in Minneapolis. They refer to children's passions as their 'spark'. Their research indicates that when children have the opportunity to pursue and nurture their 'spark' not only will their self-confidence grow, but they are more likely to succeed in all areas of their learning. You can learn more about this area of research by visiting the website at www.search-institute.org. Whilst we are in the early stages of considering how this work should guide our practice at Youngtown Primary, Mr Bergamin is keen to make a start and consequently, has begun planning a trial grade 3/4 options program for next term. We look forward with great anticipation to see what impact this will have on further engaging and connecting our children with their learning.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

Over the past week we have been alerted to a number of young children who have contracted Hand, Foot and Mouth disease. This is a common childhood illness, especially among young children. Whilst it is pretty harmless, it is highly contagious and we ask parents to ensure that children who are affected do not return to school until the small blisters (usually on the hands and feet) have dried up.

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To find out more about Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease we suggest you visit NSW Government Health website at <http://www0.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets>

Dance Baby Dance Performance next week

Next Thursday evening our children will be performing the dances they have been learning here at school as part of the Dance Baby Dance program. They have certainly been working hard to remember the moves and I know they will be beaming with pride when they perform in front of their parents. You should have already received a letter with details about when your child is scheduled to perform. We look forward to seeing you there.

Prep-2 Assembly

A reminder that tomorrow afternoon is our Prep - Grade 2 assembly being hosted by Grade 2 Nankervis. Please note the assembly will take place in the Music/Drama room commencing at 1.40pm. Parents are most welcome to attend.

*Troy Roberts
Principal*

Home Reading Success

Congratulations to Anna , Jye , Liana, Jaslyn and Lucas for all achieving the goal of 75 reading sessions. They all got to choose a book to add to their individual collections at home. Keep up the great reading!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday, 20 June 2013

1:40 AM Prep -2 Assembly
2A Nankervis to host (note change of host class) to be held in Music Room

Friday, 21 June 2013

5/6 Netball - Youngtown v East Launceston @ Youngtown
5/6 Football - Youngtown v Mayfield @ Youngtown
9:10 AM F Troupe - held in the staffroom

Monday, 24 June 2013

9:00 AM Dance Baby Dance
9:10 AM 1A & 1/2A excursion to Beaconsfield Gold Mine
3:30 PM Parent information session for KMHS 2014 - to be in the Multi Purpose Room

Tuesday, 25 June 2013

9:10 AM Kinder B excursion to Music Tree
1:40 PM 1A Lloyd Parent Sharing Session in Music Room 1.40pm - 3.00pm

Wednesday, 26 June 2013

9:00 AM Janet using netball courts - bike riding
9.00am - 11.00am
9:40 AM Dance Baby Dance

Thursday, 27 June 2013

Youngtown Yummies
5:45 PM Dance Baby Dance performance at Door of Hope 5.45pm - 9.00pm

Friday, 28 June 2013

5/6 Netball - Youngtown v Invermay @ Invermay Bus pickup: 1.10pm Leave venue:2.40pm
5/6 Football - Youngtown v Invermay @ Youngtown

Monday, 1 July 2013

5:30 PM Cybersmart Presentation - parents - Multi Purpose Room

Thursday, 4 July 2013

2:20 PM Whole School Assembly
5B Colson to host

Friday, 5 July 2013

9:10 AM F Troupe - held in the staffroom

BOUNCE, BOOGIE & BOOKS!!!



THE TIME IS HERE!!!

While Kinder to Grade 2s participated yesterday, and had a wonderful time I might add, Grades 3-6s will be participating tomorrow at the following times:

THURSDAY 20TH

Group A - 3A Rainbow, 3/4A Van Winden & 4A Sundra

Group B - 5A Boxhall & 5B Colson

Group C - 6A Brady & 6B Thow

	1.40-2pm	2.05-2.25pm	2.30- 2.50pm
Bounce (netball courts)	Group A	Group C	Group B
Boogie (GP Room)	Group B	Group A	Group C
Books (in own Classroom)	Group C	Group B	Group A

Each student will have 20 minutes bouncing & playing catch with various balls, spend 20 minutes dancing to their hearts content and spend 20 minutes reading and/or being read to.

Our form of a physical, mental an inner being workout!!

ALL FORMS MUST BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT.
To redeem a prize your form must be presented at school by no later than Friday!!!

FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO STUDENTS AFTER THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR BBB TO BRING HOME AND COLLECT ANY OUTSTANDING MONEY.

All outstanding money must be returned to school no later than
24th JUNE to be eligible for your reward.

Delivery of rewards will hopefully be before the term 2 holidays.

All funds raised from this event will be going directly towards our students so please support!!

Should you require another form they will be available from the office.

Any questions?

Please phone Peta on 0408 585 201 or Erica on 0439 795 898.

**ALL MONIES RAISED GO DIRECTLY
TO OUR STUDENTS SO PLEASE
SUPPORT THIS FUNDRAISER!!**



COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Youngtown Little Athletics Club

Last chance to order your 2013/2014 Entertainment Book. Any queries or to place an order please contact Nigel Freestone on 0419 368 856.

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www.launcestonswimschool.com.au

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Sunday 23rd June, 2013
Launceston PCYC
148 Abbott Street Newstead
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\$3 entry (kids free), 9am - 12pm

Baby & Kids Market by [kidspot.com.au](http://www.kidspot.com.au)

www.babykidsmarket.com.au

UNIFORM SHOP UPDATE

The size 6 polar fleece jackets are currently still out of stock. I will contact you as soon as they arrive.

Sorry for the inconvenience if you are waiting on an order.

Tracie Pearce
Uniform Shop Coordinator



BOOK CLUB NEWS

Book Club orders are due back
TOMORROW Thursday 20th June at 9.00am.

Any queries please contact Lisa Tatnell,
0418364861

LOST UNIFORM ITEM

Size 10 navy jacket and size 6 rugby top
- both named

Could you please check that your child
has the correct top.

If found please return to the Office.

**SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
MEETING WILL BE HELD
TONIGHT WEDNESDAY 19TH JUNE
7.00PM IN THE STAFFROOM**

CONTACT DETAILS

YOUNGTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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