

The Parkway



August 2015
Parkway Edition No. 06

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Over the last few weeks staff and students have been really busy with projects both within the school and across the community.

Last week, hospitality students played a key role at the 2015 Food and Wine Show. Thanks to Mrs Maddalena for her work in organising this opportunity for the students.

Last weekend a small band of parents and former parents did an amazing job of spreading two large piles of mulch around the grounds. This will hopefully drought-proof the gardens as we move into the hotter weather - what a great way to use the mulch from our storm damaged trees. My thanks to these wonderful volunteers.

A bus load of Year 11 students have spent a week at the snow staying at the Sport and Recreation facility at Jindabyne. These students were excellent ambassadors for NHS, with very favourable comments coming from the supervising staff. Thanks to Mr Wagner, Mr Doherty, Ms Dennis and Mr Mark Smith, who still returns to support this excursion despite retiring five years ago. Thanks also to parents and carers who were able to drop students off at 5.00am and pick them up a week later at 1.30am! The photos published in this bulletin tell the story of the trip.

A small student group is participating in the EV Bike Challenge. This project involves students designing an electric powered bike and competing against other schools across a range of criteria.

The last bulletin contained a term calendar and several key dates are fast approaching. Parent teacher evening for Semester 2 is on Tuesday, 8 September. Information about the on-line booking system will be published soon.

Week 10 of this term is a big week for Year 12 students as they complete their schooling. On Tuesday, 15 September the school hosts the Year 12 formal; this will be held at Surf House, Merewether. Details have been given to all Year 12 students and I am hopeful that all of them will be able to attend this important rite of passage. Any student that cannot attend for financial reasons should contact their Year Advisors, Mr Towney or me. Year 12's Christmas in July in August on Thursday, 5 August was an outstanding success with over \$1700.00 raised - well done everyone!

It was wonderful to welcome our visitors from Ube, Japan last week. Newcastle High School has a long tradition of supporting students from overseas. Special thanks to our hosting families and Ms Harding for hosting the teacher. Two of our students Maija & Lucy are off to Ube in the next holiday break.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Our new PBL mural has been completed and should be installed in the coming weeks. This bright colourful mural will uplift the school's assembly area. Have a look at the photos that are included in this bulletin.

It was wonderful to hear of the recent sporting successes from students who attended the Regional Athletics Carnival. Well done and I look forward to hearing of more successes.

The incoming Year 7 2016 are being welcomed into the school with Taster Lessons over the next few weeks. It is really important that the good news about this school, as a great local school, is communicated, reassuring parents/carers and students that NHS offers a wide range of opportunities for all students to excel and is the ideal local school for local students. Mr Carswell, the incoming Year 7 Advisor for 2106 and Ms Robertson, the relieving Head Teacher Welfare, are looking after the Year 7 transition process.

Please read the attached article about the release of the NAPLAN results and the information about the *Tell Them from Me Survey*. A link to this survey is included and it would be great if parents and carers could find the time to complete this survey.

The P&C have also requested that information regarding the importance of the Gonski reforms be included in the newsletter for all parents/carers.

Mr Drew Janetski, the new Principal of Fern Bay Public School, has contacted me to let us know that Fern Bay School is celebrating 60 years this year and he would love to hear from former students. He can be contacted on 4928 1668 or via the school's website.

I can smell spring fast approaching. Where has the year gone?

Mark Hewitt
Principal



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Mr. Mark Hewitt - Newcastle High School

July 24, 2015

Dear Principal Hewitt

Thank you very much for accepting representative junior high school student from Ube, to your school. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to your staff for their great help to make this enterprise possible.

Ube and Newcastle have marked our 35th Anniversary since we became sister cities in 1980. Both of our citizens have deepened their bonds through various exchanges such as education, culture, economic, youth exchanges among many others these past many years.

I believe that the purpose of a sister city exchange is to promote understanding and foster relationships among different people and it is important to deepen the friendship. I consider that international exchanges among young people is especially important as they lead next generation and bring an even greater level of understanding and friendship to us all.

I am very proud that 5 junior high school students will visit your school as goodwill ambassadors to connect between Ube and Newcastle this year. I would like to ask your consideration for the students to achieve their own goal through this opportunity.

In closing, I wish you good health and happiness.

Yours faithfully,

Kimiko Kubota
Mayor of Ube



Mathematics

Students at Newcastle High School have had a great start to the year in Mathematics. It was fantastic to see some of our high achieving Year 9 and 10 students at the University of Newcastle's "Working Like a Mathematician" workshop. They collaborated with students from a large number of other schools around the region. A fun and informative day was had by all. Thanks to Mr Doyle for organising this activity.



Our Year 12 Mathematics Extension 2 (4 Unit) students attended a combined schools study day at the Hunter School of Performing Arts one Saturday earlier in the year. It was again great to see students from different schools working together to better understand the more difficult concepts in Mathematics.

A group of talented Year 8 students attended the Inquisitive Minds "Problems, Patterns, Pictures, Puzzles" workshop again at Hunter School of Performing Arts and worked collaboratively within their group and with students from a number of other schools on some exciting problem solving, lateral thinking activities. We hope to keep these young mathematicians engaged and excited about learning Mathematics so they may consider studying a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) pathway in their later years of schooling.

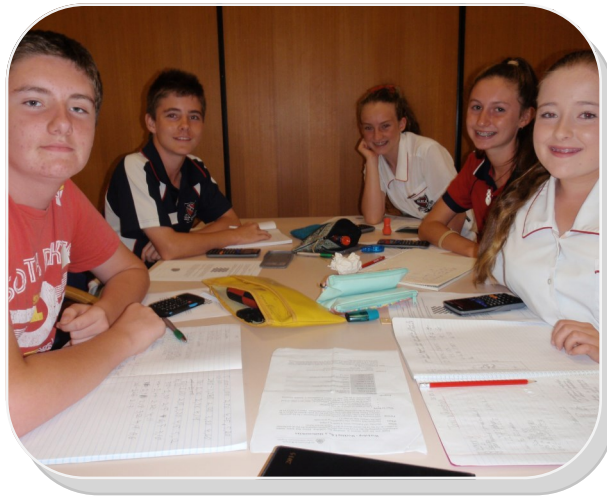


With the Year 12 trial papers returned it is a good time for students to be working on any areas of weakness in preparation for their HSC. Many Year 12 students are making use of the Maths Breakfast Club (available from 7.45am – 8.45am each Wednesday morning) to gain additional assistance and to correct errors in their trial papers. Thanks to Mr Crichton for his support of this initiative, with Mrs Wells currently unavailable due to her relieving Head Teacher Administration role. The Maths Breakfast Club welcomes students of all ages to come along and either gain some assistance with any areas of concern in class or extend themselves with additional practise whilst enjoying a glass of juice and some toast.



We welcome to the faculty Ms Carcary, replacing Mr Wallace who is taking extended leave for the remainder of 2015. The students appreciate the work she has put into the decoration of their learning space to make it their own.

There were some excellent *Angles* assignments produced by Year 7 students this year, where they were to design a resource suitable for sharing their knowledge of angles with a Year 6 student through a medium of their choice. Students produced a variety of resources ranging from PowerPoints to posters to videos and teachers were very pleased to see the effort that their students had gone to.



Mathematics

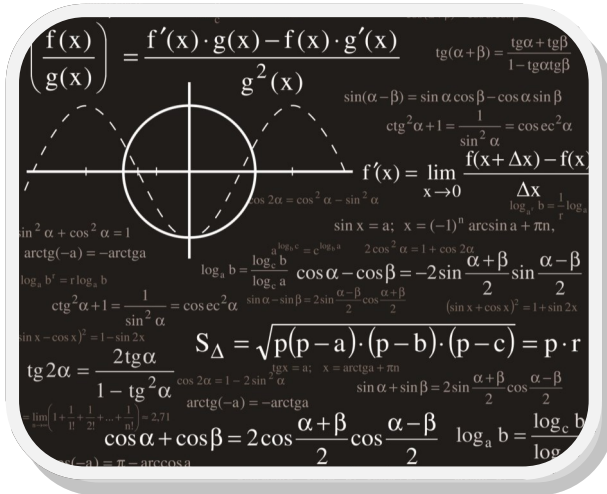
The Year 10 into 11 subject selection day went well from a mathematics perspective, with initial preferences indicating that students have carefully considered the advice around course choices in Stage 6 Mathematics. We will be in contact shortly with those who have chosen the higher level advanced "Mathematics" and "Extension 1" courses to ensure that they are practising the skills and knowledge we assume these students have to keep up with the fast paced demands of these courses. As advised on the day, the Mathematics General 2 course provides an excellent opportunity for students to consolidate and extend their knowledge and skills from Years 7-10 whilst being eligible for an ATAR.

Once again, please remind your child to bring their scientific calculator to each lesson as there are many concepts where a calculator is essential. If students have lost their calculator, replacements can be purchased from the school's office at a cost of \$20.00, which is usually cheaper than in stores.

MathsOnline is being utilised again for 2015. It is used by teachers in some lessons, and as homework. The video tutorials give students who have been absent or who need reinforcement of a particular concept the opportunity to see it being taught, pause and rewind and consolidate the taught skills with self marking worksheets. MathsOnline has developed some new features for 2015 including diagnostic tests for many topics and regular revision homework that would prove well worth your child logging in and attempting to consolidate the work we do in class. Please remind your child to ask their teacher for their login details if they have been forgotten. It would be great to see as many students as possible using this resource.

Nick Willis

Head Teacher Mathematics



Careers

Rotary Job Ready Program

Year 11 students involved in the Rotary Job Ready Program will be provided with further information this term about their job application and interview. Any Year 11 student still interested can still apply as there are still few places left at this time.

Schools Visits Day

The Schools Visits Day was held during the last week of Term 2. Year 11 and 12 students registered online to participate in seminars held at Newcastle University. A sizeable group of Years 11 & 12 students from NHS took the opportunity to find out about the university. Many students undertook seminars in subjects they had not previously considered while others commented that university was not what they expected. The overwhelming feedback indicated that the day was inspirational and useful.

University Admission Centre (UAC) Guide

Year 12 students were recently issued with a copy of the *University Admission Centre (UAC) Guide* during English, together with printed summary information about bonus points, scholarships and alternative entry schemes and the application process. Applications are made online and the due date is September 30 (after which a late fee applies). Students or parents with questions or concerns are welcome to talk to Mr Alexander.

TAFE

HSC students are also encouraged to consider applying for Certificate III, IV and Diploma courses through the *Hunter Institute of TAFE*. These courses can provide apprenticeship training or can lead to employment or further study. Applications are usually able to be made online from late November and may require an interview. Private colleges also offer courses. *VET Fee Help*, (similar to HECS) is another option available to students studying selected diploma courses.

RSA, RCG and Barista courses

Hamilton TAFE will also be running **RSA, RCG and Barista courses** as it has done in previous years for HSC students from September onwards. When they become available, flyers with the course dates and costs will be provided to students.

WHS White Card

The White Card course is required for any student who intends undertaking work placements or work experience in the building industry. It is also highly recommended for the metal trades to ensure students are safe in the workplace. White Card courses are run at the school each semester, at a cost of \$80 per student. Students eligible to undertake this course are usually in Years 9 – 12. Interested students should see Mr Alexander.

Chris Alexander
Careers Adviser



Sport Report

Newcastle High School Athletics Carnival

The athletics carnival was held on a beautiful sunny Friday, 8 May. Students who attended, participated actively in various athletics events. They displayed a positive attitude towards staff and fellow peers.

Approximately thirty students from Cooks Hill Campus (CHC) competed in our carnival for the first time. Kirra Zielman from CHC qualified for the Zone Athletics Carnival. Well done Kirra!

One of the highlights of the day was the Newcastle High School Gift, a 100m handicap race. This year it was won in dramatic fashion by Jarrod Sansom of Year 12. Congratulations Jarrod.

Throughout the day, everyone showed great respect for the new and improved venue by keeping all of the areas clean. The school café, under the guidance of Ms Matthews and Ms Maddalena, once again delivered a fantastic service, cooking a delicious morning tea and lunch for staff.

The positive and active participation contributed to 120 students qualifying for the Zone Athletics Carnival.

2015 Newcastle High School Age Champions:

| Age | Boys | Girls |
|-----|------------------------|---------------------|
| 12 | Jack Watkins | Alexis Suckling |
| 13 | Patrick Johansen | Isabella Pacey |
| 14 | Sebastian McComb | Josephine Pinkerton |
| 15 | Oscar Cooper- Johnston | Hannah Downes |
| 16 | Luke Ferrier | Abbie Gray |
| 17 | Jarrod Sansom | Isabella Sofianos |

Gicu Oprea

Carnival Organiser

City Zone Athletics

Fifty-nine students from Years 7-11 attended the City Zone Carnival at Glendale Athletics Centre in early June. All students competed with enthusiasm and commitment, with twenty-five qualifying to compete at the Hunter Region Carnival during Week 2 of this term. Congratulations to Jarrod Sansom who was named 17 years Age Champion of City Zone.

Hunter Region Athletics

The twenty-five Newcastle High School students who qualified for Hunter Region, competed across a wide range of track and field events, with some outstanding results on the day. Congratulations to all of those students, but special mention goes to the following students who have qualified to represent Hunter Region and Newcastle High School at the NSW CHS Championships at Homebush in early September. Good luck at the State Championships Abbie, Jarrod, Regina, Olivia and Madeline.

Abbie Gray

2nd 16 years Long Jump

2nd 16 years Triple Jump

Abbie Gray

Regina Kamanda

Olivia Crosbie

Madeline Bailey

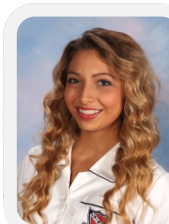
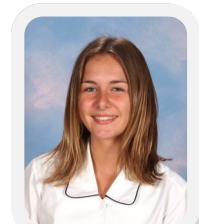
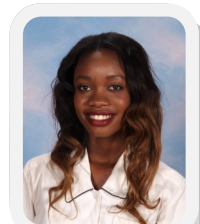
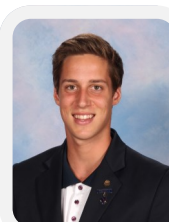
1st 16 years Girls Relay



Jarrod Sansom

2nd 17+ years 800m

Qualified 17+ years 400m Hurdles



Sport Report

Mountain Biking

Hunter Region ran its inaugural Mountain Biking Competition in early June at Glenrock Lagoon. Mrs Dennis commented that there was plenty of interest from schools across the region, with competitors in individual and team events. The bar was set high by some experienced riders; well done to Darcy Robson (Year 8), Angus Nolan (Year 8) and Kristian Higgs Madsen (Year 9) who represented Newcastle High School.

Football – Open Boys

After receiving a forfeit in Round 2 our Open Boys Football team played a strong Lambton High team. After being even at half time, the boys unfortunately went down three goals to nil. Coach Main commented that the boys played very well. Special mention to Milan Lettau who played well on the wing and to Joshua Richardson who played very well with only short notice as goal keeper.

Football – Open Girls

Our girls progressed into the Round 4 of the NSWCHS Knockout competition, this is the furthest we have progressed in this competition for many years. As with the boys, it was nil all at half time; the score progressing to two each at full time, the game went into extra time and 'golden goal'. Unfortunately, nine minutes into this extra time Swansea scored the winner. Coach Miss Jones commented on the girls' commitment and enthusiasm throughout the competition, with Kalista Hunter being a strong representative in this team. Well done girls.

Futsal

Newcastle High School entered eight teams in the Newcastle Area Futsal Competition at Howzat late last term. We had a girls' team and boys' team from Year 7, Year 8 and Year 10, with an extra boys' team in Year 10 and a Year 11 and 12 combined boys' team.

Ms Wells and Ms Steedman reported that all teams played really well throughout the tournaments. Our Year 7 girls, Year 10 girls, Year 8 boys and Year 11/12 boys all made it through to the Regional finals in June. These four teams also played strongly and competitively in the final series; they were excellent representatives of Newcastle High School.

Mr Wagner / Mrs Blatchford
Interschool Sports Organisers



Swan Shield AFL

NHS continues on winning way in Swan Shield AFL

Newcastle High's all conquering U/15 team continued their winning way in the state-wide CHS Swan Shield completion with a dominant win over North Coast champions Melville High.

After a tentative start to the opening quarter Newcastle High found themselves behind by five points at the first break with the size and power of many of the North Coast opponents looking a significant threat. The second quarter saw the Newcastle High mid field begin to dominate centre clearances with strong ruckwork from Oliie Nash giving skipper Felix Pritchard, running machine Seb McComb and the tough James Mehan first use of the ball to move forward.

With increasing forward entries the skilful and elusive Isaac McGrady began to cause havoc for Melville High. Jack Johnson-Holmes was a key target at full forward taking numerous strong marks to help set up many scoring opportunities. Ethan Vince was a revelation on the wing producing repetitive attacks on goal.

Newcastle High's backline held steadfast during the third and fourth quarter to rebound the ball through the midfield. Jem Boulter and Bryn Higgins-Murray provided impenetrable defensive efforts with Sam Cottom demonstrating his customary kicking efficiency to hit targets up field.

With a consistent team effort based on hard contested football, Newcastle High ran out winners 13.14.92 to 5.3 33.

This result has put Newcastle High into the top 16 public schools competing in this state-wide competition. Newcastle High now takes on Narooma High at Woonona on the South Coast on Thursday 13/8/15 with the winner to play in the state Quarter Finals at Blacktown on the 26/8/15. We wish the boys all the best at Woonona and hope the enjoyable ride of success continues for AFL at Newcastle High.

Andrew Doherty
Coach



Youth Frontiers

Earlier this year local MP, Tim Crackenthorp, nominated Newcastle High School as a pilot school for a new leadership program, known as Youth Frontiers. In this scheme, students work with mentors from the community to develop a project of significance in the community.

Sixteen students from Year 9 have been working on their Youth Frontiers project since April, and in Week 2 of this term, Harry Galbraith became the first of the group to bring his plans to fruition. In conjunction with Trees Newcastle, Harry put together a team of volunteer workers to plant two hundred seedlings in King Edward Park. This initiative will make a substantial contribution to the stabilisation of the terrain in the park and prevent sediment from flushing into the ocean.

Despite the inclement weather, the students quickly got down to business and in a surprisingly short time, the seedlings were spreading across

the embankment. The group was then rewarded by chef, Mr Towney, with a barbeque lunch. It was gratifying for them to reflect on the contribution that they had just made to the future of the park environment.

Many thanks go to Mr Alexander and Mrs Smith, who brought some of the Year 12 Horticulture students along to lend their expertise in the planting activities. Thanks also to Trees Newcastle for their assistance in bringing Harry's project to completion.

This is just the beginning for the Youth Frontiers group and soon there will be more project announcements. The students have all developed valuable relationships with their mentors and are working with great enthusiasm to contribute to their community. In October they will exhibit their achievements to local dignitaries and community members at a Youth Frontiers Expo.

Glenyce Oswald
Organiser

LINKED

Year 9 Boys Alternative Learning Program

Our Year 9 boys are currently involved in a series of "Industry Visits" as part of the school's LINKED program. Recently we toured the BAE systems facility at Williamstown and all the students (and teachers) were impressed by the scale of the project. So far, we've also visited the local JAX tyres franchise to gain a little insight into work practices and career opportunities.

LINKED visits coming soon include:

- Glendale Cinemas
- Catavolt Electric Motorcycles
- EJE Architects

Eric Villari
LINKED Teacher



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Book now for Term 3!



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Year 11 Jindabyne Excursion



THANKS TO: Parents & Carers, Students for impeccable behaviour, the weather gods for great conditions, Mr Wagner, Mrs Dennis, Mr Doherty & Mr Smith





Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey

I am delighted that this term our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.



Partners in Learning Parent Feedback Survey

Our school will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives of their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically takes 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

Nathan Towney
Deputy Principal



FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW

20 July 2015

Dear P&C President

The Federation of P&C Associations of NSW would like to invite you to join us in our campaign to get a fairer funding model (Gonski) from the Federal Government for our public schools.

If you are wondering what Gonski is and what it means for your school.... In a nutshell it means **MORE!** More funds, more teachers, more programs, more resources..... **simply MORE!**

We parents are continually trying to provide more for our children. I cannot tell you strongly enough how joining this campaign would help to provide "MORE" in such a great way, not just to your children, but to the children within schools across the State.

The improved educational outcomes, won't just help them while they are at school, it will increase their chances of success after high school, which will in turn lead to a stronger, smarter Australia.

We need you as parents of public school students to stand up and be counted on this issue.

If we can show the government that enough parents care about this funding model, then we have the chance to receive it. ... To do this we will need as many of us as possible working as a team.

If you would like to join us on this venture, here are four easy ways you can start to help:

1. Go to www.igiveagonski.com.au and sign the petition.
2. Get your P&C members to sign the petition.
3. Send the link to your family and friends via email and social media, asking them to sign the petition as well.
4. Send an email to parentsforgonski@pandc.org.au. We will provide a team to support you throughout the campaign, with many more ideas on how you and your school can help.

This is an opportunity for school communities to come together for a common purpose. If you are concerned that you won't get enough interest from your community... don't stress.... As long as you are interested, we will work with you, other parents, your principal and teachers because together we will stand stronger.

Kind regards,

Jason Vials

Jason Vials
President
Federation of Parents & Citizens Associations of NSW

Locked Bag 40
GRANVILLE NSW 2142
E: parentsforgonski@pandc.org.au



Important NAPLAN Information

Bringing NAPLAN home: The results and your child

As parents and carers, we all take great interest in our children and their paths in life. We know it is really important that they develop key skills such as literacy and numeracy to help them through school, work and life.



NAPLAN (the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) is a national test undertaken by all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students, designed to provide information on your child's literacy and numeracy achievements. This year NAPLAN was taken on 13, 14 and 15 May.

NAPLAN results provide additional information, which can be used along with school assessment and testing. It allows you to compare your child's achievement with other children across Australia. By itself, NAPLAN does not improve the quality of education, but it gives us a national snapshot of how our children are doing in those important skills of literacy and numeracy.

NAPLAN is important to your child as it provides information for school authorities and schools to review the effectiveness of their programs and to address any areas requiring improvement. It is important that you know as early as possible about your child's strengths or if your child needs assistance. NAPLAN helps with this.

Sometime in August and September you will receive your son or daughter's NAPLAN report. I encourage you to read the report in the context of what you already know about your child's academic performance and in conjunction with other assessment information and reports you may already have received from your child's school. Further information on how to read the report is found on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au/results-and-reports/student-reports.html

Your son or daughter's results will be reported against six levels of achievement. Your child's results will be indicated by a black dot. The black triangle shows the national average for children in that year level.

Important NAPLAN Information - Continued

This means you can compare your child's performance to children in the same year level. As with all tests, small differences between students' NAPLAN scores do not reflect real achievement differences.

Using this information, you can then take the time to celebrate the success that you see and/or identify areas for improvement. You should talk to your child's teacher about what you should do next if you see areas that need improvement.

If your child is concerned with their results, remind them that NAPLAN isn't a pass or fail test and there are no rewards or penalties for the result your child achieves. Rather, the NAPLAN student report is a point in time snapshot of your child's achievements in the important areas of literacy and numeracy. This snapshot gives an indication of how your child compares with students across Australia.

ACARA is committed to improving learning for all young Australians through world-class curriculum, assessment and reporting. This year, we are aiming for NAPLAN results to be returned to you more quickly than in previous years.

As teachers and parents continue on with the rest of 2014, I urge you to keep NAPLAN student reports in context. Don't stop any activities your child enjoys; don't focus your child only on literacy and numeracy. Evidence shows that a well-rounded education, including the pursuit of other activities such as sport and art, contributes to the development of literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills. All activities are crucial to the school program and contribute to developing informed, happy children who are confident in their own abilities.



Robert Randall
Chief Executive Officer, ACARA

acara AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM,
ASSESSMENT AND
REPORTING AUTHORITY



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