This week, our Year 3, 5 and 7 students have been involved in the 2014 Literacy and Numeracy NAPLAN tests. Observing them striving to do their best, I thought I would share with you a view on ‘intelligence’ that is widely accepted across all areas of education. The concept of Multiple Intelligences (MI) can give you some insight into the way you and your child’s brain processes and responds to information.

Have you ever wondered why some people find writing easy and for others spelling is a nightmare? Or perhaps you have puzzled over why some people are sporty and others literally fall over their own feet?

Well, according to Howard Gardner, a psychologist and professor of neuroscience at Harvard, there is not just one intelligence; there are in fact seven to nine different forms of intelligences.

Gardner’s research shows that we each operate out of all 7 intelligences, yet our brain is dominant in certain areas (commonly viewed as ones talents).

Schools have always placed a major emphasis on linguistic and mathematical tasks and those students with developed intelligence in these areas, cope well with the challenges of school. We can improve student outcomes by addressing the multiple intelligences of our students.

One effective MI tool used by all teachers daily in our classrooms is the use of Interactive Whiteboards. This amazing technology is very powerful, because it allows teachers to deliver content through varied modes and support different learning styles. For example, a daily maths revision lesson has students engaged in visually stimulating experiences that incorporates music and allows opportunities for students to jump out of their chairs to touch and drag answers on the board.

So how does your brain think and process information? Use the wheel to work out your preferred learning style and strengths? If you would like to take a short quiz to help you with this, log onto http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/mi/

Matthew Silvester
Facts
Your right lung takes in more air than your left one does.
Your ribs move about 5 million times a year, every time you breathe.
Your heart beats over 100,000 times a day.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Prep/YR1
We have been working diligently on our writing everyday program and it has been very pleasing to see the improvement in all the children. Mrs Shultz and I have been very impressed with the effort all the children are applying to this task. We understand this is not always easy for everybody.

This week we have also been looking giving and following written and verbal directions. The class has been exploring and developing a greater understanding of some of the more common positional language terms. We are getting better with our lefts and rights, and are very good at our up and down, in, out, off and on. Forwards and backwards are making progress as are facing and turn to the left and turn to the right. Any opportunities to practice at home would be greatly appreciated.

In class we are also soldiering on with our phonics introducing and constantly reviewing. Our latest sounds we have focussed on have been: the th, sh, and ch group as well as the different vowel combinations that make the sounds of ai, as in rain and ee and or as in bee and for.

We have also been regularly discussing our reading strategies of

- **Eagle Eye** - Always remember to look at the picture
- **Lips the fish** – Get your lips/mouth ready to say the first sound of the word
- **Stretchy snake** - Stretch the word out by sounding out each sound
- **Chunky Monkey** – find chunks of the word that you know
  eg at in the word *cat*, ee in the word *been*

YR 1/2
As we approach the “mid-way” mark of the term, students are preparing to commence assessment tasks for report card purposes. A letter for parents will be sent out shortly, outlining the benchmark expectations for both Year 1 and Year 2 students. If you have any questions in regards to this letter, please do not hesitate to come in for a chat.

In Science, the students are currently enjoying looking at “Life Cycles”. We have been learning new words such as: metamorphosis, pupa, larva and chrysalis. We hope to have some class “silk worms” to observe shortly.
CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS CONTINUED

YR 2/3
Week 4 already and Naplan is now over. Yay……. Our classroom will return to our normal routines very quickly. Reading groups have started with Year 2’s and the Year 3’s will be joining in from next week. If you are able to help out on a Tuesday morning (9:30 – 10:00) or a Wednesday (11:30 – 12:00), you are more than welcome to join us and help us improve our reading skills. Just let me know – I’d appreciate it. I have noticed a few children not returning their home reading books and not doing their reading homework regularly enough. Could you please check for outstanding reading books and return to school, so they can get a new home reader to take home. Regular home reading is essential for children to progress – if they achieved a “C” in Year 2, you will still need to practice to maintain a “C” in Year 3. In Maths we have been focusing on 2D shapes (in amongst dealing with disruptions due to Naplan testing) and operations. Setting out neatly is a big focus – some are getting there. In English we will continue to work on Narratives and looking at characters in stories. I have been very impressed by most of the class as to how they dived deeply into narratives over the last couple of weeks – we will now backtrack and examine characters more thoroughly. In Science, we are looking at Space and how the planets orbit the Sun.

Yr 4/5
Well done fives for the way that you have handled yourselves over the last three days during NAPLAN, and thankyou to the fours for working quietly during the changes in our daily programme. Hopefully our programme will be back on track tomorrow after morning tea, so yes homework will be going out tomorrow.
We will be commencing a short poetry unit following this week that will focus on various poetic devices and developing our skills in writing one or two shorter poems. At present we are focussing on 5 digit numbers in maths.
Please check if your child needs pencils and new exercise books - especially for English. We have some very short pencils and some extremely full books at the moment in the class.

YR 6/7
Year 7’s are very busy with their NAPLAN this week.
I would like to thank Ms Kristi for her contribution to my class while I was on Long Service. I also spent a day in a high school talking about how Year 7 in high school may look. I am now able to help my class to prepare for this historic event. We will be finishing off our Geography and Science units in preparation for the report cards.
**MUSIC NEWS**

**Classroom Music**
The P/1 class have been working on the new rhythm ‘too’ (one sound that lasts for two beats) and the solfa sol, ah and me. The 1/2 class has continued to practise known rhythms using the solfa doh, me, soh and lah. They are learning ‘Bee Bee’ on the recorder. The 2/3 class have been working on the simple pentatonic scale (doh, re, me, soh, lah) and have been learning ‘Apple Tree’ on the recorder. The 4/5 class have been practising the extended doh pentatonic scale (using low lah, low soh and high doh). They have been practising ‘Dynamite’ on the recorder. The 6/7 class have been learning about the lah pentatonic scale (beginning and finishing on lah). They have discovered that ‘T.N.T’ by AC/DC uses this scale in the guitar riff. The 6/7s have been learning ‘Cups (When I’m Gone)’ on the recorder.

**Choir**

**P-7 Choir**
The P-7 choir rehearsals continue on a Tuesday lunch times. This choir is working on the songs “Bold Tommy Payne” and “Who Killed Cock Robin”.

**4-7 Choir**
The 4-7 (senior) choir rehearsals continue on Wednesday lunch times. This choir is working on “Happy” from Despicable Me 2 and “Radioactive” by “Imagine Dragons”. They will be performing “Radioactive” on parade next Monday 5 May. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend watch this performance (1.50pm beside the tuckshop).

**Instrumental Music**

**MICE Junior Band**
The Beginner / Junior Band had their debut performance on Parade last Monday with ‘Twinkle Twinkle Little Star’. Despite some students claiming to be nervous, they all performed extremely well.

**MICE Senior Band**
MICE Senior (Tuesday afternoon band) will be performing at the Biloela Eisteddfod next Wednesday 21 May. Please arrive promptly at 6.45am to assist with loading the bus. Ensure the money for the bus is paid to the school office (and the permission note returned to Miss Hawkins) by this Friday 16 May.

**Music Camp**
Information about the Music Camp has gone home with students. The fundraising efforts are progressing well. Remember to return the permission slip and pay the deposit to the office by Friday 23 May. If your child is not attending music camp, return the permission slip with the ‘no’ box ticked. I need this information to confirm bookings for the concert, open rehearsal, tours and accommodation.
Sport Happenings

Every Friday at 9:15 the high schoolers come over to give us some athletics training.

Relays
Vortex
Triple Jump
Shot-put
Discus
Long Jump
Student News

Student Awards
Congratulations to these wonderful students for working hard in class.

Classroom Happenings
Congratulations to these students for going away to Gayndah on the 2nd of May for Cross Country.

Parade Happenings
At parade on Monday we had two performances.

The Junior Band
Playing “Twinkle, Twinkle little star”

The Senior Choir
Singing “Radioactive”
NAPLAN PREPARATION

Mrs Dow made sure the Yr 5’s were ready for NAPLAN. She came in early and prepared cut up fruit to ensure both their bodies and brains were well nourished! Thank you Mrs Dow for your extra commitment to our Yr 5’s.
It is with great disappointment that we have to cancel our Great Gatsby night.

We did not receive the support that we thought we would.

A special thankyou to those who had purchased tickets and were helping us to raise money for a very special cause ‘Leukaemia’

We had to cancel by tomorrow otherwise we are charged with a $2600 cancellation fee, as we had booked the High Rollers Casino Company and a Live 4 piece Jazz Band for the night.

For those of you who had purchased tickets, you will be contacted directly and your money refunded.

We will still finish our fundraising and donate money to the Leukaemia Foundation.

From
Tracey, Robyn and Val
On behalf of the Shave for a Cure Committee.
Voluntary Financial Contributions are used by schools to provide an enhanced educational service and to enhance resources available for student learning, recreation and comfort.

The Voluntary Contribution Scheme benefits all students at Monto State School. The school requests that parents and caregivers contribute $25.00 per child in Year P-5 and $30 for Years 6 & 7 each year. Each year your voluntary contributions enable the school to support and enhance resources available for student learning.

For those families who have already generously donated to this scheme we thank you. For those families who are yet to donate we hope you will support the students of Monto State School by returning the below form with your contribution.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT
YES I wish to participate in Monto State School’s Voluntary Contribution Scheme
NO I do not wish to participate in the P&C’s Voluntary Contribution Scheme

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PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT

Please return this form with the voluntary contribution to the school’s office.

Parent voluntary contributions are essential for Monto State School to continue to deliver a first class educational environment for your children. On behalf of all the students at Monto State School thank you for your support.