NAPLAN

NAPLAN is next week. Students in Years 3 and 5 will participate in the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This program will be used to assess students’ skills and understanding in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. NAPLAN is not a pass/fail test and it is important that your child understands this. It simply looks at what level students are achieving in literacy and numeracy against National Standards. It does provide a comparison against peers throughout Australia.

The best way you can prepare your child for NAPLAN is to treat the day as a normal school day and let your child know that NAPLAN is just part of the routine at school. Encourage your child to do their best on the day just as they would for their Friday spelling test.

The tests will be conducted in all state and non-state schools across the country from 12–14 May 2015. NAPLAN assesses the skills that students develop over time through the school curriculum, and provides additional feedback for parents, carers and teachers on how students are progressing in the key curriculum areas. An individual NAPLAN report will be sent home for every child later this year. Further information is available on the ACARA website.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child participating in NAPLAN testing, please contact your class teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3- 40 minutes</td>
<td>Year 3- 45 minutes</td>
<td>Year 3- 45 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5- 40 minutes</td>
<td>Year 5- 50 minutes</td>
<td>Year 5- 50 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Year 3- 40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5- 40 minutes</td>
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Principal's Pen

Attendance data this week is 94.5%
Attendance target is 95%
**Parent Teacher Interviews**

Teachers are currently organising parent teacher interviews and have sent home invitations for parents to request an interview. Interviews will be held during the next 2 weeks and I encourage all parents to take this opportunity to meet with the teacher to discuss your child’s progress. The teacher will be able to give you an insight into your child’s progress and what challenges your child is facing. Interviews will not be offered at the end of the term as report cards will be issued.

**North Burnett Cross Country**

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the North Burnett Cross Country at Biggenden yesterday. It was a very hot day and all the students did a fantastic job running in the heat. A special congratulations to Lucas Spletter who came third in his race and has been selected to compete in the Wide Bay Cross Country. Congratulations to Chelsea Knight and Britney Staines who were also selected to compete at Wide Bay as well.

**Attendance**

This week on Parade, some students received gold attendance certificates. These were awarded to students who have had 100% attendance for all of Term 1. Blue certificates were awarded to students that had 95% or higher attendance. Attendance is a particular focus at Monto School in 2015 and is an important part of our school improvement strategy.

It is quite amazing how 1 absence per week can have a huge impact on your child’s education as the table below outlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He/She only missing just...</th>
<th>That equals...</th>
<th>Which is...</th>
<th>And over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 Days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 8 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teachers are now marking the class rolls electronically so this allows us to have accurate attendance data at our fingertips. It is also essential that if your child is away then a reason is provided to the school so we can keep accurate data on why students are away. Some days do not count as absences on your child’s record. This includes events such as district sporting competitions, excursions and significant weather events that make travel unsafe.

**Principal’s Timetable**

As swimming has finished, I just wanted to let parents know that PE lessons are now being held on Fridays. As a Teaching Principal I have classroom commitments 3 days per week. My teaching days are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. On these days, I am committed to the classroom so I am not available for any appointments or phone calls until after 3:15 pm.

If you do wish to speak to me on a teaching day, please ensure you leave a message with the office and it will be passed on to me. I will get back to you as soon as I am able.

Finally, I wish to say a huge thank you to Miss Zoe White who has been working in the 3/4 classroom. These students have been privileged to have Miss White helping out during the past five weeks. Zoe has been completing her prac here as a student teacher and will finish at Monto State School next week. I wish to thank Mrs Karen Hockey for taking Zoe under her wing and agreeing to have her on her class. Mrs. Hockey has a wealth of knowledge and experience she is able to share with new teachers and I appreciate her giving up her time to do this on top of her own workload.
CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Prep/1
This term the class is looking at characters in story books and how does an author tell us about the character. What happens to the character and how do they react. Has anything similar ever happened to us and how did we react. This week we have been reading The Very Blue Thingamajig by Narelle Oliver. This story has some excellent describing words (adjectives) and is how the author builds the character during the story. We are building a collection of words to add to our own descriptions and stories.

In Maths the Year Ones and Preps are building on their counting knowledge when working on additions. We have been looking at count-ons, where we start with the big number and then count on the smaller. Any opportunities to help practice this at home will be very beneficial for both classes. Eg If we have three plates and we get two more how many have we got now, 3..4..5.

Prep parents will find an envelope explaining the up-coming AEDC survey we have been invited to complete. Please read and let me know if you wish to opt out.

Please keep practicing our sight words and reading.

Date-Claimer

More info will be provided closer to the date.

Year 2/3
In English, the Year 2/3 students are enjoying looking at stereotypes. We are investigating how particular characters are often portrayed in the same way through stories or movies. We have deconstructed “Princesses” (poor Disney princesses will never be the same….Sorry!) and Super Heroes. We aim to write many stories this term, with non-stereotyped characters.

In Maths, we need to strengthen our recall of basic fast facts – subtraction in particular. There will be some fast fact sheets included in the homework folders as of next week.

Parent Interviews are filling up fast, so if you still wish to make an appointment with me to discuss your child’s learning thus far, please do so sooner rather than later.

Year 3/4
The Year 3/4 class have been continuing their study of the Persuasive genre. They have been writing their opinions on whether children should wear school uniforms or not; as well as whether they think city or country living is best. They are using the OREEEO framework to write their pieces:

Opinion
Reason - Example, Example, Example Opinion.

In Maths we have looked at fractions and equivalent fractions as well as normal maths revision.

Next Tuesday will be Miss White's last day with us and we wish her all the very best in her future career as a teacher. I appreciate her input into our class over the last five weeks and thank her for her assistance, especially this week.
Year 5/6

Hasn’t this term flown, I can’t believe that we are already in Week 3.

Our school captains, Blake Barnett and Anna Phillips were great representatives of our school during the ANZAC Ceremony held on the 24th of April at the Monto High School. It was a moving ceremony and I was impressed by the behaviour of our students. The ANZAC spirit is an important part of our Australian identity and history. In History this term we have been learning about life in Queensland in the 1800s and the birth of Australia as a nation in 1901. This is an important chapter in our history!

In English we have been looking at how to write a good paragraph and also getting ready for NAPLAN. We have started looking at poems written during this same period, in particular ‘Waltzing Matilda’ by Banjo Patterson. Throughout this term the students will be studying this well-known poem and transforming it into a narrative (a fictional story).

In Art last week all students wrote an acrostic poem for a family member. I hope that they remember to present them to you on Sunday. Have a lovely Mothers Day.

Thank you to those parents, who have returned slips requesting an interview with myself and Sara concerning your child’s progress, I look forward to meeting with you in the coming weeks.

The Technology and Science combined assessment task was handed out to children this week. Children have a copy of the task pasted in their homework books. There are 2 parts; the first part involves constructing a model and is to be competed at home by the children. The second part involves preparing an oral presentation about the model. This will be started in class but children will need to complete it at home as part of the homework. The model is due to be handed in on 9 June. If parents have any questions about this task, please do not hesitate to phone Miss Whittington after school.

We will be completing athletics training every day this term so please ensure your child is wearing appropriate footwear suitable for sports everyday. Could I please ask that all jumpers and lunchboxes are named? Each day we have lunchboxes left on the port racks which go unclaimed.

MUSIC NEWS

Instrumental Music News

The Biloela Eisteddfod is fast approaching on the 21 May. Permission notes have been sent home – please return these ASAP. Students will need to pack morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on the day. There is a canteen available for limited hours at the Civic Centre, but please do not rely completely on the canteen.

This term’s focus for instrumental music is to be prepared for band rehearsals and instrumental music lessons. To be prepared students need to:

- Bring their instrument (and working reeds if needed)
- Bring their instrument book
- Bring their band music
- Bring their scale music (2nd year onwards) (usually kept in their band folder)
- Have completed a minimum of 60 minutes home practice, recorded this in their practice diary and have this signed by a parent or guardian.

Please support your instrumental music student in being prepared for their instrumental music lesson.
TUCKSHOP NEWS

Just a reminder that there are new prices on the tuckshop menu. All orders to be on brown paper bags or the reuseable tuckshop bags. The tuckshop no longer sells vanilla milk. If any parents or grandparents have any spare time between 9am—1pm on a Wednesday it would be great if you are able to please volunteer at the tuckshop. Give me a call on 0422563048.

Thank you
Amy Spletter

Would you like your child to adopt a grandparent?
Could you with your child offer a small amount of time for the lonely?
Then please consider joining the Community Visitors Volunteer Program.

CVS is an Australian Government Initiative

Many aged people are lonely and isolated and just want a friend to visit them, giving them something to look forward to each week. The Community Visitors Scheme is a friendship program, and links volunteer visitors with these lonely and socially isolated people.

There are residents at Ridgehaven Retirement Complex in Monto who would greatly benefit from a regular visit, perhaps once a week or once a fortnight. A visit from a child/adopted granddaughter or grandson would offer the resident something special - a sense of “family”, worth and genuine companionship leading to a more enriched life.

Not only would a visit benefit residents at Ridgehaven but it would also provide a positive aspect for children, as they listen and learn from the resident. Children of course get a chance to tell about what is happening in their life and the residents get a chance to talk about what happened in times of old – a history lesson! Regular visits with an elderly person can teach children sound values and respect for all people, and they can also feel that it is a rewarding experience to be able to do something for somebody who would otherwise lead an unsatisfied existence.

If you and your child have a little spare time, would like to make a new friend and change someone’s life for the better, would you consider becoming a volunteer in the Community Visitor’s Program? Your time in this program can be lots of fun and would be greatly valued. If you are able to commit to volunteer within the Community Visitors Scheme, you are also able to claim for travel to and from the facility when volunteering.

Staff at Ridgehaven are very keen about the prospect of having an “Adopt a Grandparent” at their facility!

Our CVS Facilitator, Heather, will meet with all interested parents who may be interested in finding out a little more about this CVS program:

PLACE: Ridgehaven Retirement Complex - Monto
DATE: 20th May
TIME: 10am

Feel free to also call Heather on 41504654 after May 11th, if you would like to ask questions regarding this program before the 20th May. Be sure to mark it on the calendar and we hope to see you on the 20th May!
Anger Management

We all have anger. It’s a normal human emotion. At times it is useful to express strong feelings as it helps us deal with situations that trigger those strong feelings. However management is the key. If anger is expressed in harmful ways then it can lead to problems in relationships and affect the overall quality of one’s life.

Recognizing Anger

Our bodies are great indicators of anger. When you get angry, your heart rate and blood pressure rise and stress hormones are released. This can cause you to shake, become hot and sweaty and feel out of control. You may then yell, throw things, criticise, ignore, storm out, and sometimes withdraw and do nothing. Take note of your body as it can help you control the extent of your anger.

Anger is a problem when:

- It involves verbal, emotional, physical or psychological abuse.
- You feel angry a lot of the time.
- People close to you are worried about your anger.
- Anger is leading to problems with personal relationships and work.
- You think you have to get angry to get what you want.
- Anger seems to get bigger than the event that set it off.
- Anger lasts for a long time, and well after the triggering event has passed.
- Anger affects other situations not related to the original event.
- You are becoming anxious or depressed about your anger.
- You are using alcohol or other drugs to try to manage your anger.

You are getting angry with the people who are closest to you, or with people who are less powerful than you, rather than dealing with the situation that sparked off your anger in the first place.

Anger can often lead to violence if not properly controlled and some people use anger as an excuse for being abusive towards others. Violence and abusive behaviour gives someone power and control over another person, usually through creating fear.

Tips to Manage Anger

- Make a list of the things that often set off your anger e.g. running late, your children not cleaning up after themselves, or a co-worker blaming you for something you didn't do. If you know ahead of time what makes you angry, you may be able to avoid these things or do something different when they happen e.g. for lateness set your clocks ahead of schedule.

- Use strategies to calm yourself – deep breath, count to ten, punch a pillow, walk away, put your anger into getting a job completed, talk to a friend (but when calm).

- What you think affects how you feel so CONTROL YOUR THINKING - self-talk yourself into rational thinking. Know you are in charge of you. Choose to act and think calmly. It will win more friends and achieve better outcomes.

- Be assertive - Being assertive means being clear with others about what your needs and wants are, feeling okay about asking for them, but respecting the other person's needs and concerns as well and being prepared to negotiate. Avoid using words like ‘never’ or ‘always’ or ‘should’ (for example, ‘You're always late!’; ‘you should do this’), as these statements are usually inaccurate, make you feel as though your anger is justified, and don't leave much possibility for the problem to be solved.

- Seek professional help if your strategies aren’t working

Remember – how we respond to anger will set the example for our children to follow.

Our behaviour is a choice. Adapted from Anger Management: http://www.psychology.org.au/publications/tip_sheets/anger/#s5
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hot Food</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizza</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pie</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Burger</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Dog with Sauce</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macaroni Cheese</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lasagne</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drinks</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottled Water</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juice Popper</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>250ml Flavoured Milk</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Extras</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Boiled Egg</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Loaf (2 Slices)</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn Cob</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauceae Roll</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Nugget</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Party Pie</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Treats</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Squash Ice Block</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frozen Yogurt</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jelly Cup</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dixie Cup</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Popcorn</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sals</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato, Cheese, Tomato, Pineapple</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Any 3 toppings)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwiches</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad with Chicken Roll</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad with Ham Roll</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad Roll</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad Box</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20x Packed Order Bags</strong></td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato/Pepper Sauce</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Volunteers (no matter how</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Volunteers are essential to</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Meet the conviers. Keep</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sue Dean—0438890964.</strong></td>
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<td>If you have any queries to the**</td>
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<td><strong>running of the Tuckshop.</strong></td>
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