**NAPLAN**

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been part of the school calendar since 2008.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

The NAPLAN test dates for 2014 are Tuesday 13 May, Wednesday 14 May and Thursday 15 May.

**Why do students do NAPLAN tests?**

NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of the school’s assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

**What will be tested, and how?**

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the National Statements of Learning for English and mathematics which underpin state and territory learning frameworks.

Questions are multiple choice or require a short written response. The Writing task requires students to write a persuasive text.

**Can I help my child prepare for the tests?**

NAPLAN assessments are undertaken by students as a normal part of their education program. Teachers will ensure students are prepared for the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance. The most effective way for students to prepare for the tests is through the teaching of literacy and numeracy skills embedded in the college curriculum. Sample questions and a sample writing task can be accessed on the NAP website: [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)

**What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?**

All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments which reflect the support normally provided in the classroom, and students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions, or who has recently arrived in Australia and is from a non-English speaking background.

**How is NAPLAN performance measured?**

NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands will represent the national minimum standard for students at each year level.

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Congratulations to the following students for the great job they have done at school during last week. Bravo and keep up the good work!

Prep—Year 3: Justine—Prep A, Cayla—Prep B, Marcel—1A, Chloe—1B, Jazmyne—2A, Sonja—2B

Student Word List
- certificates awarded to
  - Red Words: Charlotte
  - Blue Words: Tahia
  - Yellow Words: Kyal, Shasa

Students who ran and received a place in our cross country race which was held on Friday 4th April were presented with their cross country ribbons and medallions at parade.

Below are the students that represented our school at the West Zone cross country trials which were held on Thursday 1st May.

- From the Principal’s Desk - - - - - - - (continued from page 1)

A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?
Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week.

Will I receive a report on my child’s performance?
A NAPLAN report will be issued later in the year, usually around September. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent home.

Where can I get more information?
- For more information about NAPLAN:
  - visit www.nap.edu.au
  - contact the school

Have a great week, Scott Pacey, Principal

Mother’s Day stall

This Friday 9th May 9:30—11:00am
P&C are hosting a stall to give the students an opportunity to purchase items for mum for Mother’s Day this Sunday.

The P&C have pre-purchased items to sell and do not require donations of items.

Helpers would be most welcome to assist with serving and selling at the stall. If you’re able to assist, please turn up at the Hall around 9:00am.

Meet & Greet

There will be a Meet & Greet afternoon tea outside the prep rooms for any parents wishing to have a chat or meet with our chaplains; Sharon and Justin on Wednesday 14th May at 2:00pm.

Chappy’s Chatter

Welcome to this week’s Chappy’s Chatters. I came across some Parenting Pearls of wisdom this week and wanted to share them with you all.

1. **If it’s Not Fun… Make it Fun!** Humour is a great way to help everyone in your family decrease their stress, increase their mental and physical health and make your “home” a desirable place to live.

2. **Practice Gratefulness… NOT Cynicism!** Gratefulness opens up our hearts, minds and possibilities whilst cynicism shuts down our minds and closes doors for us and our children. Practicing gratefulness can be awesome fun too!

3. **Good Intentions Are NOT Enough!** Children learn what they live by the example we set everyday. Be not afraid that our children won’t always listen to our attempts at teaching… be more afraid that they are watching and listening to EVERYTHING we say and do!

4. **Be Willing To Change YOU and not them!** If we are not getting the outcome we want then it’s up to us to change the way we are parenting. Demonstrating behavioural flexibility takes effort on our part but we know that are children are worth it!

5. **Teach Resilience NOT Helplessness!** Great families have useful language and frameworks to explain the ups and downs of life so everything can eventually be viewed as a positive! “With all this nonsense there has to be a pony in there somewhere! I love that last one….. have fun applying these pearls. Have a great week,” Justin Trigg—chappy.