



90 Seconds with the Principal

[Watch Video](#)

90 Seconds with the Principal - Learning Intention and Success Criteria

In the 90 seconds with the Principal video this week we look at what your child is learning and how they are going with that learning - Learning Intentions and Success Criteria.

Harmony Day



On Friday, the Mother Teresa Community celebrated Harmony Day. What a spectacular sight of colour and collaboration. Our day began with a prayer thanking God for our diversity and praying for peace and tolerance, not only at our school but across the World. The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Jarara staff, prepared and presented workshops on Dreaming stories for all students throughout the day. We were entertained by students from diverse cultures and backgrounds at recess and lunchtime. We were led in our prayer by the hard working students from our FIAT (Faith In Action Team) and our school choir. Thank you to every person who together, in harmony, makes the Mother Teresa Community a special place to belong!

Please check out the video link for

[Harmony Day](#)

Reminder - School Photos are this Friday, 29th March

Students are asked to wear their full summer uniform. Girls are to wear the summer dress with white socks and black leather shoes. White and/or blue (to match uniform) ribbons can be worn. Boys are to wear the summer shorts and white shirt with navy socks and black leather shoes. All socks need to rest above a child's ankle bone and please no extreme haircuts or styles. There is the opportunity for students to have a sibling photo, if you haven't received an envelope for this please get in touch with the school office.

Police Visit—Cyber Safety

Each year at Mother Teresa we seek support from the local Police School Liaison Officer when educating our primary students on digital safety. Senior Constable Dusan Dakic will be speaking with students in Years 3-6 today about Cyber Safety and how important this is.

Just a few reminders:-

- use device in a space parents can see
- never reveal your identity online
- if using online games, check age limits



"Never let anyone come to you without coming away better and happier."

St Mother Teresa of Kolkata

Important Dates:

- **Friday, 29th March**
School Photos
Full school uniform
- **Friday, 29th March**
Closing date for Kindergarten 2020 enrolments
- **Wednesday, 3rd April**
Celebration of Learning
4:30—6:00pm
- **Saturday, 23rd March—
Sunday 12th May**
First Eucharist
Enrolment forms can be collected from the Parish Church while attending Mass during the period 23rd March – 12th May 2019
- **Friday, 12th April**
Last day Term 1
- **Monday, 29th April**
First day Term 2

Tuckshop-2-U

"In purchasing your child's tuckshop order online through Tuckshop2U, you are contracting directly with the supplier. You are responsible for checking that the ingredients of what you order are not incompatible with your child's sensitivities or health issues. Please ensure you check the disclaimers in the supplier's website. If in doubt you should contact the supplier."

Celebration of Learning

At Mother Teresa each term you are invited to come into the Learning Studios so your child can give you a 'guided tour' of their learning space and share with you some of the work they have been involved with in the previous term. Your child looks forward to sharing with you their learning so far this term. Learning Studios are open on **Wednesday, 3rd April from 4:30pm to 6:00pm**

NAPLAN online for Years 3 and 5 in 2019

This year the Year 3 and 5 students at Mother Teresa Primary will participate in NAPLAN online in early Term 2. In the next few weeks Years 3 and 5 students will participate in a practice NAPLAN online test. Last year the school participated in some NAPLAN online practice testing and this year all of the Year 5 NAPLAN tests will be taken by our students online. The Year 3 students will complete the writing test on paper however the remainder of the reading, language and mathematics tests will be completed online. Our school will supply the devices required for our Year 3 students and Year 5 will use their own device. To complete the tests a special 'lock down' browser is used so assistance with spelling and grammar is unavailable.

As teachers we use the day to day observations, interactions, work samples and written responses from your child as the most valuable form of information about their growth as learners. NAPLAN plays a small part in the life of your child at Mother Teresa Primary. The best preparation for NAPLAN is continued engagement in all learning and of course reading every night. A balance of play and rest is also crucial. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's participation in NAPLAN please feel free to contact me through the school office.

Attached to this week's newsletter are two flyers which explain NAPLAN online - these brochures are produced by ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority).

School Fees

If families are experiencing financial hardship, especially in relation to the payment of school fees you are invited to make an appointment to discuss the situation with myself, as no child will be excluded from a Catholic Education due to financial hardship. I include the following excerpt from the CEDP school fee policy:

"Although Catholic schools must charge fees to fund the education provided, it is important that families who want to access Catholic education for their children are not excluded because they do not have the means to pay fees. If a family experiences personal financial hardship in meeting school fees, they are invited to discuss total or partial exemption from school fees with the Principal who will treat the matter with understanding, care and sensitivity."

Collaborating with Inquiry Learning at Parramatta Marist

Last week our Year 1 and 2 students got to visit Parramatta Marist to provide critical friend feedback about their inquiry project in Spanish. It was a very exciting experience for our students and we thank Parramatta Marist for the invitation. We can't wait to see the final product!



Give Lent 100%



Lent is not about doing something for 40 days and feeling pleased with my effort at the end. It is about a period of transformation. Am I the same person I was last Lent. Will I be the same person, with the same failings after Lent? Or will I have worked on a part of me that I need to be better, so that every Lent is an opportunity for me to focus on my personal, and spiritual growth. How can I be closer to God? How can I be more the person God made me to be?

Good works are a start: Generously giving to Project Compassion, remembering that extra grocery item each week for the Refugee Centre, knitting squares to provide blankets for those who will be cold this winter. I also need to care for my soul, am I kinder, less judgemental, more forgiving, more generous with my time, am I present to my God and others, or am I a slave to a screen and social media. Am I more concerned with my public image than the image I see in the mirror of my soul. Let's use this Lent to grow as people and take our better selves into the Joy of Easter.

Maria Boyd REC



NSW Premiers' Reading Challenge 2019

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.

The 2019 Challenge kicked off **Monday, 4th March** and closes **Friday, 30th August** (midnight) for MTP students.

How can my child get involved? Just click on the link at [NSW PRC](#) and log on to begin (Kindergarten and new families) should have recently received their log in details. There is also a new student portal which allows students to look for books that are on the challenge list and add them directly to their reading log once read.

Mrs Rawlings will be on the playground at lunchtime most Wednesdays during the challenge, to help any students.

If you have any questions, please see either Mrs Rawlings or Mrs Halligan.

Cuppa with the Principal - Parent Forum - Change of date

Last week I published our next parent forum in Term 2 for Thursday, 2nd May at 8.35am - due to a compulsory meeting Mrs Stennett and myself are required to attend, we need to move the next Cuppa with the Principal/Parent forum to Friday, 3rd May. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Tuck shop 2 U - closing at the end of Term 1

In the past week we have been notified that the school canteen supplier, 'Tuck Shop 2 U' will cease business at Mother Teresa Primary from the end of Term 1. This will impact some other schools in the Diocese of Parramatta. Currently, the CEDP is seeking tenders for the canteen supply service and as soon as the new company is announced we will convey this information to all families.

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2020 at MTP

We are currently accepting enrolments for 2020. If you are a family with children enrolled at the school and you have a child starting in 2020, you must also complete an enrolment application. **Enrolments close end March 2019.**

High School Enrolments

Is your child in Year 6 at MTP? Are you looking to enrol your child in either Catherine McAuley High School or Parramatta Marist High School? Please complete the enrolment forms for these respective High Schools as soon as possible. Interviews for Mother Teresa Year 6 students have commenced.

WHS - Parking and Safety

Thank you so much to our parents and carers who make our Westmead Catholic Community a safe and caring place to learn and grow by their compliance with our road rules. A reminder that it is extremely important to follow the directions of staff during drop off in the morning and pick up in the afternoon. Please do not overtake cars waiting in the left hand lane when moving into the Kiss and Drop zone, by swinging out into the right hand lane. This is very dangerous and children crossing the road on the pedestrian crossing may not be seen. I thank you for your cooperation on this important matter. Recently a Traffic Management Company has been observing and providing feedback to the Principals on this site about safety procedures at pick up and drop off. Once these reports have been finalised and discussed with the Principals I will share more information with our parent community.

Important Dates:

- 'Cuppa with the Principal' - Friday, 3rd May at 8:35am
- SDD Staff Development Days 2019 - these are pupil free days:
 - ⇒ Term 2 - Friday, 7th June
 - ⇒ No SDD in Term 3
 - ⇒ Term 4 - Friday, 1st November
- Term 4 - Last day of school for students Wednesday, 18th December



14 March 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Keeping with the policies of the Diocese of Parramatta the Parish's Sacramental Programme is a **parish based, family centred, school supported** programme. This means the programme is run through the parish and is not conducted by the schools. Students enrolled in the programme will have their learning during the preparation sessions supported in their RE and SRE classes at school.

The Sacramental Programme is open to all children baptised in the Catholic Church and whose family have made Sacred Heart Parish their primary place of worship. The school a child attends does not have a bearing on eligibility for participation in the programme. Children baptised in a Protestant, Anglican or Orthodox tradition ought to approach their own denomination for sacramental preparation.

Children who received Eucharist when they were baptised, for example within the Melkite or Coptic Rites, are welcome to participate in the Sacramental Programme as a form of catechesis. They are welcome to attend the First Eucharist Mass but as one who has already received Eucharist, therefore they will not be celebrating their First Eucharist.

Baptised Catholics who have celebrated the sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) are eligible to prepare for First Eucharist. **Enrolment forms for First Eucharist can be collected from the Parish Church while attending Mass during the period 23 March – 12 May 2019.** Enrolment forms are not available from the schools or the Parish Office.

Important information about the Sacramental Programme is contained in a letter accompanying the enrolment form. This information includes relevant dates that you need to be aware of and to place in your diary.

If you require any further information, please contact the Parish Office during office hours (10am-4pm Tuesday – Friday).

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter J. Fogarty".

Fr Walter J Fogarty
Parish Priest

NAPLAN Online – information for parents and carers



2019

Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The assessment provides parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process - it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

What is assessed?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

In 2019 most students across Australia will sit NAPLAN online.

Feedback in the first year of NAPLAN Online showed that students engaged well with online assessments. One of the main benefits of NAPLAN Online is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test automatically adapts to a student's test performance. The test presents questions of higher or lower complexity, depending on a student's performance.

Tailored (or adaptive) testing is designed to assess a wider range of student abilities and to measure student achievement more precisely. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions more challenging than usual; they may be taking a more complex test pathway. A student's overall NAPLAN score is based on the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly.

NAPLAN Online is not a test of keyboard skills.

There are variations in how fast and well a student can type – just as there are variations in how fast and well a student can write by hand. Year 3 students will complete the writing test on paper.

To get an idea of what the online assessment looks like, visit the public demonstration site at nap.edu.au

How can I help my child prepare?

Help your child prepare by reassuring them that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and by reminding them on the day to simply try their best. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Ensuring students are familiar with using devices, typing on them and navigating through programs are a part of student learning and a requirement of the Australian Curriculum from the first year at school.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of coaching providers. NAPLAN is about assessing learning progress in literacy and numeracy.

Will my child sit NAPLAN on paper or online?

In 2019, your child will sit the NAPLAN online tests. However, children in some other schools across Australia will sit the NAPLAN paper tests this year. Federal, state and territory education ministers have agreed that all schools will move online by 2020. State and territory education authorities will determine when their schools move online.

As students are assessed on the same literacy and numeracy curriculum content, regardless of whether they complete the test online or on paper, results for both formats can be reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale. To find out more about NAPLAN Online, visit nap.edu.au

Participation in NAPLAN

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the annual NAPLAN assessment.

Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments. You should first discuss the use of any disability adjustments for your child with your child's teacher.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on NAPLAN Online disability adjustments or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

NAPLAN Online 2019 timetable

The assessment window for NAPLAN Online is extended from three days provided for the paper test to nine days. This is to give schools more flexibility in scheduling and accommodate schools that may have fewer devices. The NAPLAN Online assessment window starts on Tuesday 14 May and finishes on Friday 24 May 2019.

The online tests must be taken in the following order:

| Test | Duration | Order | Details |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| Writing | Year 3: 40 min. Year 5: 40 min. Year 7: 40 min. Year 9: 40 min. | To be completed in the first two days | Year 3 students do a paper-based writing test on day one only |
| Reading | Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min. | To be completed after the writing test | Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts |
| Conventions of language | Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 45 min. Year 7: 45 min. Year 9: 45 min. | To be completed after the reading test | This test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation |
| Numeracy | Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min. | To be completed after the conventions of language test | This test includes number and algebra; measurement and geometry; and statistics and probability |

What if my child is absent from school on assessment days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule. Individual students are not permitted to sit NAPLAN online tests after Friday 24 May 2019.

How is my child's performance measured?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student has demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be issued by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to better identify students who would benefit from greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas to improve in teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results at myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

For information about how personal information for NAPLAN is handled by ACARA, visit nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy

NAPLAN individual student reports will be provided to schools from August through September by your state or territory test administration authority.

NAPLAN assesses the key areas of literacy and numeracy. It provides parents and educators with a snapshot of how students are progressing – individually, as part of their school community, and against national standards that have been agreed upon by all state and territory governments.

If you are the parent of a student in Years 3, 5, 7 or 9, you will receive an individual report of your child's results for the NAPLAN tests they sat in May.

2018 is the first year some students took NAPLAN in an online format. The report will show whether your child completed the assessment online or on paper.

How do I read the report?

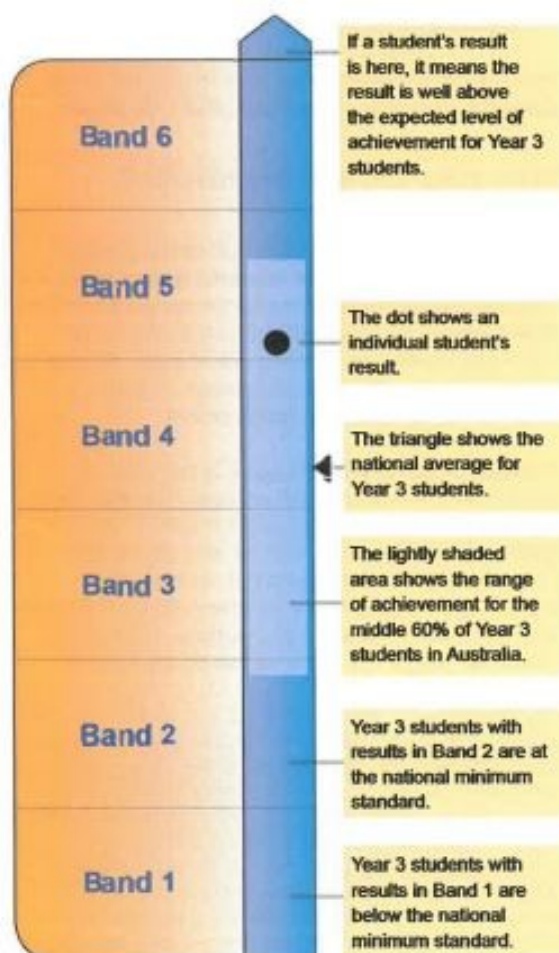
NAPLAN assesses numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation. You will see your child's results on an achievement scale for each of those assessments.

The Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessment results are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10. This scale represents increasing levels of knowledge, understanding and skills demonstrated in the assessments. Whether your child completed NAPLAN online or on paper, the results are reported on the same scale.

Only the most relevant six bands for each year level are shown on the student report. For example, the results for Year 3 are reported across the range of Band 1 to Band 6, as illustrated in the diagram opposite. The Year 5 report shows bands 3 to 8, the Year 7 report shows bands 4 to 9, and the Year 9 report shows bands 5 to 10.

The diagrams in the student report also show the range for the middle 60 per cent of students, the national average result and the national minimum standard for each year level. Reports in some states and territories also show the school average.

The report also summarises the skills that students have typically demonstrated in the assessments at each band.



How does NAPLAN help my child and my school?

NAPLAN is designed to provide information about a student's literacy and numeracy achievements. NAPLAN is the only national assessment that Australian children undertake. It complements other school assessments and provides nationally comparable data to help governments evaluate how education programs are working and whether students are meeting important literacy and numeracy standards. NAPLAN results help:

- parents and students to discuss individual student progress with teachers
- teachers to better identify students who need greater challenges or extra support
- schools to identify strengths and areas of need in teaching programs
- schools to set goals in literacy and numeracy
- school systems to review programs and support offered to schools
- the community to see average school results on the *My School* website.

Your school principal will be able to give you more details on how your school uses NAPLAN results.

Who else will see the results?

Each year, test administration authorities provide schools with results for all students who sit NAPLAN. Schools are encouraged to use the results to inform their planning for improvement across the school. Individual student reports are confidential. No one outside of your local test administration authority or your school will see your child's report.

Average school results are publicly reported on *My School* (www.myschool.edu.au). The website is updated with the previous year's results in the first quarter of each year. *My School* also allows the community to look at aspects of each school's profile, as well as to make comparisons with schools that serve similar student populations. Your child's individual results are not available on *My School*.

What impact will the results have on my child's future?

NAPLAN results provide important information about literacy and numeracy skills that your child is learning through their regular school curriculum. The results complement the assessments your child does at school. They provide you and your child's teachers with an understanding of your child's achievement and progress at the time of the assessments. The information can be used to support your child to reach their full potential.

Some schools may ask for NAPLAN reports, in addition to school reports, as part of their admissions process. NAPLAN assessments are not designed to be a school admission test. However, results may be useful for informing new schools of student needs. If you have any concerns, ACARA encourages you to talk them over with the school.

What if the results are not what my child and I expected?

NAPLAN tests are about assessing learning progress in literacy and numeracy. Students are provided with an indication of where their results are on the common assessment scale.

NAPLAN gives a snapshot of your child's performance on the days of the assessments and the results should be interpreted with care. There are many reasons why students' results may vary. Some students may perform much better than expected when compared against their regular classroom assessment results, while other students may not perform as well as expected.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's NAPLAN results, you should discuss these with your child's teacher, who will have the best insight into your child's educational progress.

For more information about NAPLAN and the National Assessment Program, visit www.nap.edu.au

From 2018 to 2020, NAPLAN is moving from a paper assessment to an online assessment to provide more accurate and precise information about what students know and can do. During this period some students sit NAPLAN on paper, while others sit the assessments online. Students for both online and paper tests are being assessed on the same literacy and numeracy content and results can be reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale.

In 2018, all Year 3 students completed the writing assessment on paper, including those students who completed other assessments online.

To find out more about NAPLAN Online, visit www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment