Hello Everyone,

As next week means that the NAPLAN testing schedule is upon us, this week’s newsletter is focused on informing families about NAPLAN and the arrangements that the school has been making. Wherever possible, individual students who are absent at the time of testing, will be able to sit the missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after 17 May. Later in the school year, a NAPLAN report will be issued. The same report format will be used for every student in Australia - though individual student results are strictly confidential. Usual school routines will be maintained as much as possible, as this helps to reduce anxiety. The P/1 and 1/2 rooms will not be directly affected. As per usual, fruit (donated by Woolworths) and cereal will be made available prior to school on these days.

-- Mrs Roslyn Waldron (Principal)

**Important dates:**
- 9 & 10 May - Principal at EI network meeting
- 10 May - Mother’s Day Stall @ 10:30am
- 14 - 16 May - NAPLAN test days
- 20 - 24 May - Chappie Week
- 21 May - Under 8’s Day
- 27 - 30 May - Book Fair
- 12 June - Broadsound Carnival (9-12am for 10-13y.o.)
- 14 June - Broadsound Carnival (P - 7 students)
- 14 June - Soup and Movie night

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**YR. 3/4/5 Are Getting Ready**

The NAPLAN (National Assessment Program- Literacy and Numeracy) test days are fast approaching. The students in Yr.3/4/5 have been learning what the tests will be like, by practising in a supportive environment. They are learning the structure of a persuasive text and the persuasive devices they can use to make their writing sizzle. Strategies to help them with the reading comprehension and numeracy tasks are being covered. Knowledge of grammar and spelling is also being targeted.

We are ensuring that the children know NAPLAN tests are not to be feared or stressed over. By exposing them to the NAPLAN format we are hoping that they will be able to attempt their best work in a positive manner.

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**NAPLAN 2013 tests timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading 45 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading 50 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>Writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>Writing 40 minutes</td>
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**Mother’s Day Stall**

10 May @ 10:30 am
Swayneville Swag

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 is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?
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.

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.

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.

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.

Our Learning Objectives: 1. Reading and writing must make sense! 2. Student know what they know, and know what they need to know next!
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HAVE YOUR SAY AS PART OF THE WORKING PARENTS RESEARCH PROJECT

Researchers from the University of Queensland are looking for working parents to take part in a survey looking at the effects of working life on Queensland children and families. We are particularly interested in Fly-in/Fly-out (FIFO) and Drive-in/Drive-out (DIDO) workers but value and encourage input from all kinds of working parents. The survey will only take around 30-45 minutes to complete. Your involvement will help the field to learn more about the effects of different work circumstances and settings on children and families. Your participation will also assist in developing ways to properly support working parents in the future.

Are you a working parent?  
Do you have a child aged between 2 and 12 years?  
Are you willing to provide 30-45 minutes of your time?  

For further information and to take part in the survey, please visit:  
https://cep.uq.edu.au/workingparents

All participating parents will be eligible to enter a draw to win 1 of 10 $100 Coles/Myer gift cards!

AWARDS

Prep/1
Lachlan Alway, Lachlan Marsh  
Xavier Anson-Kissier,  
Matthew Lockie- 20 gotchas.  
Aaliyah Keir, Ellyse Burgess,  
Hannah-Rose Piper-for reading 12 books in their first 2 weeks here.  
The remainder of Prep/1 - reading 40 books so far this year.

Yr 1/2 😊
Hamish Alway-always working well in maths.  
Destiny Lane-being helpful all week.

Yr 3/4/5 😊
Rhygan Burgess and Chris Todd- for following the "Be a learner rule".

Yr 5/6/7 😊
Sarah Hamblin-20 gotchas.  
Callum Street. Georgia Beveridge,  
Aiden Perna, Claire Perna-bronze certificates in Mathletics.  
All year 5's-for completing their practice NAPLAN test correctly.  
50 bee stamps-Jade Tomlinson,  

Queen Bee- 3/4/5

TO GIVE AWAY KITTENS
6 weeks old  
4 kittens = 3 male + 1 female  
Black & white and grey mixed  
Call Katrina on  
49504101