Church Service and Thank You Morning Tea
On Thursday, November 5 we will be having our annual Christmas Church Service. We will be departing school to travel to the Kardinia Centre at 9:30am. The celebration will begin at 10am. The service will be followed by our ‘Thank you Morning Tea’ back at school.

This will be held in the Multi Purpose Room starting at 11:30am.

Community members are invited to join with us for both of these events.

Acting on Parent Opinion . . .
Our 2013 Parent Opinion Survey suggested that there is a need to improve communication and connection at our school. In order to address some of these concerns we are introducing 2 new initiatives.

1. Induction Handbook
This document explains the way that our school works and is full of helpful hints, rules and expectations. Please check out this booklet on our school website.
www.newtownps.vic.edu.au

Encourage your child to read this booklet also.

This will go a long way to clarifying communication. If you feel that something has been left out of the booklet, please contact your classroom teacher or Amanda Hay.

All 2014 Prep families have been given a hard copy of this book.

2. Parent Ambassadors
It is so important for our school to connect as a community. Next year we will be introducing a new way in which community will continue to build. We invite one or two parents from each class to be the ‘Classroom Ambassadors’. Ambassadors would help to connect families with the school.

Ambassadors would be volunteers who would help connections. Examples of some activities could include:
- co-ordinating friendship lists
- working with the teacher to organise parent helpers for excursions
- co-ordinating parent helpers for classroom tasks
- organising class playdates in the playground after school
- organising a social activity for grade parents.

Give some thought to whether you would have a little time to spare during the week as an ‘ambassador’.

Our Parent Opinion Survey suggests families are wanting to connect! Keep an eye on the newsletter for more information early next year.

Lets make this work.

Student Free Days -2014
January 28 – Teachers commence work
May 30 – Report Writing Day
August 6 – Professional Learning Day
December 19 – Last day of the year

Lunch time is 12:30—1:30 whilst swimming is on.
Driving Simulator
This week Colin West brought in the driving simulator used to teach the required skills for driving a truck. May classes took the opportunity to experience this first hand.

Swimming
This week our older students have been participating in an intensive swimming program. I cannot stress enough how important swimming and safety skills are in our very ‘water oriented’ society. All classes were using their time well to fine tune their knowledge and technique. The co-ordinator from the Geelong College Pool pointed out that 5 years ago all groups from Newtown were classed ‘beginner’ groups. This year only 1 group out of 7 is operating at the ‘beginner’ level. The program is clearly working to improve our students skills and confidence. Junior/Prep program begins next week.

Advertising
A recent School Council adopted an Advertising Policy allowing appropriate businesses to advertise on a board facing Aberdeen St. First offers will go to businesses connected to our school. If you would like to advertise your business or know someone else who would, please contact Amanda Hay.

The NPS Mo Bros!
If you are interested in supporting a great cause and becoming a Mo Bro, please send along your email address so we can send you an invite to join up, or alternatively, you can come and speak to Mr Mac, Mr McKinnis or Butters for some more information, or visit http://au.movember.com/
We look forward to a an a’MO’zing month!

Student of the Week

Prep McKenzie: Owen S
For being such an enthusiastic learner.

Prep Podhorsky: Coco B
HIP HIP HOORAY for getting your letter D's around the right way!

Junior Wrigley: Oliver S
For his great story writing this week.

Middle Smith: Jaidyn M
For being a fantastic group member during money maths.

Middle Baird: Tiffany M
For consistently being a helpful, caring & respectful member of Middle B. Thanks for helping me be organized Tif!

Senior McClelland: Harry R
For producing an amazing flipbook on Jimmy Spithill for his homework. Very professional.

Senior White: Ashley W
For the way she represented the school at the Prep Information Evening.

Senior Peel: Kim L
For her outstanding attitude & dance moves at the Blue Light Disco. Go Kim!

WATCH THIS SPACE! HOT DOG DAY! DECEMBER 19. MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW......
**CHRISTMAS HAMPER**
Once again we are heading into the festive season when, traditionally we have finished the year with a Christmas Hamper draw.

1st prize = $100 off school fees, uniforms or excursions
2nd prize= $50 Coles Myer voucher
Various hamper prizes

Please start sending along items for the hampers. Non-perishable food and drink items, Christmas decorations, toiletries and so on.

Think of items you would love to receive!
We manage to produce around 8 hampers each year for this draw. RAFFLE BOOKS home today.

**Parenting Ideas Magazine**
Follow the link to Parenting Ideas Magazine

**Mowing Frenzy!**
BYO mower for a ‘family friendly mowing frenzy’ from 4pm on Friday, December 6.

Huge thanks to Paul B who spent 4 hours at school last weekend mowing our oval—and it looks magnificent!

Our ongoing challenge is to keep it in such great condition.

So here is the proposal:
Next mow Friday 6th December – from 4pm.

If there are 6 mowers, it will take about 45 minutes.
This is a win/win.
Our oval continues to thrive and our families are connecting!
It would be terrific to see some new faces at this mini mowing frenzy!

**MEDIA RELEASE—UNDERSTAND THE FIRE DANGER RATING**
Being familiar with the Fire Danger Ratings and the recommended actions will help keep Victorians and visitors safe over the fire danger period.

A feature of weather forecasts, the Fire Danger Rating, indicates how dangerous a fire would be if one started. They can be found in newspapers, broadcast on radio, television and on websites.

Fire Danger Ratings are based on the weather conditions and the amount of dry vegetation.

A Code Red Fire Danger Rating is the highest rating and signals the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire. While Code Red days are very serious, they are also very rare with only two Code Red days since the Code Red rating was introduced four years ago.

It is important to remember that you are still at risk on days with a High, Very High, Severe and Extreme ratings. These days are much more common, so it is important to understand what they mean and what you will do when they are forecast.

Familiarise yourself with the Fire Danger Ratings and their recommended actions. They will help you to develop bushfire safety procedures and should be used as a prompt to take action. The higher the Fire Danger Rating, the more dangerous the conditions and the more considered your procedures should be.

For more go to the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call CFA Hamilton on 5551 1500.

**WRISTBAND by RESPECT RANGERS**
The Respect Rangers are made up of our Junior School Committee members who are committed to noticing members of our school community showing respect for others, themselves, learning and the environment. Students awarded a wristband are encouraged to wear them to school everyday!

**LEARNING**— Jonny P: staying on task and working hard to achieve his learning goals.

**OTHERS**— Ellie K: for encouraging others to dance at the Blue Light Disco.

**SELF**— Amy L: for always being ready to learn. Very organised with the things she needs to complete the task.

**ENVIRONMENT**— Monique T: for having nude food every day.
The staff and students of Newtown Primary School wish to invite you to our annual ........

Thank-you Morning Tea

...... to be held in the Newtown Primary School Multi Purpose Room from 11:30am on Thursday, December 5, 2013.

In order to assist with preparation, please complete the reply slip and return to school by Monday, December 2.

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will / will not be attending the Thank-you Morning Tea on Thursday, December 5.