

WESTPORT

PUBLIC SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE IN A CARING ENVIRONMENT



Monday 25 March 2019

Welcome to Week 9. This week has already been a busy week for many of our students, whereby they have been displaying their interests and talents throughout many different platforms.

Last Wednesday our school mixed netball team played in a local gala day. The students performed well and won some and lost some games. They were all well behaved and enjoyed the day. Thanks to Mrs Thorogood and Mrs Burton for their fantastic coaching!

Also last week, three of our staff Mr Whiteoak, Miss Kelly and Miss Harland all attended the Connecting to Country cultural training at the local Lands Council. The teachers were very impressed with the quality of the training and the cultural significance of our local Aboriginal sites. This training will greatly enhance the way in which the teachers incorporate Aboriginal aspects into their curriculum.

Last Friday the infant students attended the Gruffalo performance at the Glasshouse. All reports indicate that it was very well done and the students had a great time.

This week students will be participating in the practise online NAPLAN. This is to help students become familiar with the online test and to allow them to be relaxed and ready for the actual test next term. Thank you to Mrs Osborne for overseeing this process.

Enjoy the week ahead.

Tony Johnston
Principal

Term 1 Assembly Timetable – 1 pm

K – Year 2	Year 3 – 6
	Week 4 – 6 Frangipani
Week 5 – 1/2 Paperbark	Week 6 – 5 Hibiscus
Week 7 – 1 Acacia	Week 8 – 4/5 Melaleuca
Week 9 – 1 Banksia	Week 10 – 3/4 Macadamia
Week 11 – Bronze Awards (Time to be advised)	

The Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is now open weekly every Thursday from 8:30 am to 10:00 am.

Coming Events for Term 1

Tue 26 March	Schubert 7's
Wed 27 March & Thur 28 March	NAPLAN Online Practice Test
Fri 29 March	Mufti Day Fundraiser
Wed 3 April	P&C Annual General Meeting
Tue 9 April	Bronze Assembly
Wed 10 April	Zenith Testing
Fri 12 April	Last day of Term 1 K – 6 Reward Day

NAPLAN Online Practice Test

All students in Year 3 and Year 5 will sit the NAPLAN Online Practice Test this week. This will involve one 45-minute online test. Students will complete questions about reading, spelling, language and mathematics. Writing is not included in the test.

The Practice Test provides an opportunity for every student to experience the NAPLAN online assessment platform as well as the functionality and tools within the locked down browser. It also provides students with an opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions they will experience in NAPLAN Online.

The test is not marked and no results will be recorded, this is a practice to assist the students in feeling comfortable with the NAPLAN Online process which will take part during Weeks 3 and 4 in Term 2: Tuesday 14 May – Friday 24 May.

NAPLAN Practice Online test – 45 minute test	
Wednesday 27 March	Thursday 28 March
9.15am – 3 Redgum	9.15am – 3 Macadamia
9.15 – 3 Waratah	10.15 – 5 Melaleuca
10.15 – 3 Bottlebrush	
12.00 – 5 Hibiscus	

5 Hibiscus students will sit their practice test on Wednesday instead of Thursday as stated in the newsletter last week.

If you do not want your child to participate or you have any questions please see your child's teacher.

Nicole Osborne

Mufti Day

The senior choir is holding a Mufti Day on Friday 29 March to help fundraise for their excursion to Sydney. The cost is a gold coin donation that will be collected in class lines.

Senior Choir Fundraiser – Hot Cross Bun Drive

The Senior Choir will be holding a fundraiser to help raise funds for the Senior Choir Sydney excursion. We will be selling hot cross buns baked fresh from Bakers Delight. You can order traditional, apple and cinnamon or Cadbury milk chocolate hot cross buns for \$7.50 for half a dozen. Order forms will be sent home this week and will need to be returned by Week 10, Tuesday 2 April 2019.

Orders will be delivered to the school in week 11 and sent home with your child.

Thank you for your support.

Fleur Eichler & Megan Urquhart
Choir Teachers



(Traditional)



(Choc Chip)



(Apple and
Cinnamon)

Netball Gala Day

Some snippets of the Gala Day which was a great experience for the students who participated.



P&C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 3 APRIL 2019

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 3 April 2019 at 6.00pm

Staff Room – Westport Public School

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Westport Public School Parents and Citizens' Association will be held on Wednesday 3 April commencing at 6.00pm. At this meeting, all current office bearer roles will be declared vacant and nominations will be called for the following positions:

- President
- 2 x Vice Presidents
- Secretary
- Treasurer

This is a great opportunity for all parents and carers to join the P&C and nominate for one of the vacant positions on the executive committee and provides the chance to be involved in the shaping of the future direction of the P&C. For more information concerning any aspects of the P&C including the roles of executives, please refer to the NSW P&C Federation website: <http://www.pandc.org.au>

Film by the Breakwall

6 Frangipani and 4/5 Melaleuca students (actors) along with director/scriptwriter/cinematographer/costumes/editor Mrs Urquhart and Mr Whiteoak, as well as the producer, Mr Johnston, have created a short film to be entered into the Hastings Valley Community of Schools - *Film by the Breakwall*, film festival. Our short film is called *Space Junk* and has a space theme.

All local public schools were invited to be part of this exciting initiative. The festival will be screened at Majestic Cinema over two evenings – Wednesday 8th May and Thursday 9th May. Our actors and the directors will walk the red carpet at the premiere!



FREE

Sancrox/Thrumster
RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Community
Fun Day



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

SANCROX

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE









SATURDAY 30 MARCH 2019 9AM - 4PM

SOVEREIGN HILLS RESERVE - Chancellors Drive, Sovereign Hills, Port Macquarie

Join us for a FREE fun filled day for the whole family - meet our team of Fire Fighters, see the Fire Trucks and play with the Fire Hoses... there's so much to see and do.

Refreshments

Enjoy a FREE BBQ for the whole family

Kids Entertainment

Face Painting, Jumping Castle and much more

Demonstrations

Hose Drills, Truck Display, Electronic Extinguishers, Experience a Smoke House, Bushfire Survival Plan

BECOME A VOLUNTEER IN OUR BRIGADE... Ask us how at Fun Day!



FOR MORE INFORMATION Call James 0427045292 or email jrct92@westnet.com.au

Sancrox/Thrumster Rural Fire Brigade 164 Bushland Drive, Sancrox

 [sancroxruralfirebrigade](https://www.facebook.com/sancroxruralfirebrigade)



PORT MACQUARIE OLYMPIC POOL

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APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
MORNING INTENSIVE SWIM PROGRAM

★

WEEK 1 - Monday 15th April - Thursday 18th April 2018 (4 Days)

And

WEEK 2 - Tuesday 23rd April - Friday 26th April 2018 (3 Days)

\$56/\$42 pre-school and school age Learn-to-Swim - Seahorse Level (max 4 per class)

\$52/\$39 Goldfish Level (max 5 per class)

\$48/\$36 Frog Level (max 6 per class)

\$44/\$33 Penguin (max 8 per class)/\$44/\$33 Dolphin (max 15 per class)

(Fees include pool entry for the child) Please note that anyone who is swimming MUST pay the pool entry fee. Entry is only free with lessons if you are watching.

Bookings are being taken now

ALL INSTRUCTORS ARE AUSTSWIM QUALIFIED

Please note a non-refundable deposit is required to be paid at the time of booking.
There are no makeup lessons provided during the Intensive Program.



NAPLAN Online – information for parents and carers



2019

Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The assessment provides parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process - it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

What is assessed?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

In 2019 most students across Australia will sit NAPLAN online.

Feedback in the first year of NAPLAN Online showed that students engaged well with online assessments. One of the main benefits of NAPLAN Online is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test automatically adapts to a student's test performance. The test presents questions of higher or lower complexity, depending on a student's performance.

Tailored (or adaptive) testing is designed to assess a wider range of student abilities and to measure student achievement more precisely. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions more challenging than usual; they may be taking a more complex test pathway. A student's overall NAPLAN score is based on the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly.

NAPLAN Online is not a test of keyboard skills.

There are variations in how fast and well a student can type – just as there are variations in how fast and well a student can write by hand. Year 3 students will complete the writing test on paper.

To get an idea of what the online assessment looks like, visit the public demonstration site at nap.edu.au

How can I help my child prepare?

Help your child prepare by reassuring them that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and by reminding them on the day to simply try their best. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Ensuring students are familiar with using devices, typing on them and navigating through programs are a part of student learning and a requirement of the Australian Curriculum from the first year at school.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of coaching providers. NAPLAN is about assessing learning progress in literacy and numeracy.

Will my child sit NAPLAN on paper or online?

In 2019, your child will sit the NAPLAN online tests. However, children in some other schools across Australia will sit the NAPLAN paper tests this year. Federal, state and territory education ministers have agreed that all schools will move online by 2020. State and territory education authorities will determine when their schools move online.

As students are assessed on the same literacy and numeracy curriculum content, regardless of whether they complete the test online or on paper, results for both formats can be reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale. To find out more about NAPLAN Online, visit nap.edu.au

Participation in NAPLAN

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the annual NAPLAN assessment.

Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments. You should first discuss the use of any disability adjustments for your child with your child's teacher.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on NAPLAN Online disability adjustments or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

NAPLAN Online 2019 timetable

The assessment window for NAPLAN Online is extended from three days provided for the paper test to nine days. This is to give schools more flexibility in scheduling and accommodate schools that may have fewer devices. The NAPLAN Online assessment window starts on Tuesday 14 May and finishes on Friday 24 May 2019.

The online tests must be taken in the following order:

Test	Duration	Order	Details
Writing	Year 3: 40 min. Year 5: 40 min. Year 7: 40 min. Year 9: 40 min.	To be completed in the first two days	Year 3 students do a paper-based writing test on day one only
Reading	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	To be completed after the writing test	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts
Conventions of language	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 45 min. Year 7: 45 min. Year 9: 45 min.	To be completed after the reading test	This test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	To be completed after the conventions of language test	This test includes number and algebra; measurement and geometry; and statistics and probability

What if my child is absent from school on assessment days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule. Individual students are not permitted to sit NAPLAN online tests after Friday 24 May 2019.

How is my child's performance measured?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student has demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be issued by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to better identify students who would benefit from greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas to improve in teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results at myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

For information about how personal information for NAPLAN is handled by ACARA, visit nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy



Some helpful resources form the Got It! team

Labels and Attributions

Children who are struggling in terms of their social and emotional wellbeing will often present their difficulties through behaviours, both internal and external as well as relationships problems or strong emotions. Often labels are used when attempting to explain a child's behavioural state however this may overlook the emotional difficulties that are actually occurring. Often a behaviour can be assigned to a label that does not open up or explore the underlying issues of the child. Often these labels are used in an attempt to understand the child's feelings and emotional state but can be misused and can act a barrier to connecting with the child.

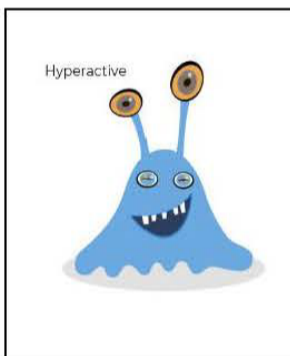
Some common Labels and their possible deeper meanings:



Angry: Children can often lash out in anger as a means to deal with intense feelings. Anger is often a secondary emotion meaning it is masking a feeling that the child may feel uncomfortable showing. These feelings often make children feel vulnerable and would prefer to show anger instead of sadness, loneliness or shame for example.



Naughty: Although all children play up at times, the children that are labelled as 'naughty' or 'bad' are often attempting to express and manage much more in their internal world than we realise. This may be trying to manage emotional pain, attempting to make friends or fit-in socially. They may even be struggling in the school environment or adjusting to change. These behaviours can be due to emotional vulnerability, anxieties or intense worries.



Hyperactive: Hypervigilance (enhanced state of sensory sensitivity accompanied by exaggerated/intense behaviours) can often be mistaken for hyperactivity/ overactivity behaviours. Hypervigilance is a state of constant alert from toxic levels of stress making it difficult for a child to concentrate, focus or stay still. The child's brain is on high alert for danger as they feel unsafe in their internal and external worlds resulting in the hyperactive behaviour traits.

These behaviours also need to be seen in the context of childhood development, bearing in mind that not all children develop at the same pace. As children grow, their ability to communicate or express their internal process will change. Delayed development may indicate further difficulties that require exploring on a deeper level e.g. seeing a Paediatrician. Resource: <https://emergingminds.com.au/>

The Curious Approach

Adopting a curious approach with children, stepping back and wondering what is behind the behaviour the child is exhibiting and having an open mind about what the child is feeling will allow you to gain an insight into their social, emotional wellbeing.

The curious approach requires you to not judge the behaviour but instead be sensitive to the child's experiences.