

**5th April 2019**



## 90 Seconds with the Principal

[Watch Video](#)

### 90 Seconds with the Principal - Reflections on Term One, 2019

In the 90 seconds with the Principal video this week we reflect on the past term and the many events which make our school a great place to be! Wishing all of our families a Happy and Holy Easter.

### Thursday morning coffee and hot chocolate

As many families know, in front of Marist on Thursday mornings a coffee van has been operating throughout the year. We now have many parents purchasing hot chocolate for their children and then children bringing it onto our school grounds. It is great that we can support this initiative from Marist, however, there are safety concerns about young children bringing hot beverages onto a primary playground. You are very welcome to continue supporting the coffee van on Thursday mornings if you so wish but we would ask that Mother Teresa students **don't enter our school grounds holding the hot drink.** Consuming the hot chocolate under your close supervision near the coffee van would be greatly appreciated, once finished the children are then welcome to enter via our school gate. I thank you for your understanding about this safety matter.

### WHS - Parking and Safety

As you will notice we now have a large sign to indicate the 2 minute 'Kiss & Go' zone which operates at our school between 8.05am and 8.35am and then in the afternoon from 2.45pm to 3.15pm. We request that if you pick up your Mother Teresa child in this time but want to wait for older siblings from Marist and McAuley you will need to move away from the 'Kiss & Go' zone until after 3.15pm. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

### Celebration of Learning

It was fantastic to see so many parents at our Celebration of Learning this week. I would like to thank the teachers for the hard work and preparation of the Learning Studios - the children were very proud to share their learning spaces and show parents their hard work from Term One.

### Stage 3 Canberra Excursion

Year 5 and Year 6 Students from our school will soon be undertaking an education tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20.00 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion and has already been deducted from the excursion cost to the parents.



*"We are all capable of good and evil. We are not born bad: everybody has something good inside. Some hide it, some neglect it, but it is there."*

**St Mother Teresa of Kolkata**

### Important Dates:

- 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
- Friday, 3rd May  
Cuppa with the Principal  
8:35am—9:35am
- Friday, 10th May  
Mother's Day Stall
- Wednesday, 15th May  
Month of Mary Liturgy  
11:05am  
Family Picnic  
12:00pm

### 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."

## New Curriculum Trial

"GO OUT AND TAKE THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL PEOPLE"

2018 saw the launch of a new Learning Framework for Religious Education in the Diocese of Parramatta. The Bishop's own motto 'Duc in Altum' (Go out into the deep) has provided the inspiration for this ambitious project. This new Learning Framework will be the basis of a new approach to Religious Education which will replace "Sharing Our Story" the current curriculum that has been in place for over 20 years.

The process of developing a new Learning Framework for Religious Education has been a co-creation with students, parents, teachers, clergy and system leaders. At the heart of the process was the commitment that the student wonderings about their faith would be the catalyst and the inspiration of the Learning Framework. The new approach is based on an experiential and inquiry based pedagogy and responds to learning elements of the Review of Religious Education that took place in 2014.

The draft Learning Framework for Religious Education is being trialled in Term 2 and our school has taken up the exciting opportunity to be a part of the trial in **Stage 3**. This will replace the current Sharing Our Story Program for Term 2. All our teachers will participate in a Professional Learning Program for the new Learning Framework throughout 2019 and will be well prepared for its implementation. This is an exciting opportunity for our community to further enhance our approach to Religious Education and promises to offer great learning for our staff and students.

We look forward to sharing this wonderful experience with you throughout the year and will keep you abreast of the details of the trial as it proceeds.



### WALK for WATER

Walking kilometres a day to carry water for your family is not right.

For just \$10.00 you can provide clean water for a family.

**Yrs 5 & 6 at Mother Teresa are**

**Walking for Water**

**on Thursday, 2nd May**

carrying 4 litres of water

to experience what thousands of children around the world experience everyday.

Students are asked to bring in 2 x 2litre or 3 litre Plastic Milk bottles with lid to fill with water.



We are asking for sponsors to support our action so we can make a difference for families around the world through Caritas - Project Compassion.

Please donate as much as you can to our cause and help us Make a Difference!

## ANZAC Day March—Tuesday, 25th April

This year ANZAC day falls within the school holidays. This week, students in Year 6 received an information letter from Mrs Devlin inviting them to attend the Dawn Service in Parramatta, if they wish to attend with parents.

We will be meeting in Parramatta at Prince Alfred Park on Thursday, 25th April at 4:15am. Some Year 6 students will be laying a wreath on behalf of the school. Students who are attending are asked to wear their school uniform.



## Transformed through LENT- Transformed through Forgiveness.



As we enter the 5<sup>th</sup> week of Lent, let's reflect on our journey so far.

Have our sacrifices been tokenistic? For example giving up chocolate can help me shed a few kilos, win, win, or, have I used this time to look at my relationships with others. I have often been forgiven and how empowering has that been. How willing am I to forgive, to turn the other cheek, to overlook the shortcomings of others and to build relationship. Have I forgiven myself for my transgressions and do those I love feel free to fail knowing that the door is never closed to them. Let's stop at this point on our Lenten journey and see if we have become closer to God, closer to the person God made me to be.

Maria Boyd, REC

A huge thank you for your generosity. You have made a difference in the lives of so many, this year already. Our Harmony Day raised over \$850.00 for Project Compassion. Your weekly gift of "And one for you" is sustaining 3000 fellow humans in need and giving them their dignity. Your Easter Egg donations will bring joy to so many families and children suffering ill health and facing challenges of illness or infirmity. Above all, your generosity is teaching your children to be people of Compassion, people who give, people who build community and people who one act of kindness at a time, change the world and bring about the Kingdom of God. Well done, families of Mother Teresa Primary. Keep loving, keep giving, keep living with is true.



### 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.

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

In the past weeks 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.

### 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
- Month of Mary Liturgy and Family Picnic Day (after Mother's Day) see School calendar
- 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



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](http://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](http://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](https://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](https://nap.edu.au/TAA)
- visit [nap.edu.au](https://nap.edu.au)

For information about how personal information for NAPLAN is handled by ACARA, visit [nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy](https://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?

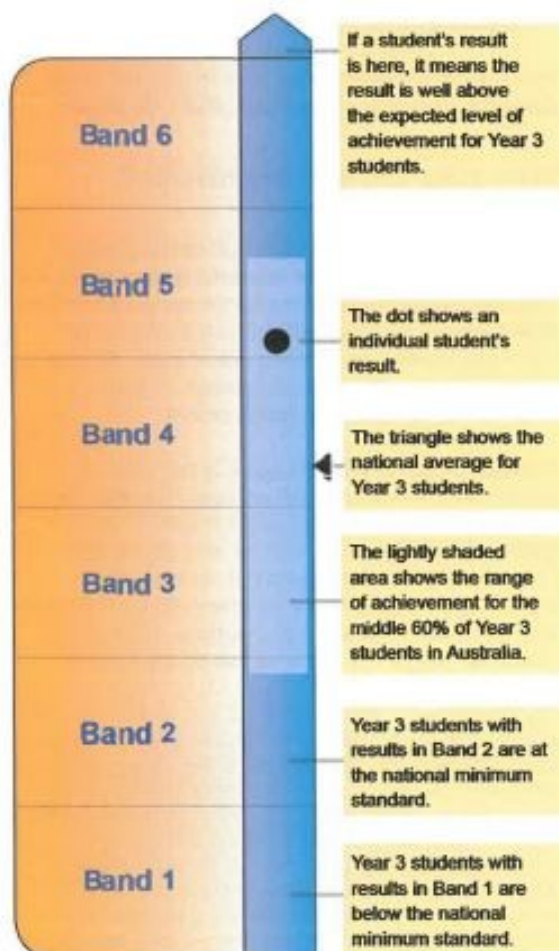
NAPLAN assesses numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation. You will see your child's results on an achievement scale for each of those assessments.

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment)