

Dear Parents,

The gift of giving

This is certainly the time of year when we are challenged most to give to others. Of course it is also the time of year when our own resources seem to be most stretched! I strongly encourage you to embrace this challenge as an opportunity for your children to grow. Not only do those people in our society who are most in need benefit from our generosity, but those of us who give gain tremendously from this act as well. In fact focussing on others has psychological benefits for us all including our children. You may have noticed Dr Karl Kruszelnicki on a recent advertisement promoting this very idea – he reminds us that giving actually makes you feel great. I recently read of a psychologist (apologies I can't recall who – or even where I read it!) who, when asked what advice he would give to people who were feeling anxious or depressed, surprised the questioner with the following response:- go out and find somebody who needs help and provide it to them! If you were to delve into the research on psychology and even neuroscience you would find that more and more evidence is emerging that suggests that giving to others is linked with personal happiness and wellbeing.

At present we have two initiatives aimed at providing people in our community with a little help this Christmas. The first is the Basket Brigade which endeavours to provide Christmas baskets full of grocery items. Please send your children with something from your pantry to go into the large bin outside Mrs Hemelaar's classroom. This bin will be collected this Friday and so you only have this week left to help out with this cause.

The second initiative is the ABC Giving Tree. To contribute to the giving tree simply bring along a wrapped gift and label it as 'boy' or 'girl'. I have been amazed to see gifts arriving at school even before we have set up our tree. Thank you so much! The tree is now set up in the office foyer. Created by 1/2 Lloyd it is the coolest Christmas tree you will ever see.

Bullying Performance has a big impact on our grade 5/6 children

Last week our grade 5/6 classes attended a performance by Brooks High students about bullying and its impact. It certainly captivated our students who were discussing it in their classes the next morning. Both Mrs Boxhall and Mrs Thow's classes have provided some reflections about the performance and its key messages further in this newsletter. I know that this has been a topic that has been further explored since last Monday's performance in all grade 5/6 classes. I would encourage parents to spend some time discussing and exploring this issue with your children at home as the opportunity arises.

An Extra Special Youngtown Yummies

Once again our incredible team of parent volunteers are preparing for a Christmas Feast. You will have received an order form which is due back this Friday at the latest. Children can choose from an amazing selection of courses and will enjoy the best value \$7 Christmas feast of their lives next Friday December 14. We can't wait!



More Swimming Success for Tiana

On Saturday Tiana competed in the National Swimming Championships held at the Launceston Aquatic Centre. It was a wonderful achievement to be competing at such an event. Throughout the day Tiana competed in an exhausting schedule of events including the 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, 50m freestyle, freestyle relay, and the individual medley relay. Tiana was ecstatic when she achieved a personal best in the 50m freestyle, taking second place (she was just pipped by 1500th of a second for first place). This impressive result has secured her a place in the next level of competitions in Hobart at the end of March next year. Congratulations Tiana!

Troy Roberts
Principal

The Pledge

On Monday of this week, Grade 5/6 classes enjoyed a production at Brooks High School titled, The Pledge. It was produced by Miss Stephens and written by Grade 9/10 students. It was a multi-media production that told the heartbreaking story of Charlie Harper, a teenager who was so badly bullied that she took her own life.

We left the theatre feeling emotional and determined to help stop bullying at our school. At Brooks High all staff and students sign a pledge to not be a bully or a bystander. Perhaps we could do something similar at 'our place'?

True confidence

Show your true colours
Speak up don't let them hurt yo
Before it's too late!

By Ella, Blake and Jake

The Girl Who Could Stand No More

Emotionless in the day, she will not break,
Tears streaming across her face,
all spills out,
What's the difference between us?
Maybe a heart of gold, but they won't see,
Will they stoop any lower?

By Paige

Bulling

The constant words and names
Charlie Harper
Getting bullied and teased
Making her life full of fear!!

By Domanic

THE PLEDGE

On Monday the 26th of November, grade 5-6 students attended a performance created by Grade 9 and 10 Brooks High School students. They gave up their time to achieve their goal of sending a message across to the local people of Tasmania. Miss Stephens at first didn't think the performance was suitable for younger students, until they invited the principals of schools to attend

"The Pledge". They agreed that it was suitable for our age group. The performance included the arts of dance, singing and acting. The whole presentation was actually based on a real sequence of events, although the names had been changed.

The show was about a young girl named Charlie, who had been bullied throughout her high school years. Charlie found it easy to make friends in primary school, but as she got older it got harder and harder. The people she hung out with, and thought were her friends, sadly insulted her behind her back. Weeks passed and the bullying got worse. She felt depressed and wasn't happy. She got to breaking-point where she didn't know what was the point in being alive.

Charlie received a text message from a boy in school named Josh. He asked her to send a picture of herself and of course she did. But the boy wanted more than just her face. She took the picture like he wanted her to. Later the picture went public and it was being shown all across the school.

The bullying was still getting worse. It took forever, but sadly the bullying got too much that she decided to end her life.

'The Pledge' gave us a very strong message not to bully.

The organiser of Angel's Goal came up on the stage to give a short speech about bullying. One of the things he mentioned was that he had talked to 40 families around Australia and 14 of them had lost a child who had been bullied from suicide!

The following day our class had a conversation about the performance. Some of us had different opinions such as -treat others how you want to be treated, but most of us had similar ideas. Think about this-all of us at one time have been bullied, been a bully or been a bystander to bullying. We believe it's important to treat everyone with respect, even those we don't know very well. We often don't have an understanding of what others have been through and the pain they have felt during their life experience.

We found the performance very touching and emotional. Some of us even had tears in our eyes.

BY: Bailey Wells, Jacksen Burton, Mattieka Vanderheide, Amy Smith, Sarah Robins and Bella Smith from 5/6 Boxhall



The ABC Giving Tree

We will be collecting wrapped gifts for the ABC Giving Tree. This is a charity we have supported for many years at Youngtown. In fact, we were the first school to be associated with the Giving Tree.

Representatives will visit our school to collect gifts on **Monday December 10th**. A wrapped gift, with a tag stating whether the gift is for a boy or girl and the approximate age it would suit would be deeply appreciated.

These can be placed under our beautiful recycled Christmas tree that was made by Mrs Lloyd's 1/2 class in the foyer.



Chat and Play & Kinder Orientation Groups Christmas Get Together

Wednesday the 12th of December at **1.30**

Launceston City Park - Playground end

BYO Food and Drinks

Icy Poles will be provided for the children



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday, 6 December 2012

- 9:15 AM Prep A & Prep B Excursion to Hagley Farm School Depart school - 9.15am Leave venue - 2.30pm
- 2:20 PM 3 - 6 Assembly
3/4A & 3/4B Hemelaar & Brady to host
- 7.00 PM Presentation Evening at Punchbowl Christian Centre

Friday, 7 December 2012

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

Monday, 10 December 2012

- 9:30 AM Grade 5/6 Thow excursion to QVMAG Royal Park Depart 9.30am Leave venue 11.30pm
- 10.00 AM ABC Giving Tree here
- 11:00 AM Grade 5/6 Boxhall excursion to QVMAG Royal Park Leave venue 1.00pm

Tuesday, 11 December 2012

- 8:30 AM Pre-order Uniforms Due back today

Wednesday, 12 December 2012

- 9:00 AM Grade 1/2s Excursion to QVMAG, Royal Park Leave venue 2.15pm

Thursday, 13 December 2012

- 11:00 AM Grade 5/6 Colson excursion to QVMAG Royal Park Leave venue 1.00pm

Friday, 14 December 2012

- Reports go home
- 12.00 PM Special Youngtown Yummies
- 4:30 PM Taekwondo using Multi-purpose room
4.30pm-6.00pm

Monday, 17 December 2012

- 6:00 PM Grade 6 Leavers Dinners at the Abel Tasman

Tuesday, 18 December 2012

- 3.00 PM Art Inquiry Sharing Sessions
3.00 -4.00pm
Youngtown Primary End of Year BBQ

Wednesday, 19 December 2012

- 11:30 AM Prep A & B Excursion to Evandale Park
Leave venue 2.00pm

Thursday, 20 December 2012

- 12.00 PM Whole School Assembly
- 3.00 PM Last Day of Term for students

Schoolkids Bonus

Starting from 1 January 2013, the Australian Government is introducing the Schoolkids Bonus which will help eligible Australian families and students with kids at school pay for expenses such as uniforms, books, excursions, specialist lessons and fees.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund, which means you no longer need to keep receipts and claim it through your tax return – and you get the full amount upfront.

You will receive the Schoolkids Bonus if you have a child in primary or secondary school, or you are a student in primary or secondary school, and you receive one of the following payments:

- Family Tax Benefit A
- Youth Allowance (student)
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance
- Carer Payment*
- Parenting Payment*
- Special Benefit*
- Education allowances under the Veterans' Children Education Scheme and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme.

Children in preschool are not eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus.

* Pending the passing of legislation through Parliament

From January 2013, you will be paid the Schoolkids Bonus in January and July.

Each year, eligible families will receive:

- \$410 for each child in primary school (paid in two instalments of \$205) and
- \$820 for each child in high school (paid in two instalments of \$410).
-

If you share the care of your children and receive a percentage of Family Tax Benefit Part A, you will also receive the same percentage of the Schoolkids Bonus.

More information

Website: humanservices.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus or

Phone: 13 6150

2013 Term Dates

Term 1

Tuesday 5th Feb - Friday 19th April
(Easter Friday 29th March - Tuesday 2nd April)

Term 2

Monday 6th May - Friday 5th July

Term 3

Monday 22nd July - Friday 27th Sept

Term 4

Monday 14th Oct - Thursday 19th Dec

Student Free days 2013

Wednesday 27th February (Launceston Cup)

Thursday 28th March

Friday 19th April

Monday 22nd July

Friday 25th October

"Students who have recently received 60 Token Certificate"

Congratulations to the following students:

*Lily Pulford
Harley Petty
Sara Hazelwood
Zaide Simmons
Wil Bevan
Brodie Burns
Will Springer
Alexander Coles
Ruby Grice
Jake Elmer
Loki Middlecoat
Sebastian Clarke*

CONTACT DETAILS

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Tasmania

Explore the possibilities