School Athletics Carnival

The day started off cold, rainy and gloomy down at Campbelltown Stadium for us on Wednesday 3rd of April at the annual Robert Townson High School athletics carnival. Soon the rain cleared and the track dried up and the events started to begin.

An impressive number of students attended the carnival and it was a busy day with the students competing in numerous events including age races, shotput, javelin, discus, long jump and high jump.

We had a merit draw every hour for competitors in every event so the more events you participated in, the higher chance of students winning the prize in the draw, giving students more motivation to compete.

Year 12 got into the spirit of their last ever athletics carnival here at Robert Townson and dressed up in their fairy wings, tutus, masks, onesies and competed with them in events.

It was overall a fantastic day and a successful carnival and many students will be going through to compete in the Macarthur Zone Athletics Carnival held on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th of June (Week 9, Term 2). Our Zone team will be announced early Term 2.

Please see Ms McKenzie (Carnival Organiser) or Ms Waden (Team Manager) in the PE staffroom if you have any questions. Best of luck to our Zone team!

Girls Age Champions
12 years – Cindy Marshall
13 years – Jamie Hayes
14 years – Renee Evans
15 years – Hollie Mottershead
16 years – Mele Mapapalangi
17 years – Tayla Kuru

Boys Age Champions
12 years – Issam Merhi
13 years – Tukaha Kyriacou
14 years – William Mapapalangi
15 years – Kenneth McGuiness
16 years – Conor Irwin
17 years – Daniel Bezett

By Jasmine Haddad (year 9)
This newsletter brings us to the end of term one. As term one normally goes it was a busy time of year. In the last newsletter I spoke about the athletics carnival and the swimming carnival and talked about the success of both events. Student participation in the athletics carnival was much higher than the swimming carnival. In recent conversation with our PDHPE department we have begun discussions about how we can improve the swimming skills of our students for next year. On top of this many students have recently seen me about their participation in the zone sporting program. It is great to see our students taking advantage of the many opportunities being offered.

Our new sports program operating for each year group is running very well. I have now watched each of the groups cycle through half a dozen different sporting areas. It was fantastic to watch years 7 through 10 participating in a gymnastics program. I have not seen such enthusiasm for many years. They seem quite natural in jumping, vaulting and somersaulting under the expertise and guidance of our PE teachers. In reviewing the program to date we found that year nine has a strong gender imbalance. More than 60% of males compared to female students. Because we have our groups based on gender this left two of the male groups with large numbers and similarly to smaller girls group. The boys group proved difficult to manage and accordingly we have taken steps to modify the grouping in year nine. At this stage it seems to be significantly better.

This term has found many visitors coming into how school utilising our facilities and watching what we do. Around 80 librarian teaching staff participated in a conference conducted in our library. Many left praising our children and our school. We also had over 20 university students come and participate in our normal everyday lessons to experience what a secondary school in Sydney's Southwest is like. I'm pleased to say they found the experience well worthwhile. As a result of these experiences further visits have been arranged for later in the year involving overseas personnel. Our children continue to be great ambassadors for our community.

Timetabling this year has proved particularly difficult with some faculties being hit harder than others. Late appointments, resignations and retirements resulted in a late term one production of the final school timetable. Variations are continuing to be implemented as we find out which staff we have for the remainder of the year. Next term I will appraise you of the latest round of teachers transferring out and into the school. The last timetable variation had a significant effect on maths, sport and PE. Several of our teachers have been taking classes outside their area of expertise while we await appointments. For now that has been rectified and I believe it will remain so for the rest of the year. The result has been that students in split classes have been reduced and that more qualified teachers have been placed onto relevant classes. A big thank you goes to our home economics staff that have filled many of these positions.

About week seven of this term our school community was involved in a police matter where an individual was acting dangerously and police came to secure the situation. Unfortunately for our school this occurred just several blocks away and though it had no impact on our school I decided to "lock out" the school community via the external gates during the time this police matter was taking place. I took this action because several helicopters were hovering over our school and many false rumours were being communicated throughout the school community at least inside our school grounds. I also sent and SMS out to members of the school community that had a mobile phone listed to appraise them of our actions and reassure them that their children were safe. The action was over before the end of school and students were able to leave as they would normally. It is my hope that by sometime early term to our school Facebook page will be up and running. This will allow me to provide rapid and accurate information to the school community at large.

I know I "harp on" about uniform each newsletter but when students return in term II the weather will have turned cold. I have noticed an increasing number of students coming to school wearing maroon or even other coloured hoodies. These are not school uniform. Our uniform shop is fully stocked with sloppy joe's, fleecy tops and jumpers as well as pants and trousers. Please also remember that tracksuit pants are not being supplied as a school uniform - they were never intended to be. They are only available to students to wear during PE or sport.

Have a great April break. Be safe and we will speak again next term.

Warren Parkes
Principal

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**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS**

29 AND 30 APRIL, 2013

Students return to school on 1st May, 2013
Positive relationships between students, parents and teachers are a sound basis for the successful education of students.

In my position I have regular contact with many parents and I am always impressed by the support given to myself and the school when issues arise.

Parents are welcome to contact the school to discuss the myriad of “dramas” that adolescents feel are causing them difficulty. We have a strong welfare and discipline policy and we try to ensure a safe, caring environment for our community.

As winter approaches parents are reminded that we expect our students to wear the approved uniform as it sets a good tone for the school. Further as a safety issue it allows staff to recognise persons on the school grounds who are not part of our community. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Term 2 starts the assessments for half year reports and students should by revising their work.

I hope students have a great end of term break and return refreshed and determined to succeed.

Mr Morrow

Harmony Day

Harmony Day is celebrated on the 21st March each year and is a day that recognises the diversity of Australia. It helps students understand how people of different backgrounds live together. Students at Robert Townson High School got into the spirit and wore Harmony Day stickers and orange ribbons. Teachers wore orange and some wore traditional clothing. The office was decorated with posters that students had worked on, orange balloons and flags. There were messages throughout the day reminding students of the importance of Harmony Day. It was a great day celebrating our cultural diversity and sense of belonging.

Elise Jones (year 9)
On 27\textsuperscript{th} - 28\textsuperscript{th} March, eighteen students participated in the Achieving Leadership Potential Program run by the YWCA. These workshops were offered to Year 11 students who are considering standing as a senior leader in 2013-2014. On the first day workshops focused on the qualities of a good leader – thinking with the head (integrity and responsibility) and the heart (forgiveness and compassion).

Working in teams, students designed the ‘perfect leader’ and performed role plays demonstrating leadership styles. They also completed self-assessments of their own leadership qualities to assist in the development of a strong senior leadership team. On the second day students were engaged in practical leadership and problem solving activities. Discussion was held on SMART goal setting, leaders possessing different strengths and seeking leadership roles for the right reasons. Students had a fantastic time. They felt more confident identifying their own strengths, being able to communicate assertively and in setting short and long term goals for themselves.

In term 2 a camp to Teen Ranch will be conducted to further develop skills and prepare students for senior leadership roles in 2013-14. I want to encourage all the students who participated in these workshops to now remember the criteria for being senior leader’s candidates later this year:

- Maintain excellent application to curriculum & study
- Demonstrate commitment to improving the general school culture and assisting others in the school (e.g. students, staff, parents & community members)
- Display outstanding participation & commitment to school leadership opportunities (Examples include SRC, debating, SCRAM, mentoring, school representation etc).
- Demonstrate excellence in school attendance
- Display exemplary behaviour and manners at all times in all school settings (classroom, playground, excursions). Exemplary behaviour means respect for school rules, no suspensions for example.
- Demonstrate outstanding commitment & pride in wearing school uniform at all times in all school settings

Mr Kapitanow (Senior Leaders Co-ordinator)
It has been a big term for theatre excursions for English students.

Firstly Mr Robinson and Mrs Hogan took year 7 students to the State Library to visit their amazing facilities. Lucky enough to get a free bus, the students were rated to the Mitchell Library and the stacks where valuable books, manuscripts and artefacts are kept. Students combined this with a walk down Macquarie Street to see the historic buildings. Students had an excellent day in the city and developed a growing realisation of exactly what resources are available for them to use – including free WiFi!

Mrs Giles and Ms Park took Year 11 and 12 students to the Riverside Theatre in Parramatta to see Educating Rita, their prescribed HSC drama text. The play was modernised so that students would get full impact of the references in the text. Students discussed their mixed reactions to the play. A tight schedule meant maximum co-operation was required to make all the connections, and Mrs Giles congratulates the students on their maturity and excellent standard of behaviour.

Ms Carter and 2EC saw a performance of their HSC text, *The Shoehorn Sonata*, at the University of NSW. Again, real co-operation was required for the train and bus timetable, and students managed all seamlessly. This is the kind of play which really needs to be seen as music and photographs are a vital part of the production, and it is hard to imagine what it might be like. The theatre manager commented that our students were the best behaved school of the performance and many people noted how professional our students looked in full school uniform.

Robert Townson High School was lucky enough to be selected as part of the Belvoir Education Program in 2013. Ms Stevenson’s Year 11 Drama and Year 11 Advanced class as well as Miss Carter’s Year 11 Standard English class attended workshops over two days, then went to see *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (which has been a sellout this season) – all free! Students sat right near the stage and for many this was a first experience of the immediacy of live theatre. We await eagerly a representative of the theatre – maybe one of the actors – to come out for a debriefing.

**BELVOIR THEATRE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

Earlier this term, a group of Year 11 students were invited to participate in the Belvoir Theatre Enrichment Program for 2013. This free program aims to introduce students with little experience of theatre to live performances and to strengthen their knowledge of drama as English students. The highlight of the program so far has been the free performance of ‘Cat on a Hot Tin Roof’ which students attended on Thursday 21 March. Our students were amazed by the professionalism of the production and the talent of the actors on stage. Belvoir Theatre, who conducted a workshop at our school before the show, will now return to provide a post-show workshop to students.

This has been a unique, valuable experience for all students involved and we extend our thanks to Belvoir Theatre for accepting us into the program.

Ms Stevenson & Ms Carter
A reminder to all that students must have a complete change of clothes and the appropriate footwear for all PDHPE practical lessons. The school has a sports uniform that can be purchased from the uniform shop. If a student is unable to wear the correct sports uniform (it may be dirty, wet, not currently available or they have outgrown their uniform) an appropriate change of sports clothing should be bought in so the student can still participate, with an accompanying note that explains to the teacher why the student is not in their correct uniform. **SINGLETs SHOULD NOT BE WORN IN ANY PDHPE LESSON.**

Students are also encouraged to bring a hat, sunscreen and a drink to all practical PDHPE lessons.

A reminder to all students, spray deodorants are not permitted at school and will be confiscated by PDHPE staff. Students are encouraged to bring a roll on deodorant.

Craig Innes
Head Teacher PDHPE

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**HSIE Faculty**

HSIE – Stockton Beach Geography Excursion

On Friday the 5th of April, year 10 geography students paid a visit to the Stockton Beach Sand Dunes in Anna Bay as part of their studies on the topic of coastal management. The aim of the excursion was to learn about various environmental issues affecting the coastline stretching from Newcastle to Nelson Bay.

After a long journey to the beach the students took part in a guided 4WD tour of the Port Stephens Sand Dunes and heard from the tour guides about various environmental issues such as storm erosion, pollution management, weed and pest reduction, pippie preservation, as well as the protection of dunes themselves. The students also learnt about the Aboriginal heritage of the dunes and their importance as a sacred site to the Worimi people.

While on the tour the students had the opportunity to partake in some sandboarding. They were each given a thin wooden board and happily ran up a steep sand dune only to slide all the way down at speed. Some managed this quite well while others ended up with a mouthful of sand. All in all it was a very fun day, with most students severely exhausted by the end of it, sleeping soundly on the bus ride home.

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**Drama Ensemble**

**Drama Ensemble Auditions**

Could you be the next Ryan Gosling or Anne Hathaway?

Students in Year 7-10 are invited to audition for the 2013 RTHS Drama Ensemble during Week 2, Term 2.

This is an extracurricular drama group who meet Monday lunchtimes in the Drama Studio to create performance works for school events and external competitions. Any student interested should sign up on the list outside the Creative Arts staffroom. No previous experience required!
The last few weeks in the Creative & Performing Arts have involved many outings to experience current exhibitions and live venues.

The Year 11 Visual Arts classes went to the Art Gallery of NSW with Ms Wood and myself to view the Art Express exhibition of the best of last years HSC artworks. Students found the artworks amazing, a little daunting, and quite inspiring.

My Year 12 Photography class went to Sydney to take photographs of small models of people. The aim of these photographs is to emphasise just how small humans really are in the big city.

Ms Wood’s and Mr Heap’s Year 10 Photography classes also travelled to Sydney to photograph the buildings and architecture in the style of Harold Cazneaux.

8S and 8T students were invited to attend a live musical performance, “Best of Aussie Rock”, at the Australian Institute of Music with Mrs Gowdy. There was also a performance by Glenn Shorrock from Little River Band. Students in other year 8 classes will be invited to another concert next term. Year 7 students will also receive information soon about an African Drumming workshop here at school for them to participate in.

Ms Stevenson has also taken her Year 11 Drama class to a performance at Belvoir Theatre which you can read an article about in this newsletter.

All of our classes are well and truly settled and many students have already produced some amazing practical work. We look forward to an exciting 2013, providing opportunities for students within the classroom and in the wider community. However, I would like to remind students and parents of their requirement to pay subject fees, as without this money, we are unable to purchase any practical materials for our classes. Subject fees should also be paid if students wish to attend an excursion.

- Year 7 & 8 Music - $15
- Year 7 & 8 Visual Arts - $20
- Year 9 & 10 Visual Arts and Photography - $40
- Year 11 & 12 Visual Arts - $50
- Year 11 Photography - $60, Year 12 Photography - $40

We look forward to our upcoming excursion to see the Addams Family musical at the Capitol Theatre next term for students in our years 9, 10 and 11 elective classes.

Mrs James
Head Teacher Creative & Performing Arts
The students of the Hearing Impaired Unit have started the year running! One of our Year 7 students, Veronica Browne, competed in the Rostrum Public Speaking Competition recently. She gave an outstanding speech in Auslan on the topic *The games we play*. The judges were impressed by her confidence and her knowledge of the topic. In addition, Kurt Williams and Mara Fuli participated in the Robert Townson public speaking finals after winning their class competition. This is a great achievement for students who are deaf or have hearing impairments and we are very proud of them.

The students in the support classes are enjoying all of their lessons but are particularly enthusiastic about their two new subjects - Drumming and Food Technology. Their drumming teacher, Heather Morris, has managed to find drums of all shapes and sizes. Many thanks to students and others who have lent their drums to the class. The students are now making a lot of (rhythmic) noise every Tuesday and are hoping to perform in the not-too-distant future. They are looking for a set of drums, preferably of the African, Asian, native American, or South American style. Please contact Heather if you know where they can find some at a cheap cost. Meanwhile, the students have been learning how to cook muffins and other delicious, healthy food with Gemma Beasley who has been welcomed back to the school this year.

Four of the Year 11 HIU students are learning all about cappuccinos, flat whites, latte art and customer service in the Barista Course that they are attending at Padstow TAFE. Last week, they served High Tea to over forty customers. The customers gave high praise to the Robert Townson students, commending them on their professionalism, pleasant manners and lovely smiles. This course will continue until the end of second term so we can expect an excellent standard of coffee in the Campus Cafe this year (which, by the way, will be commencing soon). The good news for the students who have previously worked in the Coffee shop at school is that due to an exciting pilot program, joint venture between RTHS and Baulkham Hills TAFE the students will receive a Certificate 2 in Work Readiness.

The students who participated in the HIU netball training provided by Alana Bradley last year during Wednesday sports decided to put their skills to the test this year. They have formed a team and are entered in the Campbelltown Netball Association competition. Their coach, Alana, who has continued their training this term, is confident they will do well. We wish them all the best and look forward to watching them play in the grand final!

The physical environment for the HIU continues to develop. The taxi parking area was completed a few weeks again and ensures the safety for the students as they arrive and leave school. The garden beds and grassed areas have really benefited from recent rain and have established well. A big Thank You goes to Kevin Maguire and The Good Samaritan School for their kind donation of laptops. The students are loving having these resources on hand and during the school holidays whiteboard projectors will also be installed in the classrooms.

In all, 2013 is shaping up to be an exciting and productive year for the students and staff in the HIU.
Year 11 food technology are currently studying food availability and selection. This unit of work focuses on the production of food from the farm to the table, so it was timely that it coincided with the Easter show. We arrived there bright and early and started out at the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome. As we were the first to arrive there, there were plenty of foods to sample including barramundi, marinated beef, yoghurt with dried fruit and nougat.

We viewed the displays from different regions across N.S.W. and spoke to several farmers about the current issues in relation to farming ranging from the changes to the beef cattle trade and also aquaculture. We were advised that Dairy Farmers did not have a stall for the first time in 20 years as they have just been purchased by a Japanese company and they had drastically reduced their advertising budget.

The photo below shows a cooking demonstration the students watched. The chef made a delicious frittata, which we also had a taste of as well as a steak Diane with a contemporary twist. We then had approximately one and a half hours left in which to buy all of the orders we had for show bags, visit the livestock, go on rides and have lunch.

We all met up at the Overflow Park heavily laden with show bags and made our way back home. It had been a very busy and hot day but we all had a great time as you can tell by the photos. In fact the students are already planning our next trip.

Student of the Week Winners - Term 1

**Year 7**
- Latisha Paris
- Mia Watton
- Borka Stojanovska
- Carlos George
- Veronica Browne

**Year 8**
- Tasneem Khan
- Daniela Fisher
- Jacob Earle
- Fatima Zeidan
- Emma Gane
- Christian Ragasa
- Mara Fuli

**Year 9**
- Cheyanne Love
- Kurt Catlow
- Baheja Ishak
- Marcus Uren
- Jeremy Blasonato

**Year 10**
- Rayhan Haffar
- Aden Brown
- Ben Zapirain
- Lucas Correa
- Jaydan Beasley-Townend
- Ziwa Ifren

**Year 11**
- Bryan Pakulski
- Daniel Zak
- Drew Dudley
- Judy Tran
- Intissar Zeidan
- Douglas Tulia

**Year 12**
- Kyle Smith
- William Berriman
- Peta Cairnduff
- Sue-Ellen Taueva
- Georgia Clarke

ARK Awards (Acts of Random Kindness) - Winners Term 1

Vanessa Hooper Year 10  Omar Afiouni Year 8  Bradley Hourigan Year 7  Hassan Hamid Year 8
A range of workshops ran after school on Tuesdays twice this term and were well attended.

- Computer Animation
- Cooking
- Making candle holders!
- Community Warriors
- Environmental Club
- Rugby League training
Clean Up Australia Day
Photographs by Nathan Rolander
(year 9)
Wellbeing Report

Ensure the school office has all up to date medical and contact details for your child/ward. It is vital that we can contact you in an emergency.

Recently parents of children with an allergy or anaphylaxis received a Department of Health form to be completed by your Doctor. Please ensure that you take the time to complete these forms and return to school as soon as possible so we can provide the best possible care for your child.

We look forward to the Townson Café beginning next term. Approximately 30 students are involved in the Baking, Set Up & Serving Crews. Students learn teamwork skills and gain confidence in their abilities. Notes to participating students will be sent home this week.

Work Readiness programs are being conducted by Andrea from IEAS and AFFORD. These programs provide opportunities for selected students to gain knowledge of the world of work, in preparation for one of life’s most important transitions!

Support organisations that are available to help our children:
TRUCE – for young people 14-22 years who have a parent or caregiver with cancer – www.truce.org.au or call 1800 234 007
CatholicCare Family Support Program offers therapy for young people experiencing anxiety, family therapy and support – call 42 27 1122 for more details
Keeping Kids In Mind – for children whose parents have separated call 42 27 1122
Factsheets on mental health can be downloaded at www.headspace.org.au/schoolsupport

Till next time,
Mrs Sally Willmott
Head Teacher Welfare

Library

Term one almost over already! It has been another busy term in the library. Year seven classes have been regularly coming to the library for lessons this term to familiarise themselves with the library and learn how to locate and use information. Some fortunate year seven students were also taken on an excursion to the State Library of NSW. Due to the generosity of an anonymous benefactor we were able to have the services of a free bus into the library. Students were given a history lesson through Macquarie Street and had lunch in the beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens. The visit to the library included touring the five storeys of stacks beneath the library which most people never get to see.

This term I have begun listing the new books on the school website. The new book display is changed every two weeks and a list of the new books put on the library page of the school website. We continue to add to our collection and with the new Australian curriculum beginning next year will be adding resources to support this.

We have begun a new program this year. During recess and lunch most days the students may read, play games, draw, do jigsaws or play on computers. I decided that one lunchtime a week the library would be open for reading only, or for homework for senior students. Friday lunch is now silent uninterrupted reading only, and the numbers have been steadily growing. Students are enjoying the chance to read quietly and relax at the end of the week.

On March 12 the library was host to the South West Metropolitan Teacher Librarian conference. We hosted nearly 90 teacher librarians and library SASS at what was a very educational and enjoyable day. These conferences give staff from different schools a chance to meet and discuss relevant issues and to be involved in professional development relevant to teacher librarians.

Unfortunately, there are a number of students with overdue books and a few are very overdue. I will be issuing a bill to any student who has not returned books from term one during the second week of second term. Loans are for a two week period and can be renewed at the request of the student, but cannot be extended for an indefinite period because all students deserve reasonable access to resources.
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<th>Week</th>
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<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>29 April STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (NO STUDENTS)</td>
<td>30 May STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (NO STUDENTS)</td>
<td>1 May STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL</td>
<td>2 Ruby Moon Excursion Year 11 Drama</td>
<td>3 Year 11 Biology excursion to Wooglemai</td>
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<td>2A</td>
<td>6 YEAR 7 EXAM WEEK</td>
<td>7 Year 7 hpv and Dtpa needles</td>
<td>8 Year 9 and 10 Drama Excursion Two Guvnor’s</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 Year 12 Careers excursion Darling Harbour</td>
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<td>3B</td>
<td>13 YEAR 8 EXAM WEEK</td>
<td>14 NAPLAN (Year 7 and 9)</td>
<td>15 NAPLAN (Year 7 and 9)</td>
<td>16 NAPLAN (Year 7 and 9)</td>
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<td>4A</td>
<td>20 YEAR 9 EXAM WEEK</td>
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<td>5B</td>
<td>27 YEAR 10 EXAM WEEK</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29 Guwayni Walami incursion Aboriginal students</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31 Yr 12 Senior Science &amp; Bio excursion Human Diseases</td>
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<td>6A</td>
<td>3 June</td>
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<td>7B</td>
<td>10 Public Holiday</td>
<td>11 Year 7 Chickenpox needles</td>
<td>12 Addams Family excursion</td>
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<td>9B</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 Othello excursion Yr 11 Advanced English</td>
<td>27 Year 11 Leadership Camp</td>
<td>28 Year 11 Peer Leadership Camp</td>
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In May 2013 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimal standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of this national assessment program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 14-16 May.

**Tuesday 14 May** Language Convention test (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Writing

**Wednesday 15 May** Reading

**Thursday 16 May** Numeracy test (Number, Algebra, Function and Pattern, Chance and Data, Measurement and Space)

In the Numeracy tests students **do not** require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not used. For the calculator tests, **all students are required to have their own personal school approved calculator for the tests.** If your child needs to purchase a calculator, they are available at the front office for **$20.00**.

**Please note,** the school has neither the budget or resources to supply calculators to students. **DO NOT** ask the Mathematics faculty or front office for a calculator on the day as we do not have any available for issue.

**Friday 17 May** – A “catch up” day is scheduled for students who missed a section of the test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or if they have significant intellectual and/or functional disability.

Students with confirmed disabilities or difficulties in learning are expected to participate in the tests. Special provisions which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom will be provided for students by the school. Large print, Braille and black and white versions of the test are available for students with vision impairment.

Access to special provisions and exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school’s learning support team and Mr Morrow, Deputy Principal, and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. This form can be accessed via Mr Morrow. Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from the tests. **If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent or carer consent form.** Consent forms are available via Mr Morrow.

Additional information for parents about the National Assessment Program can be found on these websites:  

Please make an appointment with Mr Morrow if you would like further information about your child’s participation in the National Assessment Program.