

Blakebrook Public School Bulletin

Term 1 Week 5 – Thursday 23 February 2023

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DIARY DATES

Term 1 Week 5

Mon Feb 20 - Fri Feb 24 3-Way Interviews

Term 1 Week 6

Friday March 3 Welcome Disco & BBQ

Term 1 Week 8

Monday March 13 P&C AGM 5.45pm in the Library

Principal News

Welcome to Week 5!

We are now roughly halfway through the term. Our classrooms continue to be a hives of activity. Routines are now well established, and we are seeing pleasing results from the programs that are being implemented to support each child's social, emotional and academic development as well as provide many extra-curriculum activities. Looking forward to a great second half of the term.

Congratulations to our 2023 Leadership Team!

It was a wonderful occasion yesterday as we inducted our 2023 Student Leadership Team. Students and staff were joined by parents and guests for a formal ceremony and morning tea in the school COLA. Each of the leaders spoke passionately as to what the role means to them and the impact, they would like to have throughout 2023. We wish our leaders all the very best as they embark on their leadership journey.

Early Arrivals

Over the past few weeks there has been a noticeable increase in the number of students arriving to school early. Several buses arrive before 8:45am as well as parent drop offs. If this is the case for your student, they are to walk to the COLA area and remain seated until 8:45am. From this time a staff member will be on duty to supervise before school play. No student should arrive at school before 8:15am as it cannot be guaranteed that a staff member will be onsite.

NAPLAN

As many of you would be aware NAPLAN usually occurs for Years 3 and 5 around the middle of the year. In 2023 NAPLAN has been moved forward to March. This will enable teachers to use the information collected during these assessments to better inform teaching and make changes to better support each child within that year of schooling. It is important to remember that NAPLAN is just one aspect of the school's assessment and reporting process. Teachers use the information gained through NAPLAN to further deepen their knowledge around where each child is at with essential literacy and numeracy skills and plan targeted learning experiences to enhance learning outcomes. Students will be participating in NAPLAN in Week 8 and 9 of this term. During Week 7 students will participate in a practice session where students and staff will familiarise themselves with the testing platform as well as overcome any technical issues that may arise. Should you have any questions please feel free to make contact with the school.

NAPLAN Information for parents and carers

2023

Why do students do NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it's important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards and over time.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It doesn't replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' educational progress.

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

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Schools have transitioned from paper-based to computer-based assessments. All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are more engaging for students. One of the main benefits is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test presents questions which may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for everyone. ACARA supports inclusive testing so all students have the opportunity to participate in the national assessment program.

Adjustments are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), or our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

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

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

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN 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.

What if my school is closed on NAPLAN days?

Schools with compelling reasons may be given permission to schedule tests after the 9-day test window.

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some familiarisation and explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site.

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 15 March and finishes on Monday 27 March 2023. Schools are advised to schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

How is my child's performance reported?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. This scale indicates whether the student is meeting expectations for the literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided 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/carers may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time 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

To learn how ACARA handles personal information for NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3 students do the writing test on paper (on day 1 only)• Years 5, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2 only, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations)	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (sometimes called a 'prompt' – an idea or topic) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing)
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the writing test• To be completed before the conventions of language test	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the reading test	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the conventions of language test	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability

Cyber Safety

Education and raising understanding around cyber safety is an important part of the PDHPE syllabus. Each year our school delivers an age-appropriate program designed to support young people in making safe decision when online.

Safer Internet Day was held on 7 February 2023. To support our usual online safety program, teachers in Week 6 will deliver a short lesson designed to promote student safety online.

Technology has evolved dramatically in the past two decades and the benefits have been huge. These developments have also exposed us to many risks with real-world impacts, making online safety awareness even more important.

Parents and carers play a key role in guiding their children as they first encounter the online world and begin to learn through exploration, play and social interaction. It is a good idea to protect younger children from online risks such as encountering harmful content, contact with strangers or missing out on physical activity. But it is up to you to decide when and how they take these first steps, and how best to support them as they begin their online journey.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to make contact.

Sam Bowkett
Principal

Welcome Madi!

Hello! My name is Madi Nilon, and I am the Student Support Officer – Recovery Strategy. I am based at Nimbin Central School and will be providing outreach support to Blakebrook Public School to offer wellbeing support and delivering evidence-based programs to students. This term, I will be visiting on Thursdays to deliver 'Stormbirds' – a program provides support to our young people following the 2022 floods, offering the opportunity to share their story, understand feelings and learn skills to adapt and recover. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to working with the students, staff, parents and caregivers and the wider community. Bring on 2023!



THE RIVERS
SECONDARY COLLEGE

The heart of secondary education for Lismore

INFORMATION NIGHT

Year 5 and 6 students and families are invited to visit your local campus on:

Tuesday 7th March, 5:30pm-7:00pm

As prospective Year 7 students you'll have the opportunity to meet with the Principal, tour the campus and talk with students and staff about what makes our college the heart of secondary education in Lismore.

The Rivers Secondary College provides excellence in education by providing quality, innovative curriculum and student leadership opportunities, inspired teaching and learning as well as successful transition programs into workplace and tertiary education settings. Each campus works collaboratively with our local Lismore community to deliver a broad and inclusive educational experience and provide all students the opportunity to achieve the highest quality learning outcomes in a safe and supportive environment.



Kadina High Campus

Kadina St
Goonellabah

Phone: 02 6624 3133

Richmond River High Campus

1 Military Road
East Lismore

Phone: 02 6621 3456



Lismore High Campus

118 Dalley St
East Lismore

Phone: 02 6621 5185



Blakebrook Public School P&C Newsletter

Thursday 23rd February 2023 – Week 5 Term 1

P&C AGM Meeting will be held Monday 13th March 5.45pm in the school library, all committee positions become vacant. \$5 membership fee, you can renew or become a new member on the night before the selection process takes place. We welcome all parent/guardians and grandparents to come along.



The P&C Uniform Shop can now accept Back to School NSW Vouchers. To utilise your child's back to school vouchers please make a note of this on your Uniform Order Form and the P&C will be in touch about how we can process the voucher.

Don't forget, we have some lightweight jackets that were mildly flood affected but have been washed and are in good condition, free to BPS families.

A colorful poster for a BBQ event. The background is purple and blue with white confetti and circles. A white text box in the center contains the following text:

**BLAKEBROOK
RAINBOW
WELCOME BBQ**

MARCH 3RD 5.30PM

SAUSAGE SANDWICHES \$2.50
STEAK SANDWICH \$4.50
VEGGIE BURGER \$4.50

CAN OF DRINK \$2.50
POPPER \$1.50
WATER \$2.50

TEA/COFFEE \$2.00
CAKES/SLICES \$1.00