Principal Matters

*Wednesday 11th May 2016*

**NAPLAN:**
Students have now completed the National Assessments Program tests for Spelling and Grammar, Writing and Reading. Tomorrow morning we will complete the last one, Numeracy.

These tests are quite formal and they do raise some concerns and anxieties with some, but at this school we understand that they will provide some information to parents about how their child/ren performed against National benchmarks in May this year.

Students understand that these tests don’t say anything about who each one is as a person and the sort of qualities that they have: they don’t measure honesty or persistence; they don’t measure cooperation or problem solving in a group, and they don’t measure a whole range of other subjects taught on the curriculum. So, on balance, NAPLAN must be taken for what it is – a snapshot of student performance in a narrow band of achievement and skills on one day in a year.

**Lightning Premiership:**
Students look forward to this competition each year as it provides a great opportunity to compete and mix with students from our cluster schools. The event this year will be held on Friday, June 3rd.

We will need some parents to assist with transport and supervision – let me know if you might be available. (Regulations now require that cars used for student transport must be fully comprehensively insured and have more that

This year, we intend to field a team in Netball and a team for Milo style cricket. Our slight problem is that we have 13 students available from Years 3-6 and we need a few more. I will be talking with our students and some of our partner schools about how to resolve this so that all of our students can participate in something on the day.

**Kids Thrive:**
Our Philanthropy program that is being auspiced by Kids Thrive is now picking up some momentum.

The unfortunate discovery of an injured kangaroo on our school property yesterday facilitated the opportunity for one of the groups to meet with and interview one of the proposed philanthropy partners, Denise Bridges from McIntyre Wildlife Shelter, about her animal welfare work.

Next Tuesday afternoon we have another combined session at Baringhup and I am asking if a parent might be available to help with transport.
Parents and Friends:
Next meeting: Tuesday, 14th June.

P + F has had a change of office bearers. Tara Alexander has stepped down and Katrina Freemantle has now taken up the position of secretary. We would like to thank Tara for her significant contribution to the P+F in this role.

The Mother’s Day stall was a great success. I hope you all enjoyed your gifts. Mother’s Day Raffle was also drawn:

First prize: Kirsten (Business manager)
Second prize: Brooke B
Third prize: Georgia H
Fourth prize: Greg (from Beeps Bendigo)

A reminder that we are doing breakfast on the last day of term: 24th June.

4-6 Classroom:
Despite our focus on NAPLAN this week, we have still been doing our 2 times tables. As we have progressed through the week, all students continue to get faster and more accurate as they embed this knowledge.

We are also continuing with our class text The Sapphires. Students have been preparing a presentation on an aspect of history from the late 50s to the early 70s. These presentations will occur next week.

F-3 Classroom:
We have been enjoying our exploration of different cultures this week, as we read a variety of texts that showcase different cultures. The 2s and 3s have been participating in the NAPLAN testing, and they have been working very hard, and we are so proud of their efforts. Tomorrow is their last test, and we are sure they will be glad it is over.

We still need some information from parents about the relatives that moved to Australia, as part of our integrated unit of work. This afternoon we have met with Mark Weragoda, and we will have a full report on his visit next week. A reminder to please encourage your child to read each night, it helps to increase their fluency and understanding of different texts.