

26 April 2016

AN OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS: NAPLAN 2016

Dear parents

As you know, the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests will be held from 10 to 12 May 2016.

Now that the Australian Curriculum is being implemented in each state and territory, we've aligned NAPLAN to the Australian Curriculum: English and the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics. As such, NAPLAN should have less impact on your child's day-to-day learning, as the best preparation for NAPLAN is for students to continue learning what they do every day in the classroom.

NAPLAN is an important tool for parents, educators and the public to see how Australia's children are meeting essential literacy and numeracy standards. It's a point-in-time snapshot assessment of students' achievements in these important areas. It certainly doesn't replace the important tests that are regularly held in classrooms around the country. It simply complements existing tests and adds a valuable national dimension.

In August–September you'll receive your child's NAPLAN results. If you have any concerns, you should speak to your child's teacher, as they know your child's learning best.

Some students may feel anxious about NAPLAN, but it's up to the adults in children's lives to help keep NAPLAN in context. It's a test that is only taken four times in a child's schooling life – over three days, there are four tests that take around one hour each. NAPLAN tests what students should already know from their everyday learning, and there are no prizes or repercussions for doing well or not so well in the tests.

NAPLAN doesn't test everything that happens in a classroom – it isn't intended to – but it does look at the critically important areas of literacy and numeracy – skills that your child will take with them to their adult life.

For more information about NAPLAN, including fact sheets, FAQs and examples of tests, please [visit the NAP website](#).

Best wishes

Robert Randall

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