Preparing your child for NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing will be held next week for students in Years 3 and 5. It is extremely important that all students attend these tests and are on time to ensure they are not disadvantaged. Results help determine future school priorities and teaching focuses, and well as adding the big picture during school evaluations.

This should not be a stressful time for students or parents. There is always temptation to pump them full of NAPLAN style questions, however the best and easiest preparation involves the following:

1) **Have a good night’s sleep.** Go to bed on time so that you are not tired throughout the tests.
2) **Have a healthy breakfast** each morning to make sure your brain is at its best.
3) Talking to your child about the importance of **trying their best** but not to worry about it too much. The results don’t have an effect on individual students.

---

**NAPLAN Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 12th May</th>
<th>Wednesday 13th May</th>
<th>Thursday 14th May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language – 9-10am</td>
<td>Reading – 9-10am</td>
<td>Numeracy – 9-10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing – 10.20-11.20am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students in Years 4 and 6 will participate in a re-test of last year’s tests during these times to allow teachers to gain insight into improvement over the past 12 months.*

---

Stepping back in time at Tocal Homestead

On Thursday, K-2 travelled back in time on their excursion to Tocal! In the heritage surrounds of Tocal Homestead students engaged in hands-on learning experiences of life on an Australian Farm 150 years ago. Students participated in group rotations of various activities and explored the many rooms within the grand homestead, asking many interesting questions about all the vintage items inside. Students had a great time dressing up and learning that 150 years ago children were last in the bath and they wore the same clothes all week!

After a fun time dressing up about their iPads and fashioned games such as marbles and quoits. They piled into the Blacksmith’s Shed to learn how to make tools and horse shoes, followed by playing the role of a maid by collecting and carrying water for hand washing the clothes.

After a big day students happy to return to the 21st Century, electricity and their warm beds.
School Photos 21st May

Our school photo day will be held on Thursday 21st May. A range of packages will be available with an order form sent home closer to the date. These packages start at $23 for a group only photo package. “Sibling” photo packages will be available from the office. All students will have their photo taken on this day for school records, however there is no commitment to buy. Order forms will be sent home with the newsletter next week.

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

The AEDC is a national census of children that measures early childhood development of children in their first year of school. Census data is used by early childhood educators, health services, local councils, community groups, schools and governments to help plan and allocate services and resources for communities. Over the next fortnight, Miss Pringle will be completing this survey based on our current kindergarten students. Results are reported as groups rather than for individual children. Although children remain anonymous, if you wish your child not be counted in this data, please inform the school so they can be withdrawn.

From the Kitchen Garden Corner

Our first Kitchen and Garden lessons got underway this week. Check out the reports below to see what they got up to.

Radishes Group

The Radishes were making Wicking boxes this week. First we got a box. Second we had a black tube which we put through the box. Third we ti fill up the boxes half way with mulch, put a net over it and then add soil the rest of the way. Then we got to plant the seedling. We finished by giving it some water. (By Bayley)

Broccoli Group

This week Broccoli group worked with Mr Anderson towards getting our Wheelbarrow Licence. We had to show we could walk backwards, turn, load and unload and work our way through an obstacle course without tipping over. We also took some some soil and mulch to the Radishes who were making wicking boxes. We then planted some winter seeds (broccoli, cauliflower, silverbeet and lettuce in the garden beds. They will take about 1 month the start growing. (By)

Carrots Group

On Wednesday my group the carrots went with Miss Pringle and we made playdough using food colouring, flour, hot water and other stuff. Before we made our playdough we watched a short film about safety and hygiene. (By William C)

Principal’s Award

Congratulations to William Russell who is this week’s Principal’s award. William represented our school values at Tocal by being safe, responsible and respectful. He has also been working really hard in class, and is making some great progress. Well done William.
CLASSROOM NEWS

Class Awards K/1/2
Congratulations to this week’s award recipients:
Stuart McCary — representing our school with pride on our Tocal excursion
Chain Golledge — using an inquisitive mind on our Tocal excursion

Class Awards 2/3/4
Congratulations to this week’s award recipients:
Samara Tiedeman — representing Millfield Public School with pride at Tocal Excursion
Hunter Copeland — representing Millfield PS with pride at Tocal excursion

Class Awards 5/6
Congratulations to this week’s award recipients:
Kane Villa — a fantastic effort in choir
Luke Rolls — showing leadership skills in Fitness groups

Library Award
Congratulations to this week’s award recipient:
Jessica Butler — always trying her best

P&C News

P&C meeting 6th May—Summary

- **Canteen loss** of stock due to power outages in storms- Cost to be finalized
- **Entertainment books** to arrive soon
- **Next Funding Priority** - Playground equipment upgrade. Costs will be approx $10-15,000. Scott to look into.
- **Horse Sports** – 12th June. Teresa organizing Horse side/ Mel the Canteen. Helpers needed in canteen. Last year made over $2500 for the school.
- **Insurance**- Teresa to look into possible increase in insurance cover to include food loss.
- **Sports Shirts** – Kelly raised a motion that the P&C purchasing a new sports shirt for all students to wear on Fridays and out of school for sports at a cost of approx. $1500. Seconded by Teresa. Will need to vote on this expenditure at next meeting.
- **Next meeting**- Wednesday 3rd June.

Notice - A vote will be held on the motion to buy each child a sports shirt at a total cost of approx. $1500.

Entertainment books.

The P&C will be selling entertainment books this year. Books are $60 and contain a wide range of food, accommodation, entertainment and local attraction vouchers. There are plenty of ways to use it in our area and money can be made back with as little as 1 or 2 uses. Vouchers are valid until 30th June 2016. Digital editions for use with your smartphone are also available. Contact the office for orders or more informat
School is back, assignments are due and half yearly exams are approaching. Let the library help.

Cessnock City Library subscribes to a tutoring service provided free to our library members. From Year 3 through to Year 12 and TAFE, yourtutor can assist you and your children to succeed. Yourtutor is an anonymous online chat service available from Sunday to Friday 3pm – 10pm. English, Maths, Science, assignment and research skills are just some of the subjects they cover.

All you and your child need is to have valid Cessnock City Library card to log in to this valuable service. cessnock.spydus.com - eResources – eReference