FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear Parents/Carers,

From next Tuesday, our Year 3, 5 and 7 students will complete the NAPLAN Tests for Language Conventions, Writing, Reading and Numeracy. The test schedule will be as follows:

**How can parents support their child during the NAPLAN tests?**

- Ensure that your child gets a good night’s sleep before each NAPLAN Test
- Ensure that your child has a big breakfast the morning of the tests
- Ensure that your child is at school by 8:55am bell, as the tests will need to start promptly to ensure students can access breaks on time
- Reassure your child that the tests are a “point in time” assessment that give an indication of how they are progressing in Literacy and Numeracy, and that teachers continue to gather evidence throughout the year regarding student achievement.

An individual NAPLAN report for each child will be sent home.
later this year. Please contact the school if you have any questions about your child participating in NAPLAN testing. Further information is available on the ACARA website - http://www.nap.edu.au/.

Over the past few weeks, teachers have been preparing students by running them through a number of practice tests. The purpose of this practice is to ensure that students know how to fill in the test and colour the answer bubble correctly. We do not “teach to the test” or engage students in repeated test practices. Instead, we focus on explicit teaching and addressing students’ needs through analysis of students’ work. We have also run a number of “booster” classes in Number during 2013-14, focussing on our students in Year 3, 5, and 7, in addition to our U2B Project. These classes have provided additional opportunities for students to practise problem solving skills. A HUGE thanks goes to our teachers Mr Edwin Martan, Miss Gemma Zielke, Miss Caitlin Ashcroft, Miss Kylie Wall, Mrs Annette Somerville, and Mrs Michelle Martin, who have worked hard to ensure that students are well prepared for the tests.

Please note: due to NAPLAN, there will be no Assembly on Tuesday 13th May.

Reminders for parents:

- The site next door to the school still belongs to Queensland Health, and not the Department of Education and Training. Queensland Health has kindly allowed our parents to park in their grounds since the beginning of the year. They have requested that parents do not park all day in their car park, and restrict their parking to the grassed areas. They also request that parents do not park in designated areas for QFleet vehicles. I would like to thank Queensland Health for helping us to accommodate parent parking, and remind parents about the importance of speaking kindly and respectfully to Queensland Health staff.

- Please remind your child to walk bikes and scooters in and out of school grounds so that other students aren’t accidently run over with their bikes. It is important that parents model this behaviour also, and walk their bikes into school grounds with their children.

Staff Action Research Projects - Maths Vocabulary:

Over the past couple of weeks, teachers have been preparing to start their next whole school Action Research project. So, what is Action Research? Parsons and Brown (2002) state that, “Action Research is a form of investigation designed for use by teachers to attempt to solve problems and improve professional practices in their own classrooms. It involves systematic observations and data collection which can then be used by the practitioner –researcher in reflection, decision making and the development of more effective classroom strategies”. To drive our Action Research projects, we use Helen Timperley’s, “Teacher inquiry and knowledge-building cycle”, pictured below:

During this project, staff will be testing the following hypothesis: “That specific pedagogical practices, are more effective in the explicit instruction of maths vocabulary and should therefore be shared practices at Brisbane Central State School”. Teachers have selected ten “high impact” words that they will explicitly teach to students. This week and next, teachers will pre-test the words to ascertain what students already know. Over the next few weeks, teachers will trial various explicit teaching strategies to support students to fully understand and know the target vocabulary, and use it accurately within a mathematics context. Through post-test data, we will be able to ascertain which strategies we need to adopt as teachers, to support the development of mathematics vocabulary. Next time you are in your child’s classroom, don’t forget to ask your child’s teacher what the “big ten words” they will be explicitly teaching this term.

My thanks to: Charmaine Xinis, Shona Arneil and Michelle Martin for leading this project, and to our amazing classroom teachers, who constantly look for opportunities to reflect on and improve their practice.
**Class Improvement Plans:**

Over the past two weeks, all teachers have met with either Charmaine Xinis (HOC), Shona Arneil (EALD Coach) and Alina Pugliese (Support Teacher: Literacy and Numeracy) to develop Class Improvement Plans Reading and Numeracy. During these meetings, we evaluate a range of school and classroom data, review areas of need for each student, then align school and class based interventions to each child. This is one part of our strategy to ensure that “no child is invisible”. These plans are also aligned to teachers’ professional learning needs and coaching/mentoring programs. In Weeks 7 and 8, we will be meeting with teachers again to review how the plan is progressing. Over the last two years, we have been building teacher confidence in using data to drive teaching and learning in their rooms. Through creating Class Improvement Plans, we are now putting a “face” on the data and striving continuously for improvement. My thanks to: Charmaine, Shona and Alina for supporting teachers through this process. My thanks also, to our teachers who willingly took time out of their schedule to engage in this important work.

**Knowing what is going on at school:**

Our Term 2 Events Calendar was published in last week’s newsletter. These dates are also recorded on our website’s calendar. As we have a very busy term planned, I recommend you download the QSchools app, and start adding these events to your phone or tablet’s calendar. If you have not already uploaded the free QSchools app to your smart phone or tablet via the iTunes or Google Play stores, I urge you to do so now! We also provide information about school events through our Facebook page, “Brisbane Central State School”, or via Twitter, “Bris_Cent_SS”. We have now reached over 100 “likes” on our Facebook page!

**Extension Programs:**

Invitations were issued this week to parents of students who were successful in being nominated for Mini Thinkers, Mini Writers and Mini Scientist programs offered to City Cluster Schools. Parent-information packs are expected soon for students in Year 6-7, who were nominated for Kelvin Grove State College’s High Achievers program. Please keep an eye out for these. We are very proud to be able to nominate a number of students across Years 4 to 7 for these extension programs.

**Get to School Safe Action group:**

We are looking for interested parents to be a part of our “Get to School Safe” Action group. If you cycle, walk, ride or drive to school, we want you!! Help make getting to and from school safe for our kids. Please let either Ivan Leeson (gettoschoolsafe@gmail.com) or Melissa Burke know if you would like to be involved!

Have a great week!

Melissa

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**P&C NEWS**

The P&C have requested that the Principal include the following information in this week’s newsletter.

The P&C has lodged an e-petition on the Queensland parliamentary website regarding the Queensland Health site adjacent to Brisbane Central State School. Community members wishing to access the e-petition can use the following link: http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/e-petition?PetNum=2247. This petition closes on midnight Monday 19 May 2014. Paper petitions can be returned to Amanda Woolnough, Alyson Fenton, or Karyn Wernham by Friday 16 May 2014.

**NAPLAN TESTING**

On Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, or NAPLAN, as it is commonly known.

Skills that will be tested include: reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

These tests are done here at school and are considered just another part of the curriculum.

It is important for you and your child to know that NAPLAN is not a pass/fail test. It simply looks at what level students
are achieving in literacy and numeracy against National Standards and compared with student peers throughout Australia.

NAPLAN cannot be studied for and students are not expected to do so. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that it is just a routine part of their school program, and to urge them to do the best they can on the day.

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

Later in the year we will send you an individual student NAPLAN report that you can use to view and monitor how your child is progressing.


If you have any concerns, please contact Melissa Burke on the schools main line telephone number: 07 3230 4333.

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### 2014 ICAS TEST

2014 ICAS Test nomination has closed.

Closing date for nomination was strictly on 6 May at 3:00pm.

If you have paid into the school account after this date you will need to request for a refund.

Request for Refund forms are available at the school office.

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### FIT N’ ACTIVE TERM 2, 2014

Here is the list of all the children that will attend these sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Starting next week 12/05/2014</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAYS</strong></td>
<td><strong>THURSDAYS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 4 – Year 7</td>
<td>Prep – Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonah M</td>
<td>Jackson W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elisha H</td>
<td>Archer W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layan B</td>
<td>Lahari A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arya B</td>
<td>Hari A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brendon M</td>
<td>Saarah M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rudra P</td>
<td>Adya B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rana E</td>
<td>Kaushal G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theo S</td>
<td>Priyanshi S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colin K</td>
<td>Isabella R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evan L</td>
<td>Isabela T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krish D</td>
<td>Sophia D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarju K</td>
<td>Tyler M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatih W</td>
<td>Simone B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinna A</td>
<td>Brian L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raheen S</td>
<td>Llewellyn H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leigh D</td>
<td>Helena G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odin H</td>
<td>Kelly L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valeska C</td>
<td>Yara A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathilde W</td>
<td>Lillan D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divyang C</td>
<td>Kohana D</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alexander B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Max S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seril V</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Jewon S</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Just a reminder that if there is a sibling, they can stay and watch their brother or sister. You only need to pick up once. Pick up is 4:15pm.

Apologies if I could not fit your child into this Term’s session.
Thank you,
Maree Lewis

UNIFORM NEWS

OPENING HOURS – The Uniform Shop will be open Mondays from 8:15am - 8:45am (or by appointment only).

ORDERING UNIFORMS – If you would like to order uniforms you can email Paula at uniforms@brisbanecentralss.eq.edu.au. The order will go home in your child’s bag once payment has been received. If you ordered the wrong size, it can be returned as long as it has not been worn.

* NEW IN STOCK* - all sizes of black zip up jackets available $35. Plus old style jackets & jumpers available at lower cost.

METHODS OF PAYMENT:
(1) You can put cash or cheque in an envelope for your child to give to their teacher, or
(2) You can bank the total into the P & C account
   BSB: 064012, Account: 0090 4486 (NOT THE SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT) - Detail uniform with your name (e.g. Uniform Smith).

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS – The uniform shop also has second-hand uniforms for sale. If you are leaving the school or have old uniforms at home please donate them to the school office.

ENQUIRES – If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in the Uniform Shop please email Paula uniforms@brisbanecentralss.eq.edu.au or TEXT ONLY to 0449 017 711.
1-2-3 MAGIC® & EMOTION COACHING
PARENT COURSE

Learn to manage difficult behaviour in children 2-12 years old
A three-session program for parents and carers
at the Positive Learning Centre
83 Gilston Street, Keperra
Three Wednesday sessions, the 28/05, 04/06 and 11/06 from 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Learn:
✔ To engage your children’s cooperation by positively noticing and encouraging them
✔ To set clear expectations and help them develop frustration tolerance
✔ To help children’s brains to develop filters for behaving well
✔ To resolve family conflict quietly
✔ Some simple strategies to practise being a calm parent

What people are saying...

“Absolutely fantastic! Loved the booklet. Leigh you have so much experience and thank you for incorporating that into your sessions. I would recommend this to any parent.”

“Thank you for an informative practical parenting course. It has been very helpful. Knowledge is the first step. Applying it the second, which may not be so easy! We can’t change others, but we can change ourselves.”

“What a relief to come across a program that preserves the dignity of the child, maintains the self-control of both the parent and the child and is actually easy to remember when memory is the first thing to go!”

“I realized quickly that 1-2-3 Magic can be a magnificent preventative measure that any parent can use to avoid raising a child who later down the line, needs excessive discipline or grows out of control.”

“I found this course very insightful. It gave me a lot of techniques I can use at work. I would recommend this course to any parent or childcare worker. I can see myself using 1-2-3 steps at work and introducing them to parents.”

Registration Fee?
The course costs $15.00
To register for this course contact Leigh Inglis at the Positive Learning Centre via email lindj1@eq.edu.au

For more information contact Leigh on 33542022 during school hours.

• An end to the arguing and yelling! • It saved our lives • Simple, sane, effective

This course is being run by a Parentshop® licensed practitioner. www.parentshop.com.au
What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of the school’s assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested and how?
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the national Statements of Learning for English and mathematics, which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

Who will run the tests?
NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or the principal. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?
NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. To prepare your child you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?
All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions, or who has recently arrived in Australia and is from a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can provide you with more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.
How is NAPLAN performance measured?
NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?
Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 16 May 2014.

Will I receive a report on my child’s performance?
A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

How are NAPLAN test results used?
- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to oothools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: www.myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?
For more information about NAPLAN:
- visit www.nap.edu.au
- contact your child’s school
- contact your state or territory’s education authority (details available on the NAP website).

NAPLAN 2014 tests timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Tuesday 13 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 May</th>
<th>Thursday 15 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language conventions</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Tuesday 13 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 May</th>
<th>Thursday 15 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language conventions</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Tuesday 13 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 May</th>
<th>Thursday 15 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language conventions</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>65 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Tuesday 13 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 May</th>
<th>Thursday 15 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language conventions</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>65 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Language conventions includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
- Calculators are NOT permitted in the numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, there is one numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.