Principal’s Welcome

We have welcomed Mr Brad Cummins to our school. Brad has taken over from Katrina Holmes who has gone on leave. He is teaching Mathematics and Science.

A reminder that our next Student Free Day is on Monday 7 September. Teaching staff will continue their work in the implementation of the Australian Curriculum using the IBMYP in Years 8 to 10 and the new Australian Curriculum that will commence in SACE Stage 1 for English and Mathematics in 2016. There are no classes on Friday 4 and Monday 7 September as Friday 4 September is a School Closure Day. The Governing Council approved our last Student Free Day for Friday 4 December. Our staff will commence a five module assessment professional program through the Institute of Educational Assessment (IEA) which will continue throughout 2016. This program is designed to engage teachers in understanding the research underpinning effective assessment practices supporting student learning.

Student drop off and pick up

A reminder to our parents and caregivers that when dropping off or picking up students from the school the carparks at Blackwood Primary School are reserved for the Primary School. Parent and caregivers can drop their children adjacent to our school along Seymour Street. There is no parking at the turning area at the end of Seymour Street. Please be aware that the safety of everyone is important so please exercise caution along Seymour Street.

Term 3 significant events

As we reach the middle of Term 3 there have been a number of significant events. Our Year 12 students and their partners exhibited mature and responsible behaviour whilst celebrating together at the Year 12 Formal. Four teams competed at the National Dance Stars Competition on the Gold Coast. Their performances on 15 August were the culmination of hard work, commitment and practice. Our Year 10 students competed in the Science and Engineering Challenge which sees them progress to the State Finals on Wednesday 26 August. Involvement in sporting competitions has seen students competing in the spirit of sportsmanship. One thing that is common to all of these opportunities is the way our students are complemented on their responsible and supportive behaviour. They should be proud of themselves.

The remainder of the term marks the fast approaching completion of schooling for our Year 12 students. It is important they make sure they have a balanced approach to both school and out of school commitments so that they can look back and know that they gave their final weeks of schooling their best efforts. For our Year 8 to 11 students they are approaching the midpoint of Semester 2 and have an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to achieve. Seeking assistance from teachers including asking questions during class time is important. A commitment to getting work finished and avoiding tasks building up is critical. At the end of the term a parent/teacher interview will occur on Thursday 25 September for report distribution.

The first part of this term has seen a number of parent and caregiver meetings covering the Ski Trip, SACE Evening and SATAC information evening. Thank you to the many parents and caregivers who have attended these events so that we can support the important partnership between our staff and families in supporting students to make informed decisions.

(continued on page 2)
2015 Southern Science Expo at Tonsley TAFE
On Thursday 20 August three student teams will be demonstrating their knowledge and skills in Science and Technology as part of the 2015 Southern Science Expo. Our students will be joining with students and teachers from eight other secondary schools. This event marks part of National Science Week. Primary students from Belair, Bellevue Heights, Blackwood, Coromandel Valley, Eden Hills and Hawthornedene supported by our school to attend this event to gain an understanding of the breadth of the applications of science and technology as well as the range of experiences students in secondary education can experience and be involved in.

2015 Writing Competition
Year 8 to 12 students can enter a poem or short story as part of the 2015 Writing Competition. Further information at www.write4fun.net.

Influenza (flu)
Across the state there has been high incidence of influenza. Where students are experiencing illness due to influenza it is important for their health and the health of others, for them to stay at home until they have completely recovered. Influenza is spread by coughing or sneezing which produces airborne particles. The airborne particles spread influenza when they come into contact with the moist lining of our body such as the nose, mouth and throat. It can also be spread by contact with hands, tissues and other items which may have had infected nose and throat discharges. There are a number of signs and symptoms of influenza including:

- Headache
- Muscle ache
- Fatigue
- Sneezing
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Rapid development of a fever.

Most people take about a week to recover although the cough and fatigue may last longer. Influenza can lead to pneumonia which is a lung infection or inflammation and other complications. Whilst the influenza season has started it is not too late to be vaccinated as the peak of the influenza season has not yet occurred.

If parents or care givers are concerned about their child(ren) missing school work whilst they are recovering from the flu please contact the school to discuss how we can support you.

Faculty of Science & Engineering at Flinders University
On 10 September the Flinders University Faculty of Science & Engineering is running a Parent Information Evening, aimed at demystifying the university application process, as well as the transition to university studies. This event will be of particular interest to parents/caregivers and Year 11 and 12 students interested in a Science, IT, Maths or Engineering degree. Further information is at http://www.flinders.edu.au/events/show/event/parent-information-evening-september-2015

Travelling on school buses and public transport
The introduction of Metro Cards has enabled students and families to link their cards bank accounts or other accounts to ensure there are sufficient funds for students when they validate the card. Our school buses have ticket inspectors who will be boarding buses to ensure all students have paid for their travel. There is provision of fines of $220 and upwards for people who are not paying for their bus travel.

Marion Coady, Principal

BEANIE FOR BRAIN CANCER – FUNDRAISER FRIDAY 28 AUGUST
Year 8 student Melanie Rudd’s grandfather passed away due to a Glioblastoma, after a check-up at the hospital early this year. He was told he only had three months to live on a special medication but this medication gave him severe diabetes so he had to stop taking his medication. So six weeks after he was diagnosed he passed away under sedation in the Mary Potter Hospice. When she found out about the Beanie for Brain Cancer Foundation she was intrigued immediately and decided to get the SRC involved hoping that Blackwood High School can raise money to find a cure for this horrible disease. On Friday 28 August students have been invited to wear a beanie and bring a Gold Coin Donation for this worthy cause.
All funds will be donated to the Mark Hughes Foundation. The foundation has been formed to raise much needed funds to promote research, heighten awareness and support brain cancer patients.

Argie Buesnel, Student counsellor
BLACKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL HIGH ACHIEVERS

♦ Congratulations to Marnie Fiebig in Year 11 who was invited by the management of Australian Dance Theatre (ADT) to participate in a secondment week – a full week of company training with the ADT ensemble from 10 – 14 August.

♦ Congratulations to Tayla Zuvich in Year 8 who has been selected to play in the 14 & Under Netball team at Junior National Indoor Netball Championships to be held in Adelaide from 6 – 12 December at the Brahma Lodge Indoor Sports Centre.

♦ Congratulations to Nicholas Congedi in Year 11 who has been selected to represent South Australia at the Australian Schools Orienteering Championships in Ballarat from 26 September to 4 October.

♦ Congratulations to Olivia Wheeler in Year 8 who has been selected in the State Junior for Cycling Road team to compete in Victoria from 8 September to 14 September.

YEAR 8 DEBATING

Tuesday night saw the conclusion of the 2015 debating season. Over the year our teams grew in confidence and skill, and this culminated in the final two rounds, when we achieved considerable success. Our Year 8 Blue and Red teams won two of their last four debates, with three students taking out the prize for best speaker on 3 out of 4 occasions.

In Round four the topic for the evening was, “That the serving of alcoholic beverages on airlines should stop.” Our Blue team, comprising Joel Keen (8A), Alex Lauritsen (8F) and Ruby Brown (8G), argued the daunting negative case, while Harriet Cooling, Maiya Mathwin (8D) and Aimee Tulloch (8F), our Red team, argued the affirmative. In an extremely tight debate the Blues took on Pulteney Grammar School, effectively arguing every point and even winning on the rebuttal count. Finally it came down to the wire, but we couldn’t quite get over the line. On a positive note, Ruby Brown was awarded best debater on the night.

The Reds faced a determined Glenunga International High School, but were tasked with a more sympathetic affirmative argument. Superior coaching from Ms Rogers, combined with the very effective researching and oratory skills of the students, saw them take the win, along with the best debater award for Aimee Tulloch.

The final round saw both teams debating the negative argument, “That cyclists should be allowed banned from main roads.” Once again Ms Rogers, Ms Hodson and I were impressed by the standard of debating from all teams, and immensely proud of the cogent arguments, excellent presentation manner and razor sharp rebuttals put forward by both Blackwood teams. By night’s end we had won the best debater prize in both debates - well done Ruby and Harriet - won one of the debates and sailed tantalisingly close to winning across the board.

I take this opportunity to commend the outstanding efforts of both teams, comprising Alex Lauritsen (8F), Joel Keen (8A), Aimee Tulloch (8F), Maya Mathwin (8D), Harriet Cooling (8D) and Ruby Brown (8G), the excellent coaching of Ms Rogers and Ms Hodson, and the support of parents who travelled to support the teams and the school.

Raphael Zadey, English and Humanities Leader
SAFE AND LEGAL USE OF MOBILE AND INTERNET COMMUNICATION

Janet from the Sturt Police Station Crime Prevention Unit visited our Year 8 students recently, and provided us with a highly informative talk. The presentation covered a range of important issues, including protecting your digital reputation, keeping safe online and cyberbullying.

One of the most illuminating aspects was the legal ramifications of student use of mobile phones. Students as young as 10 years old can be arrested and charged with the following crimes:

- **Example:** A student sends harassing or threatening comments to another student through any messaging service (mobile or internet).
- **Crime:** Using a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence.

- **Example:** A student takes a naked selfie, but decides not to send it.
- **Crime:** Production of child pornography.

- **Example:** A student sends a naked photograph of himself/herself to someone else.
- **Crime:** Distribution of child pornography.

- **Example:** A student receives a naked photograph of another student from someone they know (or even someone they don’t know) and does not delete it.
- **Crime:** Possession of child pornography.

Furthermore, anyone convicted of the last three crimes can be placed on the Sex Offenders Register, which has significant implications for the rest of their lives. The government provides great help videos from cybersafety expert Dr Michael Carr-Gregg to assist parents with online safety concerns. These can be accessed from the link shown, and cover a range of issues listed below.

Rogan Tinsley, Year 8 Leader

YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY COASTAL EXCURSION

On Tuesday 4 August, three Year 8 Humanities classes comprising Care Groups 8B, 8D and 8F travelled to Seacliff and Brighton to look at the different types of coastal management. At Seacliff we could see evidence of soft engineering techniques being used, including sand replenishment and beach revegetation. We studied how the vegetation kept the dunes in place and saw fences around the dunes to protect the vegetation from people walking on them and causing erosion. We studied how the waves were moving in a North-Easterly direction, in response to longshore drift, which in turn pushed the sand from South to North.

As we walked to Brighton, we noticed the sand replenishment pipes. This is a soft management technique and is used to transport the sand from the north back down to the south, in an effort to counter the effects of longshore drift. Without these pipes, the southern beaches would be gradually stripped of their sand. At Brighton we saw harder engineering techniques such as sea walls and rip raps – large rocks piled in a wall. We learnt how the rip raps absorb the power of the waves during storms, and how they both protect the seawalls behind them from damage but also how they help to catch some sand preventing beach erosion. Everyone noticed that Seacliff looked like more of a natural beach with dunes and kayakers whereas Brighton looked more commercial with seawalls and shops. It was good to see all the different forms of coastal management enjoy a fun day out.

Jenna Zeman and Maddie McDonald, Year 8 Students
SAFE SCHOOLS COALITION
The last Year 9 assembly was about explaining that Blackwood High School is a member of Safe Schools Coalition South Australia and what that means. Year 10 SRC member, Imogen Deller-Evans outlined her attendance at the inaugural Action Day on 22 May for the Safe Schools Coalition. Imogen explained that the day focussed on sharing plans and actions to help create safer and more inclusive schools for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, staff and families. Natalyia Giffney from SHine SA then spoke on the coalition and what same sex, intersex and gender diverse people are.

Year 11 Health students: Kate Westphalen, Elle Noel-Barham and Kathryn Laity then spoke about how homophobia and transphobia can be a form of harassment. The students explained how sometimes the inappropriate use of the word ‘gay’ can be hurtful and isolating for some and how we can change this habit. The assembly closed with a video clip ‘Free to be Me’ about a Victorian VFL footballer, Jason Ball, and his journey and acceptance in coming out to his family, friends and teammates. Jason Ball is now a Beyondblue Ambassador and has successfully campaigned for the AFL to confront homophobia. The BHS SRC and Safe Schools Coalition group will be looking at ways to raise awareness of these issues in 2016.

Janet Bradley, Year 9 Leader

NAPLAN
In May, Australian school students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 undertook the NAPLAN in the areas of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy.

Blackwood High School Year 9 student’s NAPLAN reports have arrived and were posted home during Week 5 (17 - 21 August). Due to more expedient processing of NAPLAN assessments by the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA), we are now able to distribute these reports earlier than in previous years. The NAPLAN report shows student results in comparison with all other students from Year 9 in Australia who sat the NAPLAN. There will be an opportunity for you to discuss these results with your child’s Care Group teacher at the Term 3 parent-teacher interviews and report collection evening scheduled for 24 September 2015.

Included in this newsletter is an open letter from ACARA (see page 11). This letter outlines the purpose of the NAPLAN and contains tips for parents / caregivers about how to read the report. As indicated in the letter further information on how to read the report can be found on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au.

The NAPLAN report forms just one element of the information we have about our students at Blackwood High School. Through our reporting procedures at Blackwood High School you will already have been provided with information about your child’s learning.

If you wish to discuss the results with your child’s teacher or Mr Jarrod Chave, please phone the school to make an appointment.

Jarrod Chave, Assistant Principal Middle School and Student Wellbeing
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS VICTOR HARBOR VISIT

Last Friday our class went to Victor Harbor. It’s a sunny day and I’m very happy. We went with bus to the zoo, there are many animals. There is very pure and fresh air. I feel good. In the zoo my favourite animal is the kangaroo. Kangaroos live and travel in groups. Australia is the home of kangaroos. We use food to feed kangaroos. I saw little kangaroo in mother’s bag, only his feet outside. Kangaroos are crazy to rob and my fingers got injured and they eat all the bag so I don’t have food to continue to go forward. I feel tired so I meet at collection point. There are two koalas and I touched the soft belly.

Later we go to Granite Island by bus. On the island full of stones and grass and a long bridge to land. The scenery is very good. We walked a long way and I ate sandwich for lunch. I didn’t go to hotel because I’m very poor. Finally we go back to school. I’m tired and happy. It is funny day.

Zijian Li (Sam)

We go to the Victor Harbor on last Friday, it’s rainy today. I hope when I go to the Victor Harbor, the weather will be changed. We arrived at Urimbirra Wildlife Park, it’s sunny! I’m happy. Domesticated member give me some food. SA have many different birds, I like emu, big eyes very cute. I see a sheep like a Dolly. Suddenly lots of kangaroo came up to me, I give food to them, and kangaroo eat paper, amazing! I saw a kangaroo family, the baby stay in her mom pouch, and the father sunbathe, the baby’s brother suck in his mom milk, it’s a big family. Koala is lazy, always sleeping, but when food coming, they wake up! I touch koala back it’s soft.

After wildlife park, we going to the Granite Island, it’s no very big, I find Horse-drawn vehicles. It’s interesting, we climb up the hill, we see the ocean, it’s beautiful! Water is very clear, grass is green, like paradise! I take a picture with friends. I like Victor Harbor, I want to travel again, it’s a special experience.

Chang Gao

Having an excursion is a really great time. Last August 14, Friday, we went to Victor Harbor for an excursion. Together with the other students, we the ISEC class rode on a bus with Mrs. Jones and Mr. Nick. Our first destination was in the Urimbirra Wildlife Park. We enjoyed feeding the animals there especially the kangaroos. We saw some bats, owls, dingo, crocodile, snakes, different types of birds, peacock, sheep, and a lot more. We also touched and patted the koalas on their back. Their fur was really fluffy and soft. We also bought some souvenirs from the shop. I really had a great time together with the other students and I even met some new friends. Of course, I really had a lot of pictures together with the animals and other students. Our next destination was Granite Island in Victor Harbor. We rode on a bus to get there. While on our way there, I saw a beautiful ocean and islands. It’s a good thing that is kind of sunny when we arrived there. We walked over a bridge all the way to Granite Island. I’m quite relieved that it’s not cold because a lot of people said that it should be really cold in there. We walked for almost an hour around the island. We saw a lot of beautiful views while walking on the island. The big granite rocks are so cool and really huge. I can see The Bluff from the island. I climb from one of the rocks and it’s really cool. The water is really blue or light blue and it’s really good to see that kind of ocean. When we were done walking around the island, we decided to go back to Victor Harbor and ate our lunch. I ate lunch at Macca’s together with a friend. After some time, we got back on the bus and headed home. I really had a great time last Friday. It’s like the greatest time I had since I’ve been here in this school. I’m looking forward to going back there together with my friends one day during summer time. I can’t wait for the next excursion.

Mariah Logronio
DANCE STAR

Blackwood High School dancers persistent hard work was rewarded once again for a second year in a row with an invitation to the 2015 National School Dance Star competition held on the Gold Coast. Four of the six teams entered were granted a nationals berth representing South Australia and Blackwood High School in junior and senior hip hop, jazz and contemporary dance. The teams competed at the Convention Centre at Broad Beach against teams from Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales with the standard even higher again than last year’s. The Blackwood High School teams performed at their exceptional best. However, this year we were not able to place in any category but certainly have made our presence felt in this competition. Students had a fantastic day at Dream World, shopping at Pacific Fair and walks on the beach.

I would like to acknowledge the parents who accompanied the group on the Gold Coast trip and thank them for their support as audience members. Congratulations to all the 2015 Dance Star competitors and coaches for their fantastic achievement in representing South Australia and Blackwood High School at the National Dance Star competition as well as all the performers and coaches who have also been part of the theatrical and large jazz teams performing in the State final.

Auditions for a place in the 2016 squad will take place in Term 1 2016 and we look forward to expanding the program. The Dance Star National team results for this year were Senior Hip-hop 4th, Junior Hip-hop 5th, Contemporary 5th and Jazz 6th.

Katrina Constantopoulos, Dance teacher

In Week 4 Term 3, 27 students were invited to attend the Dance Star National competition in the Gold Coast, Queensland. We arrived on Thursday 13 August and our first stop was Dream World. The day was full of rides, excitement and girly squeals. We returned home to organise our hotel rooms and leave for dinner at Aztec, a Mexican restaurant for a Mexican Fiesta that was highly enjoyed by all. Friday was our day for rehearsals and time for a shop. The rehearsals were intense but rewarding and the high intensity prepared us for the competition day. Saturday started with an early wakeup to prepare for our day at the Gold Coast Convention Centre. Contemporary, senior Jazz, junior hip hop and senior hip hop all performed extremely well with full enthusiasm and effort. Unfortunately none of our teams placed but our trip was well deserved, we left with our heads held high and positive impression on the crowd.

Jess Pyke and Mel Pisano, Year 11 students
SPORTS NEWS

OPEN BOYS KNOCKOUT FOOTBALL

Results of the minor round:

**Game 1 v Aberfoyle Park:** Blackwood 8.3 def. Aberfoyle 4.3  
Goal Kickers: Nathan Beenham 3, Nathan Dun 1, Damien Bahr-Kelly 1, Tynan Carney 1, Mitchell Smith 1, Tom Brown 1.

**Game 2 v Cardijn College:** Blackwood 10.10 def. Cardijn 2.0.  
Goal Kickers: Josh Rosman 4, Tynan Carney 2, Nathan Beenham 1, Chris Williams 1, Nathan Dunn 1, Damian Kolman 1.  
Best Players: Chris Williams, Mitchell Smith, Nathan Beenham, Tom Brown, Nathan Dunn, Matthew Walton, Tynan Carney.

**KNOCKOUT FOOTBALL PRELIMINARY FINAL**

On Tuesday 28 July we headed off to Cornerstone College to play in the Preliminary Final of the Open Boy’s Knockout Football. In our first fixture for the day we took on the home side Cornerstone College. Both teams got off to a shaky start and at quarter time there was yet to be a goal scored. In the second quarter Cornerstone College was able to convert in front of goals and put themselves two goals up at half time. Blackwood managed to pull the lead back to just two points going into the last quarter. However, Cornerstone College was able to get on the end of a couple of good plays and ultimately win the game by three goals. The boys had a small break before they were into their next game against Thomas Moore. The boys showed some real spirit in this game coming out victors by 61 points. While we did not get the result we were after, we were very proud of the way our players played and represented the school on the day.

**Game 1 v Cornerstone College:** Blackwood 2.3 defeated by Cornerstone 5.6  
Goal Kickers: Chris Williams 1, Mitchell Smith 1.

**Game 2 v Thomas Moore:** Blackwood 10.9 defeated Thomas Moore 1.2  
Goal Kickers: Nathan Dunn 4, Daniel Nash 2, Ryan Williams 1, Chris Williams 1, Nathan Beenham 1, Tom Brown 1.  

**Glen Little and Dan Smith**

**OPEN BOYS AND GIRLS KNOCKOUT HANDBALL**

On Friday 31 July we set off to Pasadena High School for the Open Boys and Girls Knockout Handball. We were represented in the competition by two boys’ teams and one girls’ team. All the Blackwood High teams tried hard all day and this was reflected in their results with the boys finishing third and fourth and the girls also finishing fourth. All students should be proud of the way they represented the school on the day.

**Liam Clarke**
SCIENCE ALIVE
Science Alive was held on 7 August with a large number of Year 10 and 11 students participating. The enthusiasm was great to see as the students were able to discover what science careers are on offer. The day was jam packed full of demonstrations, speakers and applications in industries.

Rachelle De Fazio, Science teacher

Student summaries of the day:
I like how the Science Alive excursion had exhibits that covered all areas of science. My favourite exhibit was the animal stall, which contained lots of unique reptiles including a young crocodile! The staff workers were very enthusiastic and knowledgeable on the subject and further fueled my interest in studying animal behaviour.

Aaron de Koning, Year 11 student

At the Science Alive Expo Forensic Science SA had set up a booth to show what they do and they also had a competition. The competition was that students were given some pieces of evidence and we had to solve who murdered the victim. Forensic Science SA provides independent, objective expert scientific opinions and evidence to the justice system and community of South Australia.

Charlotte Thomson, Year 10 student

The Science Alive Expo was really informative. It told us all about futures in science and possible future University courses we could do when we graduate. There were heaps of different stalls, from different universities, giving out information to us. The shows there about physics, chemistry and a bit of biology were really great too. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and would willingly go again.

Henry Berndt, Year 10 student

CAMP JUMBUNNA SA
Vacancies exist for a Weekend Retreat for women caring for a son, daughter, parent with a disability. Camp Jumbunna SA is a yearly state wide retreat weekend, from 16 to 18 October 2015 that supports women carers. The women carers who attend are carers for special needs children, or partners with a disability, or those who are looking after their parent/s with a disability. All women carers who are registered with their local Carer Support group and aged 18 – 60 years can attend.

This year the camp is at Blanchetown’s Roonka Water Activity
This is a low cost weekend for $100.00 which will provide an opportunity for fun, friendship and relax along the Murray River.

For mailing of registration form please contact Camp Jumbunna’s email address campjumbunnasa@gmail.com or phone Kath Rutledge on 82852960

HELPING TEENS THROUGH ADOLESCENT EMOTIONS
Effective Living Centre, 26 King William Rd, Wayville
Wednesday 2 September, 7.30pm
Presenter – Vina Hotich
Transitioning from childhood through teenager years to adulthood can be a tumultuous journey for all involved. This seminar aims to help parents identify ways to enable teenagers to express their stress, anger and other strong emotions effectively and respectfully. This seminar is helpful for parents of teenagers, but also for parents of youngsters approaching their teens.
Keep your kids smiling
Dental care is FREE for most school children and ALL preschool children at the Marion GP Plus School Dental Clinic. All children aged 0-17 are welcome.

Call us now for an appointment on 7425 8400.

The Blackwood Uniting Church
Community Classes would like to invite you to its Quiz Night...

DATE: SAT 5TH SEPTEMBER

TIME: 7:30PM

Where: The Church at the Roundabout
Cost: $10 Entry
Tables of 8
BYO Nibbles & Drinks
Silent Auction & Much More ...

CONTACT Jacqui in the Office on 8278 7699 or come in and see me!
NAPLAN 2015 results will be provided to schools from mid-August to mid-September, depending on your state or territory Test Administration Authority.

If you are the parent of a student in Years 3, 5, 7 or 9 you will be receiving an individual report of your child’s results for the tests they sat in May. These tests in key areas of literacy and numeracy provide parents and educators with a snapshot of how students are progressing — individually, as part of their school community and as a nation.

NAPLAN results enable parents and teachers to see how students are progressing, not just within their class but also against national standards that have been agreed upon by all state and territory governments.

How do I read the results?

The front page of the student report provides some general information about the tests and an explanation of how to read the report.

The second and third pages have diagrams that show your child’s results for each area (literacy, reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation) on the common assessment scale. The common assessment scale has ten bands and is used to report results for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. However, only the relevant six bands for each year level are shown on the student report.

The diagrams in the student report also show the range for the middle 60 per cent of students, the national average result and the national minimum standard for each year level. Reports in some states and territories show the school average.

The final page of the report has a table that provides a brief description of the skills students have typically demonstrated in the tests at each band.

How to read the achievement scale

A student’s result is shown on an achievement scale for each assessment area. Results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10. The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in the assessments.

For example, the large majority of results for Year 3 are reported across the range of Band 1 to Band 6, as illustrated in the diagram above.

How does NAPLAN help my child and my school?

NAPLAN is designed to provide data on a student’s literacy and numeracy achievements. It complements school assessment and provides nationally comparable data that allow for objective discussions, for successes to be celebrated, and for areas needing improvement. It helps governments to know whether programs designed to improve student literacy and numeracy are effective. It assists parents to know how their child is tracking against students in the same year level across Australia.

Your school principal will be able to give you more details on how your school uses NAPLAN data.

What impact will the results have on my child’s future?

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 students as there are no rewards or punishments for the result a student achieves. Testing children is not new, NAPLAN is unique because it gives a national snapshot of how students are doing in the important skills of literacy and numeracy. NAPLAN does not carry the same potential consequences as ‘high stakes’ tests, such as Year 12 exams.

Some schools may ask for NAPLAN results in addition to school reports as part of the admissions process for secondary school, or for students changing schools. NAPLAN tests are not designed to be a school admission test, however, results are sometimes used to inform new schools of student needs. If you have any concerns, ACARA encourages you to talk them over with the school.

Where can I go for more information?

Your child’s classroom teacher or school principal should be your first point of contact for any concerns you might have about your child’s results.

More information about NAPLAN tests and the National Assessment Program can be found by visiting the NAP website (www.nap.edu.au).

Who else will see the results?

Schools will be provided with results for all students who sat NAPLAN in 2015. Schools are encouraged to use the results to celebrate success, inform their planning and address areas requiring improvement across the school.

Average school results are publicly reported on the MySchool website (www.myschool.edu.au). The website is updated with the previous year’s results in the first quarter of each year. MySchool also offers the opportunity for the school to look at a number of different aspects of each school’s profile, as well as comparisons with schools that serve similar student populations. Your child’s individual results are not available to MySchool!

What if the results are not what I expected?

NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. Students are provided with an indication of where their results are on the common assessment scale. The student report also indicates the skills and understandings that students are expected to demonstrate at each band of the scale. The same scale is used for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 so you will be able to track your child’s progress over the years.

NAPLAN results provide a snapshot of student performance on the days of the tests. There are many reasons why students may not have performed to the best of their ability, such as illness or other distractions. Equally, some students may perform much better than expected when compared against their regular classroom assessment results.

If your child’s results are either higher or lower than you expected, you should discuss these results with their teacher.

What is ACARA?

As an independent authority, ACARA is tasked with improving learning for young Australians through the development and implementation of world class school curriculum, assessment and reporting. Our work is informed and guided by the generous assistance of a wide range of stakeholders, including teachers, principals, governments, education authorities, professional education associations, community groups and the general public. For more information, visit www.acara.edu.au

ACARA will improve the learning of all young Australians.
Interested in becoming a WEP Australia exchange student? Read on to find out how!

WEP Student Exchange

A WEP student exchange allows teenagers to exchange their school, culture, family and possibly language for a selected time period in another country. It is far more rewarding than simply being a tourist, as students live like locals and acquire knowledge not available to the general traveller. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel and study at an overseas school with the support of a volunteer host family.

Hear from one of our returned students:
"Honesty, choosing to go on exchange is one of the best decisions I have ever made. You experience so many different aspects living in a different culture for a couple of months, that you would never experience any other way. I have made so many memories with my host family, friends and improved my French so much that I wouldn’t change this experience for anything, I will truly miss everyone I have met!"

-Sophie, France

Find out more on WEP’s social media pages!

If overseas travel isn’t right for you, why not host?

WEP Student Hosting

We are now looking for volunteer host families for our exchange students arriving in February. Open your hearts and home to an overseas student and benefit from the following:

- Gain long-lasting friendships
- Experience another culture
- Rediscover your backyard
- Most importantly, have loads of fun!

“Our hosting experience exceeded expectations. Seb was an absolute delight to have in our home for three short months.”

Kaye, Melbourne

Request A Free Information Pack

www.wep.org.au 1300 884 733 info@wep.org.au
Child & adolescent Sleep Clinic

Does your teenager have a sleep problem?

Does your teenager:
- have trouble falling asleep?
- not fall asleep until late at night?
- have trouble waking up or getting out of bed in the morning?
- miss school or feel fatigued throughout the school day?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, your teenager could benefit from a new treatment program being run at the Child & Adolescent Sleep Clinic, within the School of Psychology, at Flinders University.

For more information please call 8201 7587 or email casc.enquiries@flinders.edu.au
www.facebook.com/cascsleep

PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL (DAWS ROAD HIGH SCHOOL)
50TH ANNIVERSARY

Open Day Sunday 6 September 2015
11:00am - 5:00pm

Memorabilia rooms – by decade including displays, photos, meet and greet tables and chairs, guest books for signing

Souvenir stores: some school magazines from the nineties and 2000s, food and refreshments for sale

School tours including specialist facilities and self-guided tours available

Dawes Road High School bands from Battle of the Bands era

MACCA’S NEXT STEP PROGRAM

Play footy on Adelaide Oval

5-8 year olds - $99
Monday 28th September - Adelaide Oval | 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm

9-15 year olds - $220
Tuesday 29th September – Adelaide Oval | 9am – 3pm
& Wednesday 30th September – AAMI Stadium | 9am – 3pm
Tailored programs to suit each age group

Each participant will receive:
- Personalised Maccas Next Step Guernsey
- Family pass to the 2015 SANFL IGA League Grand Final on Sunday
- 27th September at Adelaide Oval
- Play a game on Adelaide Oval
- Access to Adelaide Oval’s elite football facilities

www.sanfl.com.au/nextstep to register
Numbers are limited so register now to guarantee your spot.
Registrations close Monday 7th September

You are invited to attend a presentation on Community Resilience

Guest Speaker Jai O’Toole
State Manager of Emergency Services—REDCROSS

Held at the Coromandel Community Centre Inc.

16 September 2015
7pm for 7.30pm start

What is resilience and how can communities and individuals be better prepared for emergencies and natural disasters.

Light supper and drinks provided.

RSVP by 11 September 2015
PH. 8370 6880

The Centres AGM will precede the presentation