Cleaning up after the Storm

The school lost several trees during the ANZAC Week storm. There was plenty of litter for Reece and Garth to clean up as well as starting to cut up the fallen trees. Before the children returned we were fortunate to have the most dangerous of the fallen trees removed professionally.

Other East Coast Lows

1974  The SYGNA storm. Destroyed Speers Point Wharf
2007  PASH BULKA storm
2015  Most damage done
Dear Parents,

Next week all Year 3 and Year 5 students will sit for the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assessment. NAPLAN tests reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. It is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress.

Information specifically for parents and carers can be found in the 2015 NAPLAN information brochure for parents and carers I have included at the back of this newsletter.

We will receive our NAPLAN reports from mid-August to mid-September, and these reports will be sent home. The same report format is used for every student in Australia.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. For most children, this is their first formal test. Teachers will ensure that students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Excessive preparation is not useful and can lead to unnecessary anxiety. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you are encouraged to make a time to speak with their teacher.

Mrs Dutch has outlined some of the important protocols for Year 3 & 5 parents today in a separate handout.

Mother’s Day Stall

The Mother’s Day Stall was another great success this year. There was a fabulous range of gifts displayed for children to purchase. There was not much left over at the end of the day. Mothers, you’re in for a treat on Sunday!

We would also like to give a big thank you Kellie Andriessen and Jo Chock for all their work in organising this year’s Mother’s Day Stall and also to all our tremendous volunteers (male and female) for donating their time to help on Wednesday.

We hope all our mums have a wonderful Mother’s Day.

Art Club

During Term 1 students from Year 4 had the chance to join art club before school. These students had a great time using a variety of art techniques to create works.

If you are in Year 6 and you would like to join art club this term, it will be held in 3M on a Thursday morning at 8:30. See you week 3!

Mrs Hussain

---

Thinking About

Enrolling at Biddabah in 2016?

If your child will turn five by July 31st 2016
You can enrol in Kindergarten for the 2016 school year.
Contact office or phone 4954 6058
Biddabah Outside School Hours Care

This week children have been interested in dress ups and performances development of social skills and cooperation, incorporating children of all ages and abilities. Children have also been setting up and decorating their own cubbies development of creativity, social skills and problem solving skills.

Don't forget to download our new Skoolbag App, available for both iPhone and Android devices. Once downloaded onto your device please feel free to explore this new tool, however, we will only be using the App for notifications, calendar updates and newsletters at this stage, with a view to expand to include online absences etc. in the future. It is an excellent tool for information so please download as soon as possible.

Moving forward in 2015, the use of the App will grow and will form the basis, with our website, for our communications with our school community.

Don't forget to visit our website for regular updates and additions:


Coordinating Teachers

Jenny Dutch & Technology Team

WE SAY NO TO PEANUTS, AND ALL NUT PRODUCTS AT BIDDABAH SCHOOL

All parents, teachers and students should understand that peanuts, tree nuts (walnuts, cashews etc) or nut products must not be introduced to Biddabah School in any way. Even so, we do not claim to be nut free because this may lead to a false sense of security for students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis.
Congratulations Winners of Mathletics Certificates

**Bronze**
- Phoebe Fraser
- Reuben Suba
- Mackenzie Curtis
- Laura Hyslop
- Fraser Shaw
- Daniel Williams
- Amy Hain
- Benjamin Summers
- Cooper Fitchett
- Cooper Chaplin
- Jack Bruce
- Alexandra Cowling
- Bailey Creer
- Kye Parsons
- Jacob Fitchett
- Blade James
- Grace Rixon
- Sascha Sabotkovski
- Ethan Cowling

**Silver**
- Logan Cowling
- Taylah Cowling

**Gold**
- Jaimie Spargo

Book club has gone home once more... orders due by 8th May.

Thank you to all students who have donated books ready for our sale.

**Some dates for your diary:**
- Pre-loved Book sale - Tuesday 19th May Open 8:30-2pm
- Author Visit (Primary Students) — Friday 7th August
  (more details later in the term).

Thanks
Thelma Keogh and Michelle Freund

Congratulations to the following students for achieving a Bronze Certificate in the School Banking Program:
- Toby Hyslop

Congratulations to the following students for achieving an Outstanding Certificate in the School Banking Program:
- Mia Hyslop
- Kobe Masterson
- Tyrone Banek
- Dominic Pettigrew
- Grace Rixon
- Flynn Warrington
- Sinead Snedden
- Tara Blake
WANTED: Students to take up an instrument in our fantastic school band.

All instruments are available on excellent terms. Research into a musical education has shown positive outcomes for student’s learning in all areas.

If anyone is interested please see Mr Ward on Tuesday mornings or Mrs Broxom for details.

Thank you.

In their own Write

Today’s featured class is KF.

The children in KF had lots of stories to share about their experiences in the recent storm. We were all happy that we were safe and that nobody got hurt. The children all agreed that the best thing about having no power was playing board games with our family. We hope you enjoy our stories.

Alliearah
In the storm a great big tree fell down. My fence fell over.

Bridget
In the storm there was lots of rain and wind.

Audrey
In the storm a great wind blew. We had no power.

Harry
In the storm a few branches of trees fell down. We couldn’t walk the dog.

Lawson
In the storm we had power so our cousins came over because they didn’t have power.

Sienna
In the storm there was a giant wind.

Bailey
In the storm my fence fell down.

Emily
In the storm the tree fell on the power line. We had no power.

Tamara
In the storm a great big tree fell over the road.

Tahlia
In the storm lots of big trees blew over. There was lots of wind and rain.

Rex
In the storm the fence fell over.

Liliana
In the storm there was lots of rain and heaps of water.

Sebastian
The storm was like a cyclone.

NAPLAN NEXT WEEK Page 5
Jude
In the storm there was rain and wind and lots of water everywhere.

Fletcher
In the storm Tom’s tree fell down and he couldn’t get out.

Tuscan
In the storm we had no power. There was heaps of wind.

Lillie
In the storm a great lot of rain fell.

Cooper
In the storm the tree fell on the power line.

Travis
In the storm there was lots of rain and wind. Lots of wind came in to my house.

Bianka
In the storm we had no power.

10 Years
James Lole 4th
Jole Gulliver 5th
Jacob Marshall 7th
Hugo Kidd-Matthews 17th
Lara Gooch 3rd
Sophie Conway 4th
Monique Palmer 12th
Charlotte Bagnall 13th

11 years
Taj Blackman 6th
Wil Swain 13th
Corey Winiarczyk 17th
Emma Gulliver 3rd
Ellie Carroll 4th
Taylah Cowling 12th
Brylee Cavanough 13th

12 years
Kyle Munns 2nd
Ezra Palombini 4th
Curtis Rae 16th
Matthew Wingate 31st
Lydia George 5th
Amy McGrath 6th
Anna Hickson 13th

There were over 80 competitors in each age division so all our children did very well!
The first six go to the Regional Carnival this Friday at the Newcastle Racecourse.
A big thank to all the transporters and supporters.
A special thank you to Mrs Marshall and the other parents who helped get the children organised.

WLPSSA Cross Country

The much postponed Zone Cross Country was finally held on Tuesday at Rathmines.
Our children did themselves, and the school, proud by winning the carnival.
Well done!!!!!!!!!!!
The team are as follows:

8/9 years
Ethan Cowling 5th
Tyce Hall 7th
Ben Summers 8th
Jakobi Jupp 19th
Lucy Hirneth 3rd
Kirra Priestley 4th
Lara Lozanovski 6th
Grace Carroll 9th

This Week in Sport

WLPSSA Cross Country

The much postponed Zone Cross Country was finally held on Tuesday at Rathmines.
Our children did themselves, and the school, proud by winning the carnival.
Well done!!!!!!!!!!!
The team are as follows:

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Jakobi Jupp 19th
Lucy Hirneth 3rd
Kirra Priestley 4th
Lara Lozanovski 6th
Grace Carroll 9th

Lost Property

Please check the lost property box regularly.
TOMORROW

Friday  
School Assembly, 10.10am 
Presentation by 5W, Parents Welcome

NEXT WEEK

Monday  
Naplan - Language & Writing

Tuesday  
Science Show K-2 10-11 
Yr 3-6 12-1

Wednesday  
Naplan - Numeracy

Thursday  
Raw Art 
Zoo Excursion K-2

SCHOOL DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4  | May 11 | NAPLAN Language/Writing (Tue) 
     | NAPLAN Reading (Wed) 
     | Science Show (Wed) 
     | NAPLAN Numeracy (Thurs) 
     | RAW ART (Fri) 
     | Assembly 3M (Fri) |
| 5  | May 18 | RAW ART (Mon) 
     | P&C (Wed) 
     | RAW ART (Thurs) 
     | Assembly 6H (Fri) |
| 6  | May 25 | RAW ART (Wed-Fri) 
     | Assembly 4M (Fri) |
| 7  | June 1 | School Disco (Tue) 
     | Assembly 3D (Fri) |
| 8  | June 8 | QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY (Mon) 
     | Assembly 1E (Fri) |
| 9  | June 15| P&C (Wed) 
     | Assembly 6D (Fri) |
| 10 | June 22| Assembly 3C (Fri) |

A HUGE THANKS!

Wednesday's Mother's Day Stall was an amazing success and there will be plenty of very lucky ladies on Sunday morning! A record amount was raised this year with every cent being donated directly to the school to fund vital resources for our kids.

The success of this fundraising event would not have been possible if it were not for the generosity of our parent volunteers – both mums and dads - who gave up their time to help out on the day of the stall. Some parents even swapped days at work just so they could help! We thank each and every one of you for your help – it is greatly appreciated.

Most people would be unaware that both our Mother and Father's Day Stalls are organised by a beautiful (working) parent by the name of Kellie Andriessen, who has not had a child at our school since her eldest left in 2013. Kellie kindly offered to continue to run our stalls each year despite her youngest child not starting at Biddabah until 2016. The organisation of our stalls is a massive job - ensuring sufficient gifts are available for every child and ensuring we have quality, yet affordable gifts for purchase and Kellie spends most of the year researching and purchasing items just for us at Biddabah. Thanks Kellie!

Looking forward, Entertainment Books are due back this week and please don’t forget that payments can be made online or at the office.

Winter is fast approaching and special orders can be made for green track pants – please see further details in this newsletter.

The canteen continues to be our primary fundraiser for the year and we still need more volunteers to keep it open every day. Anyone who can help out, please see Mel, Tiz or Jo.

Biddabah P&C

For the latest P&C News email pandc@biddabah.com.au
Entertainment Books

The new 2015 | 2016

Entertainment™ Memberships are the perfect gift for Mother’s Day!

Treat her to the new Membership, packed with hundreds of offers from restaurants, cafés, retail shopping, hotel accommodation, travel, gift cards and more... Choose between the Entertainment™ Book or the Entertainment™ Digital Membership for her smartphone! She will then receive up to 50% off and 2-for-1 of over $20,000 worth of valuable offers, valid from now up till 1st June, 2016!

PLUS 20% of every membership sold raises funds for P & C which ultimately supports our children on their learning path. Help us achieve our goal by sharing this link with your Friends and Family. Order now: https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/34082w9

If your child brought home a copy of the book last week and you do not wish to purchase, or have decided to purchase a Digital Membership, please return the book to the office as soon as possible as they are now due.

Thank you for supporting Biddabah P & C

Canteen News

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>May 11</th>
<th>Ellen Williams, Louis James</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Kylie Hindmarsh, Shayne Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Louis James, Kristy Newman, Tiz Berrtaglia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Louis James (9-1.30), Mel Greaves, Kayleen Lettice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Rajka Alexander, Jess Majurovski, Abby Bagnall, HELP NEEDED X 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Help is required on **Friday 15 May** and **Wednesday 20 May**. If you would like to volunteer in the school canteen please call in and say hello and have a look around. We have groups of mums that love to do canteen together for a day out. If you would like to do canteen with your group of friends, please let me know and I can mark a day off the canteen roster for you.

If you see Jo Chock or Tiz Berrtaglia at school you can also let them know if you would like to volunteer in the canteen.

If you can help at all, either for a half or full day, please contact Mel on 0419 294 046.

NB Changes made to the canteen roster after Tuesday will not be reflected in the current newsletter.
OPENING HOURS

Tuesday Morning  Thursday Morning
8.30am-9.00am   8.30am – 9.00am
Kim West   Renee Shepard

Thursday Afternoon  Every 2nd Friday
2.30pm – 3.00pm   2.30pm – 3.00pm
Nicole Stone    Kel Paterson

BOOKCLUB
ORDERS DUE
CLOSED

ADVERTISING COSTS

Roadside Sign in Medcalf Street
Your business can advertise on our roadside sign. Advertisers are offered one of the eight places for an annual fee of $500. If you are interested in taking up this offer, please contact the principal: Mr. Graeme Mason.

Newsletter Advertising Costs (incl. GST)

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<th>Business Card Size</th>
<th>$14.30 (week)</th>
<th>$85.80 (term)</th>
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<td>¼ Page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distribute Your Pamphlets</td>
<td>$25.00 (week)</td>
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SPECIAL OFFER
¼ Page Advertisement 1 Year
$330.00

Dogs in the School Grounds
The New South Wales Companion Animals Act was introduced in September 1998 and is about the welfare of animals, their owners and the broader community.

Section 14 of the Act particularly states that dogs are PROHIBITED in SCHOOL GROUNDS (whether or not they are leashed or otherwise controlled). Any visitor to the school is not able to bring their dog into the school grounds but may remain with their leashed dog on the footpath outside the school gates. The exceptions are Assistance dogs that are specifically trained to assist those who are sight or hearing impaired. I thank you for your anticipated co-operation in this matter.

This newsletter is produced each Thursday by the students and staff of Biddabah Public School. For further information phone 4954 6058

Subscriptions can be mailed each week for $12/term or $25/year. Contact Christine, Jessica or Julie for details.

Advertisers please contact Christine, Jessica or Julie to negotiate special rates. Parents are reminded that paid advertisements are not necessarily endorsed by the school, but they do assist with the costs of publication.

Graeme Mason
Principal
Student Course

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. At Biddabah PS we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce or related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. We are therefore offering a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth which will commence in Term 2. This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to learn new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

Biddabah PS is pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who request to be involved. If you require further information please contact Mrs Hussain (3M), Mrs Morrison (2M) or make contact at the school office.

Parent Course

For many years parents whose children have participated in the Seasons for Growth® Young People’s Program have been asking ‘Is there a program that can help parents, too’? The Seasons for Growth® Parent Program has been developed to meet this need. The program provides an opportunity for parents to reflect on the experience of separation and divorce from their child’s perspective, and to explore ideas and strategies that might help parents support their child/ren through the changes happening in their family.

This term the parent course will be offered at St Joseph’s PS, Charlestown. Please contact Jenny Harris who coordinates the program. Whilst she works for the Catholic Diocese, the program does not have a religious theme.

Jenny Harris  P 02 4979 1355 | F 02 4969 2035  
Email jenny.harris@mn.catholic.org.au  
Visit us online www.mn.catholic.org.au
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4 sessions for $80

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Tuesday & Friday 6:30am
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9:30am

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Thursday 6:30am

Butts & Abs (30min) $7.50
Monday & Wednesday 5:30pm

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Warners Bay

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For information and Availability
My Three Days at YMCA Parliament Primary School

By Alexander Sabotkovski

At the parliamentary camp I learned a lot, met new friends, went to parliament house, ate lots of delicious food, played lots of fun games, had a disco, won a medal and I felt like I had become a better leader.

**Day 1 of camp:** I was happy to arrive after our early drive from Newcastle to Sydney. After meeting the “taskies” and some of the other kids, we had sessions that included learning about leadership and advocacy. I also met my committee members. All of them are great public speakers. I also played some fun games and had chicken stir fry for dinner.

**Day 2 of camp:** Everyone went to parliament house and did speeches. We were there for most of the day and I won a medal for best male speaker! We left at 4:45pm and everyone had Burritos for dinner. We finished that night with a really fun a disco.

**Day 3 of camp:** The last day of camp was jam packed!! Everyone had to pack their suitcases because we had to leave for the AUSGRID learning centre. We learned some practical advocacy and some leadership skills. We played musical chairs and said our goodbyes.

In reflection, I feel that this has made me a better leader for activities such as Peer Support (or any leader in general). I loved every second of camp and would love to go again and I think everybody should go.
Due to the difficulty parents are having purchasing bottle green track pants; the uniform shop is placing a special order for them.
These need to be paid for in advance and there is no returns.

Standard pants (not double knee) with cuff sizes 4-16 $17, larger sizes Sml to 3XL $21.
Standard pants (not double knee) no cuff sizes 3,4-16 $17, larger sizes Sml to 2XL $21.
Double knee pants with cuff sizes 4-16 only, $19.
Double knee pants with no cuff sizes 4-16 only, $19.

There is one sample of each of these in the uniform shop. All orders need to be placed at the office by 9am Friday 15th May on the track pant order form (available at office or on this newsletter). The delivery should be mid the following week.

If there is a call for more orders another special order can be placed later in the term and one at the beginning of term 3 only.

Please look at the samples and choose carefully as these cannot be returned.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Sizes</th>
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<td>$19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track Pants (double knee, no cuff) ((sizes 4 to 16 only) (43102K)</td>
<td>$19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track Pants (cuff) (4-16) (4310TP)</td>
<td>$17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(sizes Sml to 3XL) (1310TP)</td>
<td>$21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track Pants (no cuff) (3,4-16) (4310SL)</td>
<td>$17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(sizes Sml to 2XL) (1310SL)</td>
<td>$21</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please Note: All orders must be pre-paid at School Office. EFTPOS and Credit Card facilities are available for purchases of $20 and over. Our Volunteers will do their best to fill paid orders and deliver to students on Friday each week (stock availability permitting).
**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, education 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 of each test is informed by the national Statements of Learning for English and mathematics, which underpin state 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](http://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 the 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 services 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 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 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 missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 15 May 2015.

Will I receive a report on my child’s performance?
A NAPLAN report will be issued by 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 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.
- 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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAPLAN 2015 tests timetable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 12 May</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>language conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 minutes</td>
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</table>

- Language conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy test includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
- Calculators are NOT permitted in the numeracy test 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.