

PRINCIPALS REPORT

NAPLAN

All year 3 and 5 students will be participating in the NAPLAN test this week.

Tuesday 14 May 2013 Years 3 & 5

Language Conventions	Writing	Reading	Numeracy
Tue 14th May	Tue 14th May	Wed 15th May	Thur 16th May

I encourage all students to try their best in the tests.

The group is also another good way to get to know parents of other children at our school. It is anticipated that our coffee group would take place on Wednesday fortnightly at 2.30pm in the Koori room.

HELMETS

All students riding bikes to school must wear a helmet. If students do not own a helmet they must not ride their bike to school. Taree Police will be checking that students are wearing helmets over the course of this term. Please discuss with your child the importance of wearing a helmet.

GOOD NEWS PHONE CALLS

Staff will be making contact with all parents this term to discuss the great things students are doing. Photos of students displaying our school values of pride, respect and safety will also be displayed in the newsletter.

Accompanying this newsletter is a contact details update form. Please make sure that teachers can contact parents/caregivers to share the good news by returning the form.

PARENT COFFEE GROUP

In the last two weeks I have touched base with a significant number of parents but I have been unable to meet everyone. Ms Alice Gillett, our canteen supervisor has proposed that a parent coffee group be started so that parents can engage in an informal chat with myself and other school staff. Topics such as our upcoming school excursion, reward activities and curriculum initiatives would be examples of possible discussion topics at the meetings. If interested in attending our coffee group please speak to Alice.

FISHING FOR SPORT

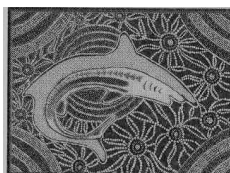
Our first 'Fishing for Sport' activity was well attended. Please remind students to continue the positive behaviour displayed so far this term to remain eligible to attend. Parents and grandparents are welcome to join us. We depart school at 2.05pm each Friday.

MARS BAR HANDBALL COMPETITION

Our week 2 lunch time handball competition was very competitive. A large number of students and teachers participated in the activity. Josh Leonard won the Mars Bar last week from some very tough competition. Whilst Mrs Clapson and myself are improving our skills I feel it may be some weeks before we emerge victorious.

Have a fabulous week!

Mr Matthew Royan
Relieving Principal



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the Biripi people who are the traditional custodians of this land. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Biripi Nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginals.

NAPLAN 2013

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Literacy and Numeracy

	Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May
Year 3	Language Conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 45 minutes	Numeracy 45 minutes
Year 5	Language Conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 50 minutes	Numeracy 50 minutes
Year 7	Language Conventions 45 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 65 minutes	Numeracy <u>Calculator</u> 40 minutes <u>Non-calculator</u> 40 minutes
Year 9	Language Conventions 45 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 65 minutes	Numeracy <u>Calculator</u> 40 minutes <u>Non-calculator</u> 40 minutes

- **Language Conventions** includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- **Numeracy** includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
- **Calculators** are NOT permitted in the Numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, there is one Numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.



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What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. All students in these year levels are

expected to participate in tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

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. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

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.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample Writing task can be accessed on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

Who will run the tests?

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or the principal. Each state and territory NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child's preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can provide you with more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.



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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. 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. Each test scale has ten bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. 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. 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. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 17 May.

Will I receive a report on my child's performance?

A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent home. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.



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How are NAPLAN test results used?

- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- visit www.nap.edu.au
- contact your child's school
- contact your state or territory's education authority (details available on the NAP website)



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CONGRATULATIONS

BRONZE AWARDS

Burrang

Courtney Matheson-Towers

Christopher Butler

Sara Noble

Takyrah Mitchell



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