**Working Bee - Saturday March 15**

WOW! Have you noticed any differences around our school after the working bee last week? Our school is looking fresh, cared for and inviting. Thank you so much to the parents, students and staff who helped out on Saturday.

**Parenting Ideas Magazine**


**Parentingideas Club**

Parentingideas Club is a new online parenting centre founded by Michael Grose. You can get expert advice at every stage of your child’s development. Become a member at Parentingideasclub.com.au today and get ready for more confident parenting.

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**Forward planning for Excursions/Incursions**

A forecast of excursion/incursion costs for are:

- **Grade 5/6 Summer Lightning Premiership** (selected students) - $5
- **Gymnastics Program for all students (Term 2)** — $24 per person

Non-payment of costs means that the school must meet the shortfall. This reduces the monies available for resources for all students. Prompt payment is expected.

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**Save the Date**

**Trivia Night—Saturday May 31**

The organising team for the Trivia Night will be meeting on 14th March at 2:30pm in staffroom. Please come along and join the team if you are keen to part of this fun, productive team.
N E W T O N  P.S.  N E W S L E T T E R

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS - NUDE FOOD
We are working towards reducing rubbish at Newtown PS. Often the most healthy foods come in their natural packaging such as fruit. Many classes stop at 10.00am and have a fruit break. 
We are trying to reduce the amount of man-made packaging that comes to school. Sending your child to school with “nude food” containers helps them to learn about the positive impact they can have on our planet. Reduce, reuse, recycle... try to reduce the amount of packaging that you buy, reuse rather than throw away and if it must go... recycle where possible.

Thank you to those parents and children who are bringing no man-made packaging to school on a regular basis! We will be having a Nude Food audit soon to see which class has the most “Nude Fooders”!

SUSTAINABILITY REPRESENTATIVES
Two students from each class have been selected to be this year’s representatives. They meet fortnightly as a group to discuss issues and create actions that make our school more sustainable.
Mrs McKenzie

All parents helping out in classrooms or on school excursions require a current Working With Children check. Forms available online.

Stranger Danger
The recent media focus on the Daniel Morecombe kidnapping is a reminder of the importance of giving children safety messages without dampening their confidence nor their trust in human nature. In this week’s newsletter we have included an article The NEW rule every parent needs to know. Child safety expert Kid-proof’s Catherine Gerhardt provides the latest advice about keeping kids safe without creating undue worry or anxiety.

Every day counts – school attendance
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind: Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up. Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan. Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible. From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason. If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Rights Vs Responsibility
As an Australian citizen we are often predisposed with what is ‘rightfully ours’ and what people (parent, boss, landlord, government) are doing for us. But what are we taking responsibility for in our own lives? Are we setting our own alarms in the morning or expecting someone else to get us moving? Are we saying sorry when we hurt someone’s feelings or do we assume someone else will make them feel better? Are we stepping up to the challenge or letting responsibility fall on others? To grow as individuals means to grow in responsibility! Owning your mistakes will eventually lead to owning your victories! Be a victor and win at life today! Take responsibility in your stride, one step at a time. Start with the small things and work up to the bigger ones. As the great Australian song writer, Paul Kelly says: “From little things, big things grow.”

Aaron Butters, Chaplain, Newtown Primary School
HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day is celebrated around Australia on 21st March, but as we are busy doing our cross country that day, at

Newtown Primary School,

we are going to be celebrating Harmony Day on

Thursday 27th March

Harmony Day is a day for all Australians to celebrate our cultural diversity. We are not only celebrating cultural diversity, but also family diversity. Recognising the many different compositions that families have.

TO CELEBRATE...

You will be asked to invite people from your family (who are able to attend) to come to school @ 12.15pm and view some of the work we have been doing at school or at home about families and our family trees. You can invite your parents, grandparents, or special friends.

WHAT to bring?

Your family visitors are asked to please bring a picnic rug on that day and lunch to share. It would be wonderful if people could bring food from their cultural background. After viewing our schoolwork about families and cultural diversity, at 1.00pm you will be invited to sit on picnic rugs with your class grade on the wonderful lush grass of our school oval, and share lunch together. The celebrations will finish at 1.30pm when the regular lunchtime play bell will sound. Then it’s time to play with your friends!

WHAT to wear?

You are invited to wear national costume that is part of your ancestry to highlight and celebrate our community’s cultural diversity. Alternatively, please wear a ‘splash’ of orange with your school uniform (which is the colour chosen this year to represent Harmony Day).