Next week our Year Three and Year Five students will sit NAPLAN and so I have included a two-page summary of this testing. While you may not have a student in either Year Three or Year Five in 2015, it is valuable information that will impact on your child in the future. Each year we stress to parents that there are no negative consequences for a student for poor performance in NAPLAN. On the contrary, NAPLAN results can help teachers and parents direct extra attention where it is needed to help students improve their literacy and numeracy skills. As such NAPLAN tests are ‘low stakes’ for individual students as they do not carry the same potential consequences as ‘high stakes’ tests, such as Year 12 exams. Likewise we do not single out any child who performs well in these tests, they are simply one of the myriad of tools to assess how we may be going at the moment.

Spellcheck
Is your child learning to spell? Struggling with the weekly spelling lists? Here are a few strategies that will help: Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/zh/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/getting-your-child-used-to-writing

Homework Planner
Kids and families run more smoothly when there’s a plan - so print out our 2015 homework and study calendar, which includes key dates and school holidays. Find out more: : http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/2013-homework-planner
What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, educational authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school’s assessment and reporting process. They do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested and how?
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content tests are supported by the national statements of learning for English and mathematics, which underpin states and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

Who will run the tests?
NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?
NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of resources by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?
All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal assessment may be started for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background. Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

How is NAPLAN performance measured?
NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student 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.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?
Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete rescheduled tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit all tests after Friday 15 May 2015.

Will I receive a report on my child’s performance?
A NAPLAN report will be issued to your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

How are NAPLAN test results used?
Schools are 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 affiliated schools.
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.

The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: www.myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?
For more information about NAPLAN:
• visit the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au
• contact your child’s school
• contact your state or territory’s education authority (details available on the NAP website)

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<th>Tuesday 12 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 13 May</th>
<th>Thursday 14 May</th>
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- Language conventions include spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy tests include number, space, data, patterns and complexity, and language. 
- Calculators are not permitted in the numeracy tests in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, each student sits one numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.

www.nap.edu.au
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acara
School News

Year 2 Ukulele
Mrs Newman-Jennings class- 2 Denim started their ukulele lessons with Mr Ward last week and are off to a great start. If you haven’t returned your note and money, please do so as soon as possible.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
This year’s challenge is in full swing, every student from years 3-6 have been given their recording form and should have at least 5-10 books recorded towards their goal of 20. Please encourage students to record the books they have read, either on their recording sheet or directly on the portal.

Well done to those students who have completed the challenge, names of these students are on display on the library door.

Infants Athletics Carnival
Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 will hold their Athletic Carnival on Friday 22nd May at King Edward Park. The carnival will commence at 9:45am and finish by 2:30pm. Parents and grandparents are welcome to cheer on the students.

Sausage sizzle orders must be in by Friday 15th May.

Application for opportunity class placement in Year 5 in 2016
If your child is seeking Year 5 opportunity class placement in 2016 you must submit the application online between Monday 27 April 2015 and 15 May 2015.

The application website is at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

School Photos
School photos were handed out last week, if you have any concerns or have not received your copy please contact MSP photography on 4966 8292.

Reminders

Mother’s Day Stall - 8th May 2015

Great Aussie Bush Camp - Deposit for camp is due Friday 8th May. Full payment by Wednesday 5th August. Instalments can be made also.

Football Jersey Day - 15th May 2015

Primary Athletic Carnival - 19th May 2015

Infants Athletic Carnival - Friday 22nd
Any problems please phone Jacki - School 4933 7524 or Home 4932 7226

Are you able to help out in the Uniform Shop for Term 2?

Please let Jacquie Linde know in the shop on Monday afternoon or Thursday Morning if you are able to assist or email the P&C.
estmaitlandpublicschoolpandc@gmail.com

Uniform Shop Roster Term 2 2015  (still to be confirmed - watch this space for changes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volunteer 1</th>
<th>Volunteer 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/5</td>
<td>Jenni Blais</td>
<td>Philippa Smythe</td>
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<td>Leanne York</td>
<td>Kyle Smith</td>
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<td>Tracey Van Tol</td>
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Canteen Roster

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<tr>
<td>7th May</td>
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<td>Jo Proctor</td>
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<td>14th May</td>
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<td>Jodi Smith</td>
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<td>Hayley Lindsay</td>
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<td>28th May</td>
<td>Deslie Groves</td>
<td>Bronwyn Gay</td>
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<td>4th June</td>
<td>Ashley Owens</td>
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<td>11th June</td>
<td>Grisel Milford-Chilvers</td>
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<td>18th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th June</td>
<td>Hayley Lindsay</td>
<td>Suze Hamilton</td>
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</table>

TERM 2 SICK BAY LINEN ROSTER

8/5 Jo Proctor
15/5 Sarah Davis
22/5 Deslie Groves
29/5 Donna Burton
5/6 Noelle Burton
12/6 Katie Brown

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the linen roster last term. Your help was greatly appreciated. Thank you to the new volunteers.

If you are unable to change the linen on your allocated date let me know and I will arrange a swap.

Thank you
Katie Brown (0437343447)
Can you remember waaaay back to the days when you were at school – what exactly did the P & C do? It was probably something you heard your parents ‘muttering’ about another “meeting”. Did you know that without a P & C your child would not have a canteen to buy things from nor a convenient on site uniform shop? Your child may not have as many library books to choose from, or fancy smart boards to learn on (a big improvement from dusty chalk boards!). The P & C fundraising efforts are vital in supporting our fabulous schools learning, sporting and social environment. Did you know that you can contribute to your child’s learning environment by having a say about what is happening in the school environment, where money is spent, gain a better understanding about curriculum, school policies and fun activities? You can raise any concerns, ask a question and get to know other parents.

Come along to a meeting, they are informal and friendly. Come and meet the new 2015 committee members and have a cuppa and raise any concerns or issues you may have or just sit back and find out what's happening at your school. It only costs 50c to join if you would like to become a member. Vote for or introduce new fundraising ideas, support our fantastic teachers. Different kids = different needs. No idea too small or too big. Let's all help to make a difference to EVERY CHILD's education at EMPS!

GET INVOLVED!

You might even meet some new peeps/mates/friends/people.

Have a cuppa and relax!

https://www.facebook.com/EastMaitlandPublicSchool


Make sure you have the latest version to receive all the features.


UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS

Monday 2:00pm till 3:00pm
& Thursday mornings from 8:30am till 9am

Please ensure you have cash or cheque on the day only as we do not have eftpos facilities.

Uniform Shop Orders can also be placed at the office on any school day. Orders will be filled on a Thursday and delivered to Children’s classes.

Link to Uniform Shop Order Form and Price list.


Mothers Day Stall

Friday 8th May. Gifts range from $3 to $5, cash only on the day. As we have gone with no pre order this year there is a limit of 1 gift per student. If we have gifts left once all of the classes have been through we will re open at lunch time for extra purchases. Help will be required on the day between 9 and 12 if you can help at all between these times SMS Kym 0412898158.

Next P&C Meeting Thursday 14th May
9:15am at EMPS staffroom (TBC)
Children are more than welcome to come along with mum or dad - ipads, colouring in and books available
Please email eastmaitlandpublicschoolpandc@gmail.com any items that you would like added to the agenda or if you have any questions.

Young non-school age children are most welcome too – they are the future of EMPS!
Hand Hygiene

Fancy reducing those gross bugs coming into your home like –shudder – gastro (touch wood!), snotty noses and constant coughing? Every year millions of school days and work days are lost due to illness, a great number of these can be reduced if children wash their hands regularly and correctly.

Therefore, it is imperative to educate children on the importance of adopting good hand hygiene practices in order to keep both themselves and others healthy. Therefore, it is essential that a child understands why their hands are important; they help them to eat, play and have fun, as well as learn why it is important to wash their hands:

Hands carry ‘nasty germs’ called micro-organisms or bacteria. These can spread when we touch things or can be passed to people. Encouraging children to wash their hands will also help to influence their hand washing practices at home as well as at school.

Alcohol based hand sanitisers are a great idea for out and about where soap and water cannot be accessed.

Upcoming events, outings that might take your fancy and useful(less) fact

Newcastle is hosting a mother’s day classic run (7.5km) or walk (4km) on Sunday at the foreshore. Online regos end midnight wed 6th May. Rego accepted on the day from 6:30am. Check it out online [http://www.mothersdayclassic.com.au/our-events/regional-event-locations/new-south-wales/newcastle/](http://www.mothersdayclassic.com.au/our-events/regional-event-locations/new-south-wales/newcastle/)

Please note: at least two thirds of the entry fee goes directly to the National Breast Cancer Foundation’s research programs (for example at least $13.34 of the $20 Adult fee is donated). 100% of fundraising is donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. See more at: [http://www.mothersdayclassic.com.au/our-events/regional-event-locations/new-south-wales/newcastle/#sthash.WRiCVm8n.dpuf](http://www.mothersdayclassic.com.au/our-events/regional-event-locations/new-south-wales/newcastle/#sthash.WRiCVm8n.dpuf)