

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Newsletter

8TH MAY 2018

Learning happens in the minds and souls, not in the databases of multiple-choice tests.

- Ken Robinson

Learning
Believing
Belonging
Respecting
Reaching Out
Personal Best



From the Principal

"How do you solve a problem like NAPLAN?" So the song from *The Sound of Music* goes (or it may be slightly different, I can't remember).

Within the past few weeks the NSW Education Minister has called for it to be scrapped, whilst an expert called in to review the NAPLAN writing test called it "bizarre" and said the way to get great marks is to use big words, whether you know what they mean or not and whether they fit the context or not.

Love it or hate it, it's back next week. So what is a school like Star of the Sea supposed to do with NAPLAN? Do we "teach to the NAPLAN test," as some schools do? Do we put immense amount of pressure on the students to do well as we think it says something about how good our school is? Do we ask certain students to be absent on the day of the test so they don't bring down the school average

Do we get the teachers to fill in the tests for some of the students?

Well, we are not planning to do any of those things (although they have been done before). We might expose the students to sample questions so they know what to expect in the format, but not much more will be done. Because there is some use to NAPLAN, but not much. As part of the bigger picture, it does provide some data for schools to see how individual students are tracking and whether the school needs to intervene to work on weaknesses. It can also pick up weaknesses within a class group that teachers can work upon.

But after that, it doesn't provide too much benefit to schools. And it is sure to have some teachers around Australia seething as it takes up 3 days when teachers could be teaching and not administering tests.

One of the worst things that happened to NAPLAN was the placing of the results on the

myschool website. The results suddenly went from being a useful piece of data to a judgement upon school and individuals based on the tests.

But at Star of the Sea, our students' worth is not based upon what they get in a NAPLAN spelling test. They are human beings, made in the image of God. They all come with a unique set of talents and abilities which will never be measured by a writing test. God does not judge us on our numeracy test results. We are loved unconditionally, and no test will stop that.

Mr Richard Chapman
Principal

See overleaf for more details regarding NAPLAN

Calendar

Wednesday 9th May	9:00 - 10:30am Playgroup@ Star Science Competition (Science Extended students)
Thursday 10th May	Mother's Day Stall K-10 1:35pm Prayer Service and Afternoon Tea (no Primary Assembly)
Friday 11th May	Primary State Athletics Carnival
Wednesday 16th May	9:00 - 10:30am Playgroup@ Star Science Competition for Students Catholic Youth Festival
Thursday 17th May	Yr 7/8 Winter Sport commences 2.15pm Primary Assembly
Friday 18th May	Walk Safely to School Day—(please return permission slip)

Please see our Social Media site for more information on:

*The Smith Family—Saver Plus

Religious Education and Faith Development



Heart

Spirituality

Attentiveness



Hospitality

Compassion

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the gift of mothers and motherhood. Some mothers will receive cards, flowers and gifts. Some will even enjoy breakfast in bed.

Mother's Day has long been part of the calendar in Australia. In 1924, following the losses of World War 1, Mother's Day was first held in Australia. The tradition began after a Sydney woman, Janet Heyden, concerned for lonely, forgotten and aged mothers in Newington State Hospital began a campaign to collect and donate gifts to these ladies.

In Christianity, our model of motherhood is Mary, the Mother of God. Mary was actively faithful to God's invitation to be who God was calling her to be- the bearer of God's Word. Mary travelled the path of faith, fidelity, trust and courage. She trusted in God's Word and was witness to Christ's passion and resurrection. Like Mary, may all mothers be witnesses of hope and peace in the world.

God bless all our mothers and Happy Mother's Day. Please join us on Thursday 10th May for a prayer celebration, assembly and afternoon tea, commencing at 1.30pm in the church.



Mother's Day Celebration & Afternoon Tea

When: Thursday May 10th

*What: Prayer service @ 1.35pm
followed by Afternoon Tea*

*For catering purposes, if you haven't already,
please RSVP to the College Office.*



FAMILY AND SCHOOL WORKING TOGETHER

How often do we tell our children we love them? Do we do it enough? We might think it goes without saying, but for our children they can never hear it enough. Try to get into the habit of telling your children you love them - before they go to bed, when you drop them off at school, whenever!

Kinder 2019 Information Evening

As many of you will be aware, we are holding our 2019 Kinder Information evening on Tuesday 22nd May at 5:30pm in the Primary gallery. If you have a child who will be of Kinder age in 2019, or know of someone who does, you are most welcome. If you cannot make the evening, enrolment forms are available at our front office.

Mother's Day

Our Mother's Day stall will be held this Thursday in the morning, with a prayer service and afternoon tea for mothers held in the afternoon. This is a time for us to recognise all special women in our student's lives - mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters. It is also a time for us to recognise those mothers who have died or are ill.

2017 Year Book

Last week each family from 2017 should have received a 2017 yearbook. Families who no longer have children at the College will have their copy sent in the mail. A big thank you to Mr Gary Goodall for his work on the yearbook, and to everyone who contributed.

Before School Supervision

Supervision for students begins at 8:30am each day. Should students arrive before then, they will not be allowed into the buildings (unless the weather is really bad) and are asked to wait in the secondary play area or down near the lower primary school.

George Town Youth Worker

Hi! My name is Jen, I am the new Youth Worker at the George Town Council and I have the privilege of supporting the young people in the George Town community. You might see me organising awesome events, school holiday activities, helping out at your school, as well as being a listening ear and an advocate for young people in the George Town area.

I have been a Youth Worker for over 8 years and I am passionate about helping young people have access to opportunities. I hope to truly listen to what is important to the young people of George Town, so you might see me at your school as a part of George Town's Youth Survey project. The Youth Survey is an opportunity for young people to have their say about the important issues in their community, with their answers being used to create and improve youth services and activities in George Town. Make sure you get involved because there are some great prizes up for grabs! Got any questions or ideas? Please feel free to contact me on jenc@georgetown.tas.gov.au or 0429 416 310.

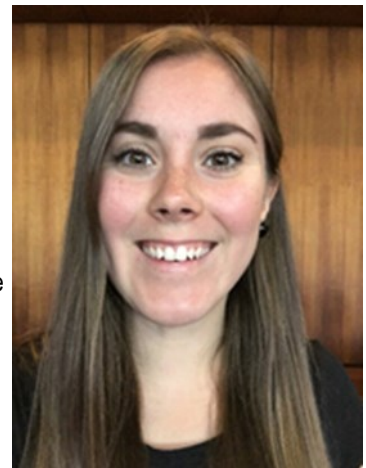
I look forward to getting to know you; here are 3 facts about me:

- I live in Launceston with my husband Tom and my dog Buddy.
- I loooooove eating spicy food.
- I am a big Essendon Bombers fan!

Have a great day!

Jen

PS: Jen came to Star of the Sea today so our secondary students could participate in the survey about what they would like to see around the town.



Star of the Sea Catholic College

Kinder 2019

Information Evening

Tuesday May 22nd 2018

at 5:30pm

in the Primary Campus

Parents and children are welcome to come and discover what opportunities are available in a safe and caring learning environment.



Other year levels in 2019

There are limited places available in other year levels in 2019. Parents and students who are looking to enrol in other year levels (Prep to Year 10) are welcome to contact the College office to find out more on 6382 1242.



Star of the Sea Catholic College
Corner of Friend and William Streets
George Town 7253
Ph: 03 6382 1242
Principal: Mr Richard Chapman



Youth Parliament provides students in Grades 10 to 12 a unique opportunity to develop their skills in advocacy, their understanding of democratic processes, and their knowledge of local and global political issues. Over the course of a week, participants will engage with a variety of educational workshops, speakers' panels, policy development exercises and social activities, and will debate bills they have drafted in the Tasmanian Parliament House.

The cost of participation is \$250, covering all accommodation, meals and transport throughout the week. Financial assistance is available for students who might not otherwise be able to attend.

Registrations close on Friday May 18, and places are strictly limited. For more information please contact Timothy Lattimore, Student Recruitment Officer— Email: tasyouthparliament@gmail.com

NAPLAN on paper – information for parents and carers

NAPLAN
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
Literacy and Numeracy

2018

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?

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, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

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

NAPLAN tests also provide 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 will be tested?

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.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, see example questions at nap.edu.au/naplanexample

How can I help my child prepare for NAPLAN?

Help your child prepare for NAPLAN by reassuring them that the tests are 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.

ACARA does not recommend the use of services by coaching providers or excessive preparation. NAPLAN is not about passing or failing, but about assessing learning progress.

Participation in NAPLAN

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

Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments. A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, 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 special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

Will my child sit NAPLAN on paper or online?

Your child will sit the NAPLAN paper tests in 2018.

However, children in some other schools across Australia may sit the NAPLAN online tests this year. Federal, state and territory education ministers have agreed that NAPLAN will move online over the next two to three years. State and territory education authorities will determine when their schools move online.

As students are presented with questions that test the same range of difficulty, regardless of whether they complete the test online or on paper, results for both formats will be reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale.

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

NAP NATIONAL
ASSESSMENT
PROGRAM

acara AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM,
ASSESSMENT AND
REPORTING AUTHORITY

What if my child is absent from school on test 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 testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 18 May 2018.

NAPLAN 2018 tests timetable

	Tuesday 15 May	Wednesday 16 May	Thursday 17 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 60 minutes
Year 9	language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 65 minutes	numeracy 60 minutes

How is my child's performance measured?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. 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. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

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

How are NAPLAN test results used?

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 will be handled by ACARA, please visit nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy