Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Once again it is time for the NAPLAN (National Literacy and Numeracy tests) to take place next Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday for year 3, 5 and 7 students. The tests are run over 3 days with Tuesday 15th May being the day that students sit the Language Conventions test before recess and the writing test after recess. On Wednesday 16th May students will sits their reading test before recess and on Thursday 17th May sit their Numeracy tests. Year 7 students sit 2 Numeracy tests on Thursday; one in which a calculator is allowed and the other in which a calculator is not to be used.

Students who sit the test will work through different booklets with many of the answers being a multiple choice style format, with some answers requiring students to write words and phrases and circle objects and words.

In the genre writing test students will be required to plan and write an exposition (1 sided persuasive argument), from a provided stimulus. Students in the primary years have been practising and reviewing the process for writing expositions some of last term and over the past three weeks.

Class teachers spend time in class taking students through NAPLAN type questions introducing problem solving strategies so that students can answer questions with a level of confidence and know-how.

Students in years 5 and 7 will have already sat the tests before and will be familiar with what they look like and know what is expected of them. Year 3 students however, might be a little more apprehensive as this will be the first time they have sat such a formal test. If you child is worried or even scared of the test, please encourage them to have a go and do the best that they can do. Their class teachers will be there to support them and guide them through the tests’ processes, but of course the answers need to come from them!

Please remember that NAPLAN is only one way we assess your child’s learning. Class teachers are regularly carrying out assessments on your child’s pre-reading and reading skills, writing, spelling, number knowledge, mathematical understanding and new knowledge after a unit of work has been implemented. In week 10 of this term you will be receiving home your child’s written report which has currently been reviewed to align to the Australian Curriculum in Mathematics and Science. Some teachers are also trialling the Australian History Curriculum and have chosen to report these outcomes as well. The semester 1 report will provide you with progress and achievement information on all curriculum areas and on all content taught in terms 1 and 2.

Sometime late in term 3 you will receive your child’s NAPLAN test results and you will have an opportunity if need be to talk with your child’s teacher about them. At a school level we spend quite a lot of time analysing our test scores to identify progress made from past years, areas of strength and areas that we need to prioritize our improvement strategy.

If your child is in year 3, 5 or 7 and you do not wish for your child to sit the NAPLAN test, please come to the front office to fill in a withdrawal form.

Regards,

Carolyn Clinton
A Learning Community that Values: Respect, Responsibility, Cooperation, Honesty, Caring

**DECD New Parent Complaint Policy**

**Parent Guide to Raising a Concern or Complaint**

We all expect quality and expert care and teaching for your child in order that they achieve their potential. Working together will give us the best chance of solving a problem that may arise during your child’s years in preschool and school.

We also recognise that at times things may go wrong. If you have a concern or a complaint, we want you to let us know. It’s important to learn from mistakes or misunderstandings so that we can improve your child’s experience and learning, and also improve processes where possible.

The first step in working through a complaint is to talk to your child’s teacher, and then the director or principal if you still are not happy.

Ask at the front office for a copy of the school/preschool’s **Parent Guide to Raising a Concern or Complaint** brochure. Steps guiding how complaints should be made are explained in the brochure.

Use this guide to help you think through what you are concerned about and how to resolve the matter respectfully and effectively.

**About complaints or concerns**

This information may be helpful in explaining what a complaint is:

A complaint may be made by a parent if they think that the school has, for example:

- done something wrong
- failed to do something it should have done
- acted unfairly or impolitely.

Your concern or complaint may be about:

- the type, level or quality of services
- the behaviour and decisions of staff
- a policy, procedure or practice.

Sometimes a complaint is about something we have to do because of State or federal law. In such cases we are able to talk to you about the matter and help you understand the requirements and why they exist.

If you’d like more information give me a call

Carolyn Clinton or visit the department’s website at [www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentcomplaint](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentcomplaint) or email [DECD.parentcomplaint@sa.gov.au](mailto:DECD.parentcomplaint@sa.gov.au). There is also a Freecall number 1800 677 435.

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**Walk Safely to School Day**

**Friday 18th May 2012**

Now in its 13th year, National Walk Safely to School Day encourages parents, carers and children to build walking to and from school into their daily routine, because children need a minimum of 60 minutes, regular physical activity per day.

We encourage all children to walk to school with their parents or carers. If you can’t walk all the way, try to use public transport. If you must use the car, leave it a good distance from the school.

We will be having a fruit table at the front of the school run by the school leaders in keeping with the healthy message. The canteen will be having healthy recess day.

**Woolworths Earn and Learn Program**

(Time to collect those stickers!)

It’s back! Thankyou for taking part in last years Woolworths Earn and Learn Program as we were able to produce some great resources for our classrooms and Resource Centre.

From 9th May until July 1st 2012, you can collect stickers at Woolworths that go towards Earn and Learn Points. For every $10 you spend at Woolworths (excluding the purchase of tobacco, liquor and gift cards) you will receive a sticker. These stickers can then be put on a special sticker card that we will be collecting in the front office.

Looking forward to getting some great resources for our school.

Damien Mellow
Guided Inquiry

This year all students will be participating in learning some new History topics during their Guided Inquiry lessons with the Teacher Librarians. This is a new curriculum area which is part of the National Australian Curriculum.

“The curriculum generally takes a world history approach within which the history of Australia is taught. It does this in order to equip students for the world (local, regional and global) in which they live. An understanding of world history enhances students’ appreciation of Australian history. This knowledge and understanding is essential for informed and active participation in Australia’s diverse society.”
- Australian Curriculum History Rationale

The topics covered in Guided Inquiry History for the first semester this year are:

**Term 1**

Ms Jagiello’s Year 3/4 class – Celebrations in Australian Society
Mr Jankowski’s Year 4/5 class – World Exploration
Mrs Moten’s Year 3 class – Transport – Past & Present
Mrs Wohling’s Year 2/3 class – Port Pirie’s Significant Sites & People
Ms Oakland’s Year 1/2 class – Families – Past & Present
Mrs Wohling Class—Significant Building and Sites
Mrs Greig’s Year 1/Reception class – Family History
Ms Bierdrzycki’s Reception class – Families – Past & Present
Ms Bierdrzycki’s Class—Transport

**Term 2**

Ms Sargent’s Year 6/7 class – Migration to Australia
Mr Moore’s year 6/7 class – Migration to Australia
Ms Kupsch’s Year 6/7 class - History of Government
Ms Joyce’s Year ½ class – Family History
Ms Harradine’s Year 1/2 class – Farms – Past & Present
Ms Turner’s Year 1/Reception class – Olympics – Past & Present

Miss Jagiello’s Class—Special Days

A Learning Community that Values: Respect, Responsibility, Cooperation, Honesty, Caring
Music Tuition
Wendy Palmer has lesson time available for Guitar & Piano tuition at Risdon Park Primary School.
For more information please contact 86322659

Central-Risdon Netball Club
To secure your tickets to the

Payment for the tickets is now due
Adults $50.00
Junior $ 40.00

Trachoma
Trachoma is an eye sickness that if left untreated can cause blindness. It is caused by bacteria and is most common in young children. It spreads easily from child to child by touching, sharing blankets, pillows and towels. Sometimes trachoma shows no symptoms so it is very important for children to have their eyes checked.

How do we check for Trachoma?
Children are checked by an Aboriginal Health Worker. This is done by quickly and gently turning over the child’s eyelid and looking closely at the inner lid to check for dot like impressions called follicles.

What happens if Trachoma is found?
If active trachoma is found the child and everyone who sleeps in the same house will be treated with antibiotics.
The Aboriginal Health team will be visiting schools in the Mid North to Screen for Trachoma.
Please contact the Aboriginal Health Team if you require any further information.

For more information
Aboriginal Health Team Port Pirie Regional Health Service Tarpari Wellbeing Centre
PO Box 546 47 Alexander Street,
Port Pirie Port Pirie
Telephone:86384693 86334730
www.health.sa.gov.au
Department of Health, Government of South Australia.

FUN@PLENTY
SUNDAY 21ST MAY FROM 3:30 - 5:00
FOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.
GAMES, KILN STORIES, CRAFT, MAKING A BEAD. NO COST.
AT PLENTY STREET PARK
CONDUCTED BY ACCREDITED VOLUNTEERS FROM THE BAPTIST CHURCH, HANNAH STREET
ENQUIRIES, PASTOR ROGER KLEIN 0412398244

In the Garden