

Partners in Learning May 14th May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an everyday part of the school calendar since 2008.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May.

NAPLAN tests identify whether all students have the literacy and numeracy skills that provide the critical foundation for their learning, and for their productive and rewarding participation in the community. Students are assessed using common national tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN tests broadly reflect important aspects of literacy and numeracy in the Australian Curriculum adopted by each state or territory.

Below is a table outlining the dates and timing of the tests.

Year	Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May
Year 3	Language conventions: 45 minutes Writing: 40 minutes	Reading: 45 minutes	Numeracy: 45 minutes
Year 5	Language conventions: 45 minutes Writing: 40 minutes	Reading: 45 minutes	Numeracy: 50 minutes

This week the year 3 and year 5 students at [Melton](#) West Primary school, along with all other students across Australia, have participated in NAPLAN testing. The teachers have ensured that the children have been prepared for the testing and made the environment as comfortable as possible.

Later on in the year, usually around mid-August to mid-September, the results of the test are published. The staff at Melton West Primary school will analyse the information provided on how students are performing in the areas of literacy and numeracy and use this along with other data sources to support improvements in teaching and learning.

Kind regards,

Inspirational Quote of the Week: If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely – Roald Dahl

Hello Melton West P.S,

This week we did a presentation for the teachers about a program called “Teach the Teacher”. By giving students a greater say in their education, Teach the Teacher aims to create an inclusive culture where everyone’s voices are equally heard. We look forward to working with the student focus groups and teachers to make Melton West Primary School even better than it already is.

This week the Grade 3’s and 5’s completed Naplan. We are very proud of the way they conducted themselves and the effort they put in. Tomorrow the Grade 1’s are going on an excursion to Werribee Open Range Zoo to learn about animals and their habitats. One final reminder for our Grade 6 students, Year 7 transition notices need to be returned by tomorrow.

Have a wonderful week!

Daniel and Akur



PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse. No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community. Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.



Melton West Primary School is a Child Safe School

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school and base all our decisions on what's best for the students. Please talk to a staff member if you have any concerns about a child's safety at any time.

Getting it right in English!

The importance of regular Read Aloud opportunities

Our home reading program encourages children to bring home Just Right Texts to read to an adult or older sibling. Children are encouraged to practice the reading goal set in class and engage with a text that is slightly challenging but is able to be read independently and understood.

However, just as important is for children of all ages to experience being read to. Modelled reading (reading to or reading aloud) involves children listening to a text read aloud by an adult. The adult models skilled reading behaviour, enjoyment and interest in a range of different styles of writing and types of text. Reading to or reading aloud provides an opportunity for adults to demonstrate their enjoyment in reading, and allows children to see a purpose in learning to read.

Reading aloud allows children to access texts that they are not able to access independently. It provides an opportunity for children to see and hear skilled reading behaviours, which they then begin to imitate and internalise.

Children gain practice in constructing images of events, people and objects that are removed from themselves. Unfamiliar and unusual vocabulary and increasingly more complex text structures, features and genres can be introduced and explained.

Most importantly, a reading aloud or being read to demonstrates interest and engagement in reading. A genuine engagement in reading by an adult can nurture a passion for literature. *

Ways you can support children when reading aloud to them:

Before Reading

Practise reading the book so you are familiar with the story-line, expression required and any unfamiliar words



During Reading

Read slowly
Enjoy the story
Use an expressive voice
Avoid interrupting the story



After Reading

Encourage students to:
Discuss the book and its meaning
Share and compare own experiences to those in the book
Describe characters and events they especially liked/disliked and say why

**Adapted from the DET Victorian Literacy Portal- Modelled Reading*

Sarah Marshall

Leading Teacher- Literacy

It is the mission of Melton West PS to work collaboratively to ensure high levels of learning for all.

Top Ten Apps for Learning Maths

These days more and more kids are using tablets and smart devices. This is providing a great opportunity for parents to use mobile applications (APPS) that link Maths to real life experiences as a way of drilling, practicing problem solving and teaching concepts.

The top 10 apps for children

Amazing Time - helps children learn to read the time as well as understand the language of time. Age group: 5-12.

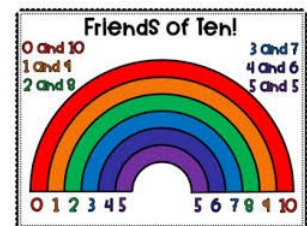
Bee-Bot - helps children practice the language of position. Age group: 5-7.



Concentration - covers a range of mathematical concepts beginning at number recognition, all the way through to equivalent fractions. A very useful app for building fluency and improving concentration. Age group: 5-12.

Coop Fractions - a fraction app that provides practice at placing proper and improper fractions in a number line. Players choose a level of difficulty. Age group: 10-12.

Friends of Ten - uses 'ten frames', a resource used in most classrooms in Australia and allows children to practice their number skills using the familiar structure of the ten frames. Age group: 5-7.



Math Quiz - for older children, the game can be played individually or in multi-player mode, and covers a wide range of mathematical concepts. Great to help children revising for maths tests. Age group: 11+.

Mathsterious Mansion - based on whole number understandings, addition, subtraction and the 100s chart, it supports the development of mental computation. Age group: 7-10.



Ninja Factor Free - builds fluency around multiplication facts. Age group: 8-12.

Number Lines - helps children with basic addition, sequencing and skip counting. Great for practicing the number skills learned at school. Age group: 5-6.

insights

Helping children make and keep friends

by Michael Grose



Enjoying healthy relationships has a tremendous impact on your child's wellbeing and their overall success at school. Many children who experience behavioural problems at school have difficulty interacting with their peers.

Coach your child in positive social skills

Children who develop healthy friendships generally have a definite set of social skills that help make them easy to like, easy to relate to and easy to play with. If your child is struggling to make friends consider coaching them using this three-pronged approach:

Be open: Some children close themselves off to forming new friendships, preferring to stick to one or two friends. Encourage your child to be open to forming friendships with a wide variety of children in and outside school and in doing so encircling themselves with many friendship groups

Be inclusive: Encourage your child to include a wide number of children in their games and activities rather than restricting the possibility of joining in to certain children. Healthy friendship groups are open and inclusive of others, while unhealthy relationships, such as cliques are restrictive, one-sided and full of gossip and criticism

Be aware: Encourage social awareness in your child. For instance, a socially-aware child would be discrete when giving out birthday party invitations at school, being protective and sensitive to the feeling of those not invited. This level of social awareness doesn't necessarily come naturally to all children, but it can be reinforced by parents and teachers

Encourage friendships with both genders

The primary school age is an ideal time for children to form friendships with both genders. This is particularly valid if your child has siblings of their own gender, or don't have siblings. It's through these early relationships that we gain the confidence to mix with different genders in later life. Forming friends helps to break down the mystique that can form, when a child has little contact with the 'other' gender.

Understand the impact of gender on friendships

Research shows that boys' friendships groups are more inclusive and less changeable than friendships enjoyed by girls, particularly those in the eight to twelve year age group. Be prepared to support your daughter through the hurt of friendship breakdowns and remind her that new friendships are just around the corner. Help her reflect on her own place in a friendship breakdown, and be open to restoring a relationship once emotions are in check.

Remember, friends of a feather flock together

If you think that your child doesn't have as many friends as a sibling or other children their own age, don't be too alarmed. On average, children usually have only two or three significant friendships at any one time. It's the quality rather than the quantity of friendships that counts. If you are concerned that your child lacks friends at school encourage him to take up a variety of extra-curricular activities. It's easier to strike up a friendship with someone when you have something in common.

Above all else encourage your child to be friendly by talking to others, showing an interest in what other children do, offering help when needed and being willing to enter a new game or social situation. Consider teaching your child, if necessary, alternatives to fighting and arguing when there is disagreement and conflict within groups.

As your school has a membership with Parenting Ideas, you can attend the upcoming webinar - Teach girls to build each other up- at no cost!

About the webinar

Join Parenting educator Collett Smart in this special webinar that will show you how to help girls create positive peer relationships and provide practical advice and ideas to help them navigate tricky situations including toxic friendships, cliques and bullying.

When

Wednesday 29 May 2019 at 8:00 PM AEST.

Price

This webinar is \$37 per person to attend, and is free of charge to families at schools that have a Parenting Ideas membership. Use the voucher code below to register.

How parents can redeem the voucher

1. Click this link: <https://www.parentingideas.com.au/parent-resources/parent-webinars/webinar-teach-girls-to-build-each-other-up>
2. Click 'Add to cart'
3. Click 'View cart'
4. Enter the voucher code **FRIENDSHIPS** and click 'Apply Coupon'. Your discount of \$37 will be applied to the order. This voucher is valid until 29 June 2019
5. Click 'Proceed to checkout'
6. Fill in your account details. These are the details you will use to login to your account
7. Click 'Place Order'



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. His latest release *Anxious Kids*, was co-authored with Dr Jodi Richardson.

HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AGAINST THE FLU

The flu isn't like the common cold, it can hit quickly and last for weeks, meaning time off work or school and staying away from family and friends. The flu is a highly contagious viral infection that can cause severe illness and life-threatening complications, including pneumonia. For vulnerable Victorians, like children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with a weakened immune system, the flu can have serious and devastating outcomes. All Victorians over 65 are eligible for a free flu shot that is specially formulated and gives them increased protection. In Victoria, children aged six months to under five years can get a free flu shot. Pregnant women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and anyone with a chronic condition or weakened immune system are also eligible for a free flu vaccine.

The best defence against the flu is with the flu vaccine. You can still have a vaccine now to be protected for the peak flu season, which is generally June to September. The flu vaccine is available from general practitioners and many pharmacies.

There are also some simple steps everyone can take to help stop the spread of the flu. If you feel a sneeze or cough coming on, cough or sneeze into your elbow. It stops your hands getting covered in the flu virus and will help stop the spread of those nasty germs. Our hands are one of the top spreaders of germs and viruses. Washing your hands thoroughly with soap and water at regular intervals throughout the day is a quick and easy way to help stop the spread of the flu.

The best way to avoid spreading the flu is to stay at home while unwell. Avoid going to work or school or visiting busy public places and vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly.

For more information visit [Fight flu this winter](#)



Melton West Primary School—Girls 5/6 Soccer Team

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