NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for students in Years 3 and 5 will be held next week. These tests are a “snapshot” of a child’s performance on the day.

For children in Year 3, this may be the first “formal” test that they have undertaken. Our teachers have been familiarising students in both Years 3 and 5 with the requirements of NAPLAN. They have used past papers to make them more at ease with what to expect.

As with all situations, some children find the notion of testing more stressful than others. It is important to encourage children to have a healthy attitude to tests, as these will be the first of many in their educational life. One way to help them develop a sense of proportion is to model this ourselves. No test is the end of the world. No test is ever the full measure of what a person knows or can do. No one should ever judge their worth as a student or a person by a score or a number.

Of course, we encourage our children to do their best; personal best is a worthy goal in whatever they do. However, I would advise against promising gifts or rewards for high results—it puts undue pressure and paints a picture that says only an "A", a "High Distinction", a "Band 6 " or a "UAI of 95+", or being in the top group, is good enough. NAPLAN doesn’t measure effort, work habits, consistency or attitude. It tells us a lot, but not everything, and maybe not the most important things, about our children as learners.

Studies have found that “soft skills” such as sociability, punctuality, conscientiousness and an ability to get along with others were better predictors of success than test results. The study also found that, 10 years after graduating, students who took part in extra-curricula activities earned more money and achieved higher levels of education than peers who achieved similar marks.

This highlights the importance of developing a balanced, well-rounded child, not just a child with a single focus, be that academic, sporting, musical or creative. Students who learn to manage their time, interact with a range of people in a range of situations, commit to an activity, and cope gracefully with both success and disappointment are learning life skills which will make them desirable to an employer and allow them to make the most of whatever ability or talent they may have.

Good luck to all students taking part in NAPLAN, and to those sitting for the ICAS (formerly UNSW) tests. Do your best; read the questions carefully; try to answer everything and check your work.

Mrs Anne Hewson - Acting Principal
Introducing our New School Website!

Last term, we commenced work on delivering a new school website which we hope you will find more informative and easier to navigate. The website is supported by the School Website Service and provides links to additional information provided by the Department of Education and Communities (DEC).

We are delighted to announce that the new website is now live and can be found at www.hurstville-p.schools.nsw.edu.au. There is also a subscription button, available on the website, to have The Belltower emailed directly to you each fortnight.

One of the features of the new website which we think many parents and extended family and community members will find particularly helpful, is the Google Translate facility.

Found at the top of each of the pages of the website, the Google Translate button allows you to select from 80 different languages, which will then translate the page you are reading into the language of your choice.

Unfortunately, it won't translate attachments we add to the website but it will, nonetheless, make lots of important information about our school, and the DEC, much more accessible.

Other features which we believe you will appreciate are:

- an improved school calendar, to keep you up to date with coming events;
- a Notes section, in which will be placed a pdf copy of all notes distributed at school, so that you can print a copy if the original is lost or if your child is away when the note is distributed;
- copies of current and past editions of our newsletter, The Belltower;
- News items, from both the school and the DEC, to keep you informed about issues in education and important events at school; and

**Friendly Reminders**

**Mother’s Day – Sunday 11 May**
Have a wonderful day Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts and Special Women.

**NAPLAN testing for Yr 3 & Yr 5 students**
Testing will take place over three days:
- Tues 13 May – Language Conventions and Writing
- Wed 14 May – Reading
- Thurs 15 May – Numeracy

Please ensure that your child arrives to school on time on these days.

**Walk Safely to School Day – Friday 23rd May**
This a national event when all Primary School children are encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. The objectives of this day are:

* To encourage parents & carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
* To promote the health benefits of walking and to help create regular walking habits at an early age.
* To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult’s hand when crossing the road.
* To help children develop the vital road crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
* To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
* To promote the use of Public Transport.
* To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.
* To reduce the level of traffic congestion.

We encourage you to walk your child to school on Friday, 23rd May as part of Walk Safely to School Day. **Authority to Publish Student Work**
We have a large number of students who have not returned the yellow authority to publish student note that was sent home in Term 1. This information assists teachers in knowing if your child has permission to have their work/photo published. If you have not returned this note, please do so as soon as possible.
School Years, which provides more information relevant to the particular grade your child is in.

One of the reasons we have developed a new website is to improve our communication with you. We will be doing our best to make the website relevant and interesting, and our main source of information for you and the wider community.

We hope to be able to present the new website at the next P&C Meeting and take you through some of its features.

I encourage you to regularly visit the website itself as there will be more information there than can be included in the newsletter. The new website will continue to grow and develop as we add more information. It is a “work in progress” and we have plans to add more pages in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, we trust you will find this website helpful and informative. Happy reading!

You’re Invited!

To the
Official Opening of Block N
By
The Premier of NSW, the Honorable Mike Baird MP
and
The Minister for Education, the Honorable Adrian Piccoli MP
on
Monday 19 May 2014
at 1.15 p.m. in the school playground (weather permitting)

We are delighted that the Premier and the Minister will be attending our school on this occasion. Their visit will, by necessity, be brief and will conclude at 2:00 p.m. Parent and carers are warmly invited to be present in our school playground for the ceremony.
**Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)**

Students have had a wonderful start to Term 2. They have settled into routines quickly and have also been very enthusiastic to participate in classroom activities. Kindergarten students went to their first whole school assembly on Monday morning. Teachers were very impressed with how mature the Kindergarten students were.

This whole school assembly will take place each Monday morning on Area 5. We request that Kindergarten students line up in class lines in Area 1 as normal so that class teachers can walk students across. If you arrive late on a Monday morning, please bring your child to Area 5.

We are requesting that students bring in one glue stick this term. We complete a lot of activities that require pasting and last term’s supply of glue has nearly run out. We appreciate your help in this matter.

We are also encouraging students to bring in skipping ropes or small balls to use in the playground. Please label skipping ropes or balls with your child’s name and class. We have found that some students are wearing too many layers of clothing under their school uniform. Sometimes the weather warms up and the students become too hot. They are then unable to take off the clothing under their uniform. Please encourage your child to wear their jumper which they can remove when they become too hot.

Please come and see your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns. We always have time to talk to you about your child.

**Mrs Jessica Maakaroun - Assistant Principal**

**Stage 1**

**Year 1**

Welcome back to Term 2. We hope you all had a relaxing holiday.

This term, Year 1 students will be learning about toys. They will be investigating different sorts of toys and looking at toys and games children played with in the past. In Week 4, students will be going on an excursion to Hurstville Museum to further develop their knowledge and understanding of toys from the past. Please forward the permission note and $5 in a sealed envelope to your child’s teacher by 16th May.

Year 1 students are looking forward to participating in Got Game which starts on Thursday. Sports uniform is to be worn on Thursday for this term.

**Year 2**

Welcome back to all our students. We hope that the holidays were very relaxing and you are ready for another term of excellent work.

On Tuesday, our Junior Choir had their first full day rehearsal at Oatley Public School. It is clear that our children have been learning their choir songs during the holiday as they sang the songs beautifully and with confidence.
They had a great day out and some even met friends from other schools. More information about our next full day rehearsal will be sent home soon.

Since returning back to school, we have had some cold mornings. A reminder to parents that the children need to bring their school jumper or jacket each day. Please also remember to write your child’s names on their jumper or jacket as the children often take them off during the day as it gets warmer.

There are many lost jumpers in our lost property box which is in the library. If your child has lost their jumper at any time this year, please have a look in lost property.

Mrs Zaga Marinkovic and Mr Graham Enright - Relieving Assistant Principals

**Stage 2**

**Years 3 and 4**

Welcome back to Term 2! This promises to be an exciting term for Stage 2. This term, Year 3 is studying “Indoors, Outdoors” and the way buildings are designed and made and Year 4 is studying “Who Will Buy?” and “Mass Production”.

Last week, Year 4 started swimming lessons at Col Jones Pool. Students were very excited and had a great time while also learning to swim or refining their swimming techniques. Please ensure that students have with them their goggles, towel, swimming cap and change of clothing. These items should also be labelled.

This week, Year 3 started their Athletics program with Got Game. These sessions promise to be a fun and engaging way to learn key athletic skills.

Next week is a big week for Stage 2. Year 3 will undergo NAPLAN testing on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We wish those students the very best of luck. Friday marks the last day for Year 4 students to bring in their Expression of Interest and Application forms for Entrance into Year 5 Opportunity Class in 2015.

Miss Bronwyn Daniels – Assistant Principal

**Stage 3**

**Year 5 – Camp Review**

At the end of Term 1, Year 5 went to ‘The Sydney Academy of Sports and Recreation at Narrabeen’ for camp. We stayed there for 3 days and 2 nights. We slept in cabins that were actually small motel rooms with TVs inside. We were allowed to watch TV during free time. In the cabins, we had a bathroom that was small but convenient, two single beds, a bunk bed and of course, a TV. Next to one of the single beds there was a glass door that we were not allowed to open.

Every night when we were tucked into our sleeping bags on our beds, we talked a bit and we fell asleep ready for the next day ahead of activities. We had to keep our rooms tidy for the room inspections during dinner. They gave us a rating for each room. Some people needed to clean their rooms and bathrooms. We had turns to shower and brush our teeth. Some of us even woke up at 6:00am and watched TV.
Camp Narrabeen was the best of all camps and very comfortable. Narrabeen had lots of fun camp activities to keep us busy and happy. Every night, we would stumble into bed and fall asleep after the long day of activities. Then camp ended and we were very disappointed that it was over. All of us had the best time of all our lives. We all wish we could go back! We all learnt new responsibilities.

By Daisy 5I

**Activities**

At the end of Term 1, Year 5 went to Narrabeen Sports and Recreation Centre. There we experienced canoeing, rock climbing, archery, high ropes and bushwalking.

Many people had fun while canoeing and joined in fun and challenging games and got their old shoes wet. Many students were challenged to go beyond their comfort zone and test their courage when climbing the high ropes, especially when on the flying fox.

When participating in high ropes, students were put into three different groups according to how well they thought they could climb the rock wall. Many people managed to succeed and reach the top of the rock wall. When the students tried archery, a few of them hit the bullseye and some were close to it. Everyone had fun and even the teachers joined in.

During bushwalking, many people started to sweat and really worked their muscles. But, when they got to the top of the hill, the view was worthwhile. They could see the campsite as well as the mountains and hills surrounding them. Afterwards, all the bushwalkers gathered sticks to make a fire so that they could cook damper. After it was cooked, they ate it and some people even put honey on top. Everyone had fun and enjoyed their trip.

By Liyang, 5I

**Food**

At the end of Term 1, Year 5 went to ‘Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation Centre’ for camp. When we arrived, we ate lunch. For lunch we ate beef burgers. People enjoyed their lunch. For dinner, we had chicken and fish with corn, peas and gravy. The chicken and fish were delicious. For dessert, we had caramel mousse or ice cream.

The next morning we had toast and cereal for breakfast. There was no limit to the amount of toast you could take. For cereal there was cornflakes and coco pops. For lunch we had a taco and it was yummy. For dinner we had Spaghetti Bolognese.

For the last lunch at camp, we had hot dogs. Lots of people went back for seconds. After that meal, we returned to school.

By Fiona 5I

**Experiences**

I learnt many skills while away on camp. I learnt how to serve the food to 130 people. On the first day at camp, I served the peas and the fish. I made a lot more friends, and I have learnt how to be independent and to behave myself away from home. I can look after my belongings, put myself to bed, and I can also make my own bed. I was challenged to complete new and exciting activities.

By Horatia 5I

Mrs Tina Cowley and Mrs Rebecca Ingram – Assistant Principals
**Support Unit News**

Welcome back to Term 2! It’s great to see that all our students have quickly settled back into their routines and are ready to engage in some exciting learning activities.

This term, K/2J, 1/6D and 4/5H will be studying a unit of work called “Changes on the Farm”. This will provide them with many opportunities to learn about how animals change and our food is grown. 5/6M are studying a Science and Technology unit of work called “Out in Space” where they will learn about the planets in the solar system.

Thank you to all our Year 6 parents who participated in the review meetings. The applications for a support class placement in Year 7 will be submitted in Week 4 and a copy will be sent home shortly.

*Mrs Nicole Moore – Assistant Principal*

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**Stage 3 Dance Groups**

This is a reminder that the Stage 3 Girls Dance Groups will be starting in Week 3. Please meet Mrs Muir under the cover outside the school hall. Girls are allowed to wear appropriate clothes for dancing under their school uniform. If there are any girls in Stage 3 who are still interested in joining, please see Mrs Muir for notes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Girls</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7:55am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 Girls</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7:55am</td>
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Please keep an eye out for notes coming home in regards to a Stages 2 and 3 Boys Dance Group starting later in Term 2. This dance group will take place on Monday mornings from 8 until 8:50am.

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**Got Game Information**

This term, students in Years 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 will be participating in the *Got Game* program. The program runs for eight weeks and commenced this week. *Got Game* provides accredited Physical Education teachers to deliver innovative PE programs which enhance and extend the experiences we are able to provide for our students.

Some of the challenges facing children today are the decline in fitness and coordination, and the increase in childhood obesity and passive recreation. With more children living in home units, and fewer participating in weekend sports, we are supplementing our regular PDHPE curriculum area with specialist teachers with the expertise to target specific skills; build confidence and enthusiasm; and teach new activities using specialist equipment and resources. Our experience of this program is that children greatly enjoy the new activities and are challenged to build their skills and fitness in a fun and supportive way.

Students in Year 3, 5 and 6 will be participating in lessons with an athletics focus to build the skills and capabilities which will be required at our Athletics Carnival. Students in Years 1 and 2 will be participating in lessons with a focus on balance, rhythm and movement. Lessons will be 40min in duration. Talk to your child about the kinds of fun activities they participate in during the Got Game sessions. We will include photos in the next Belltower.
It is going to be another busy and productive term for the Band. Some upcoming events include:

Band Camp: A note about Band Camp has been sent home with all students who have completed Book 1 of Essential Elements. Band Camp will be held on 25th and 26th August. It costs $185 which is to be paid directly to Engadine Music. This is a wonderful opportunity for the senior band members to extend their skills, both musically and socially.

BandFest: All of our bands will be participating in Bandfest on Tuesday 17th June, which will be held at St George Bank Auditorium Kogarah. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learnt and perform as a band in front of an audience. Parents are welcome to attend. The approximate time for each band’s performance is:
- Training Band - 1.20pm
- Concert Band - 3.00pm
- Wind Orchestra – 2.20pm

Joining the band is an important commitment for students. They must consistently attend weekly band rehearsals, as well as their tutorials, to keep up with their peers. Please encourage your child to attend all tutorials. The timetable below shows all rehearsal and tutorial times.

Ms Danielle Scott –Relieving Deputy Principal
Community News

Mother’s Day Stall
This week, the children of Hurstville Public School were able to purchase some wonderful Mother’s Day presents for Mums, Grandmothers, Aunts and other special women. The children had a great time choosing presents to take home as surprises for Mother’s Day which is on Sunday 11 May.

We would like to thank the P&C for organising this special event which provides an opportunity for all of our students to purchase a gift. Here are some photos of the children shopping for Mother’s Day presents.

Integricare
St George supported playgroups would like to invite you to our new playgroup in the park. Due to waiting for a venue we have been offered the use of Woodville Park to run our supported playgroup.

When: Every Monday
Where: 24 Hudson Street, Hurstville
(Woodville Park)
Time: 9.00am to 10.30am
Tel: 9567 4977

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2015
The School Office is now accepting enrolments for 2015.
NORTH SYDNEY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CENTENARY

FESTIVAL DAY

SATURDAY 17th MAY 2014

Celebrating a century of excellence and contribution to the wider community

11.00am – 3.00pm

Unveiling of a reproduction of the original school crest
Archival displays
Performances by current students and primary school students
Jumping Castle
Food Stalls
Buskers
Face Painting

PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

12.00 (noon) Welcome and unveiling of the school emblem
12.15pm North Sydney Girls High School Concert Band
12.45pm North Sydney Girls High School Bassoon Quartet
1.00pm Cammeray Primary School Band
1.30pm North Sydney Girls High School Senior Jazz
1.45pm The Swords Club display
2.15pm North Sydney Girls High School Centenary Ensemble
2.30pm North Sydney Girls High School Centenary Ensemble
2.45pm Neutral Bay Primary School Band

AURASMA

Some of the items on display have been tagged with an Augmented Reality app. To experience these please download and install the free app: “AURASMA” before you attend on the day. Simply search for it on your iTunes or Android App store and download. It's free!

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