Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In week 3 of term 2 years 3, 5, and 7 students sat the National Literacy and Numeracy tests known as NAPLAN. During the 3 days of testing students sat four tests covering aspects of Literacy and Numeracy. In Literacy students were tested on their knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

- Reading
- Writing
- Spelling
- Grammar and Punctuation.

Year 7 students were required to sit two Numeracy tests, one in which a calculator was able to be used and another in which it was not allowed.

In 2012 we were particularly interested in our Reading and Writing results. Writing has been a major Improvement Priority for the past three years and this year we have shifted our main priority to Reading. We were hoping that our 2012 NAPLAN results would give us a clear indication of areas in which we have improved and areas for future investigation.

I am pleased to report that definite areas of growth and improvement can be identified in our 2012 NAPLAN report.

### Year 3

Year 3 students achieved at a higher level in Reading than 2011. This is evidenced by a higher recorded mean score which placed our year 3 students in band 4, one band higher than 2011. 92% of our year 3’s achieved National Minimum Standard in Reading compared
Our year 3 students programs in the Early Years also recorded an improved mean score in Writing in 2012, compared to 2010 and 2011. This is very pleasing to see. Improvement such as this can be attributed to our excellent Literacy program. The areas of Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation also saw a growth in mean score, placing our year 3’s on average solidly in band 4. This is extremely pleasing to note, especially when National Minimum Standard for year 3 is set at the beginning of Band 2.

Year 5

Although there was a slight drop in our mean scores for year 5 students, it was recorded that our students held steady in Proficiency Band 5 in three out of the four aspects in Literacy and in Numeracy. The National Minimum Standard for year 5 students is set at the beginning of band 4. Our Year 5’s reflect a strong standing. A pleasing result was also seen in our year 5 students improvement levels since they last sat NAPLAN in 2010. 2012 saw an increase in the number of students who attained a medium or high level of progress over the past 2 years. This level of progress was seen within Reading and Numeracy.

Year 7

An improvement in mean scores was seen in three out of four aspects of Literacy. Year 7 National Minimum Standard is set at the beginning of Proficiency Band 5, where our year 7 students averaged Band 6 in all areas, with Spelling was identified for our year 7 students in Band 7. It was pleasing to note that most of our year 7 students (between 92% and 98%, depending on the aspect or area) met National Minimum Standard in all aspects of Literacy and in Numeracy.

I am also pleased to report that our year 7 students, like our year 5 students averaged a higher degree of medium and upper level of progress since the students last sat the NAPLAN in 2010 when they were in year 5.

Our 2012 NAPLAN Results have also highlighted some areas for investigation which we will be working on our Pupil Free Day on Friday 16 November (week 6).

Hopefully all parents of students who sat the NAPLAN tests in years 3, 5 and 7, have now received their child’s results. Many parents collected their child’s reports form the front office, with the remainder of the report sent home by post in week one of this term. If you would like to have further information or are unclear of data presented in your child’s report, then please contact you child’s class teacher to arrange a meeting.

Regards, Carolyn Clinton
Traffic Concerns

Over the past couple of years we have been in consultation with the Port Pirie Regional Council and St Mark’s (Bosco Campus) Parents and Friends Committee. An audit has been undertaken regarding the traffic around the schools. The Council has agreed to update the line marking and signs. Further investigation and community consultation needs to be undertaken with regard to the traffic flow and any possible improvements.

In the meantime, we ask that you all respect the current signage and road rules. Just to refresh your memories: the section in front of the main gate on Kingston Rd is a drop off zone in the mornings (until 9am). Please do not park here and take your children in to their classrooms. We also encourage you all to use the school crossing to cross the road. It may be a little out of your way but it is great way to be a role model to your children reinforcing the necessity to cross at the crossing for everyone’s safety.

It is also very important that cars do not park too close to the crossing. The monitors need to be able to see the traffic coming to determine when it is safe for people to cross.

Our school is currently at 462 students. This is the largest number we have had at the school for some time. As a consequence there are more parents/grandparents/caregivers vying for a carpark at the end of the day to pick children up. We ask for you to be patient or if your children are older, ask them to wait at a particular spot and collect your children five or ten minutes after the bell. The traffic congestion is for a maximum of 20 minutes and if we all respect the road rules and each other while tolerating the fact that there is a large number of people travelling at this time, not just from our school, but form St Mark’s – both campuses- then we can get through this safely.

Thank you
Kelly Smith
Chairperson Governing Council

HEAD LICE continue to invade our students. It is important to make regular weekly or even daily checks of your child/ren’s hair. If any of your family get head lice it is not a reflection on your hygiene, but just that the little pests like clean hair.

What to look for: small light or dark brown insects without wings. Tiny white eggs (nits) on the hair shafts. Intense itching on the head and neck.

What to do if found please treat your child, use a fine tooth comb to remove all lice and their eggs. Use an effective head lice treatment. The pharmacy can advise you.

- Check all members of the household at the same time.
- Soak combs, brushes etc in hot water for at least 10 min.
- Wash bed linen, hats, hair ties
- Vacuuming carpets may help
- Keep checking every 2 days until there are no head lice found for 10 consecutive days.
- Repeat treatment 7-10 days after initial treatment to break the cycle.

The education department regulations state that students who have head lice are not to come to school until they have had effective treatment.
Planning for 2013

One of our tasks is to construct classes for 2013. As yet I cannot inform you of the 2013 class set up or the assigned teachers. A number of teachers are choosing not to return to Risdon in 2013 and others will be returning from leave, some in a part time capacity and others will be full time. So, even though there is lots of planning still to do I would like to invite parents to put in writing their requests for 2013 class placement on educational and/or student relationship grounds. To assist us in our planning for 2013, please complete the tear off slip if your child/ren will not be attending Risdon Park in 2013, or notify us of any new enrolments.

Thank you!

RISDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
INFORMING US OF CHILDREN’S ABENCES
School: 8632 2226
Mobile: 0409 097 059

- Name of your child
- Class teacher or room number
- Day/s he or she will be away
- Reason for his or her absence

New enrolment
Name(s)...........................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................
will be a new enrolment at RPPS next year.
Date of birth....../....../......
Year level in 2012 ______

Parent/Guardian (please print name)
...........................................................................................................
Contact phone number...........................................................................

Transferring to another school
Names(s)...........................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................
will be transferring to
...........................................................................................................
next year.
Parent/Guardian Name & signature please.
...........................................................................................................
CHECKMATES SOFTBALL CLUB

The junior softball season has recently commenced. Our club needs some more players to help fill our junior teams.

Players are required in
Under 9 girls T-ball (aged 5 to 8), Under 11 girls softball (aged 9 and 10) and Under 13 boys softball (aged 9 to 12).

Training for the girls is on Thursdays and on Wednesdays for the boys. Games are played Saturday mornings at Leonard Park, across from the school.

We are a child safe, family friendly club and would really welcome anyone interested in giving softball a go. Please contact Sharyn Combe on 0437 025241 after hours for more details.

FUN @ PLENTY

Sunday 28th October
3.30-5pm
Plenty Street Park

Primary aged children and families
FREE games, Bible stories, Craft and Sausage Sizzle
Port Pirie Baptist Church, Hannan Street
Enquiries: Pastor Roger Kleining
0427 399 244

Thanks to our wonderful parent volunteers, who along with Emma Lynn our CPS worker for packing our Kupsch’s fundraising pie, pasties and sausage rolls orders.