Acting Principal’s Message

Dear Parents, Staff and Students

As you are aware NAPLAN is the national testing program which occurs annually for all Australian students in year 3, 5, 7 and 9. There are now more firm plans to start moving from pen and paper to online testing from 2018. A final decision for NSW and its timeline for transition to an electronic test will be made after the upcoming NAPLAN Online Readiness Test.

NAPLAN online will have a wide range of benefits for our students and teachers, including reduced time between testing and reporting, and a tailored test design that targets questions to student ability and improves the precision of the assessment.

NESA, as the NSW NAPLAN Test Administration Authority and the three school sectors (Department of Education, Catholic Education Commission and Association of Independent Schools of NSW) are working together to coordinate the move to NAPLAN online for NSW schools.

NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test

To prepare for the move to online testing, NSW schools will participate in an online practice run, known as the NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test.

The readiness test is an assessment of a school’s technical readiness to administer NAPLAN Online. It is an opportunity for schools to become familiar with the NAPLAN Online test platform and to identify any technical issues they may have.

The test will be for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and will comprise two one-hour tests. Schools will be each allocated an entire week between Monday 14 August and Friday 22 September to schedule their tests.

The readiness test is an opportunity to experience the online environment and the different question types that can be used in online testing. It is not a test of skills and knowledge.

Please refer to the additional information sheet in this bulletin. (Source: NSW Education Authority Bulletin 5 June 2017)

Year 6 Interrelate: Year 6 students have now started the in school Interrelate program ‘Moving into The Teen Years’ with the first of their four sessions completed this week. The program will conclude at the end of this term. The program is running as a trial for the first time this year following the generous donation of our P and F.

St Therese’s Caring Group Volunteers

St Therese’s Caring Group is run by parents from our school community. It offers temporary assistance to our school families who are in need- for example as a result of illness, crisis or personal issues. This help is often in the form of cooked meals or perhaps assistance in transport etc. When helpers are needed it is coordinated by the school so that confidentiality for those needing help is always maintained. If you would like to add your name to the list of helpers please email Liz Etheridge on Elizabeth.Etheridge@dywidag.com.au or call the school office on 49574922 (or email admin@newlambton.catholic.edu.au). If you or a family you know is in need please do not hesitate to contact me so we are able to offer the assistance of our community.
Consideration for others
We all lead increasingly busy lives with the pace of life seemingly increasing all the time. This is particularly so in morning and afternoon drop offs. However, please have consideration (and patience) for each other in allowing people to safely stop their car and drop their children to school. It will not make a huge impact on your time to do this for each other.

Stay warm and dry!

Sallyanne Stanbridge - Acting Principal

Acting Assistant Principal’s Message

Special Assemblies
Tuesday 20 June (Week 9) & Tuesday 27 June (week 10) we will change our assemblies back to 9:30am

- **Tuesday 20 June**: Mr Ward and the School Band put on a short performance following the whole school assembly. Parents are invited to both the assembly and band concert, the first concert being at 10:15am with a repeat performance at approximately 10:45am. We are looking forward to seeing our very talented band who work extremely hard. Thank you to Mr Ward for all the time, energy and enthusiasm you give to our band each and every week.

- **Tuesday 27 June**: NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Assembly in our school hall from 9:30am. There will be NO awards given out at this assembly.

Friday 30 June: our last of Term 2 is Pyjama Day and we will have a special assembly in the hall where the students who learn piano with Lillian & Kim Brent will put on a short recital from 9:30 - 10am. Joy Loas from the local St Vincent de Paul Society will also join us to receive the food hampers from our Year 5 Mini-Vinnies group.

Kaylene Maretich – Acting Assistant Principal

RE NEWS

From Pope Francis: “In our days there is a great need to pray- Christians, Muslims and Jews- for peace”

Because there is a fundraiser for Year six on Sunday 18th, we are not going ahead with participation at the Sunday evening Mass that night. We will hopefully resume our participation next month.

Year six students and teachers will undertake the Year 6 Religious Literacy Test later this week and we wish them well. I know the teachers have been working hard with the students to prepare them for this test, which covers knowledge in Religion from Kindergarten to Year 6! A lot to remember!

This week’s RL quiz:

1. I was a Catholic woman who came to Australia in 1838. I gave help and support to single women who had no money or support. I helped them find work and somewhere to live. Who am I?
   - A Elizabeth Davis  
   - B Elizabeth Macarthur  
   - C Caroline Chisholm  
   - D Catherine McAuley

2. I am ordained. I can read the Gospel at Mass and give the Homily. I can also lead the celebration of Baptism, Marriage and Funerals. I am not able to lead the celebration of the Eucharist. Who am I?
   - A altar server  
   - B deacon  
   - C priest  
   - D bishop

3. The Season of Advent prepares us for:
   - A Easter  
   - B Pentecost  
   - C Christmas  
   - D All Souls


Vickie Pettett - Religious Education Coordinator

School Community Notices

Statements and Receipts
Last week statements were emailed out to those fee payers who supplied an email. For those who didn’t a hardcopy was sent home. Following on from the success of the statement emails, next week we will commence emailing receipts home. If you would like to add your email address to receive these, please email the office at admin@newlambton.catholic.edu.au or phone on 4957 4922.

Vicki McSpadden – School Bursar
Year 6 Fundraising
Thank you to everyone who has supported any one of the Year 6 fundraising initiatives.
As in previous years all fundraising goes towards:
- the Year 6 farewell (dinner for children and a photo booth)
- a gift for the school
- subsidising the cost of the year book

All support has been greatly appreciated by the Year 6 students and parents.

ICAS Spelling
Please meet me at the 5P classroom this Thursday morning 15th June for the Spelling assessment - 8.00am sharp!
Thank you - Mrs Briggs

Mini Vinnies
Thank you so far for all of the donations that have come in for our Winter Appeal. We are only one week in and already people have been so generous. Remember the Winter Appeal will continue until the last day of Term 2, concluding with our "Pyjama Day". Thank you for your support.
Students from the Social Justice Team will sell scarves and beanies for $5

Year 5 Mini Vinnies

Family Movie Night
Come and enjoy a fun family movie on Sunday 18th June at 3.30 (pre event activities) for a 4.00pm screening. Cost is $10.00 per head and can be purchased at www.flexischools.com.au. NOTE: Parents need to accompany children to supervise at movies.

Book Club – Issue 4
Closing date for orders from Scholastic Australia – Issue 3 is tomorrow, Wednesday 14th June. Please ensure that your order form has been filled in and placed in an envelope with your child’s name and class on the front. Remember to enclose the CORRECT money or cheque made payable to Scholastic Australia.
OR you may order through ‘LOOP’ which is on-line order and payment, with your purchases delivered to the school.
Please note: Late orders for ‘LOOP’ may incur a delivery fee if order is posted to your home.
Library pick-up is always available for discreet orders such as Christmas, birthdays, rewards etc. Clearly mark the order ‘Library pick-up’ and add a contact number. ‘LOOP’ also has an option to tick a box for ‘gift orders’.
REMEMBER: All orders earn valuable resources for our school.

Canteen News
While the weather is cool the canteen will be selling toasted sandwiches. Two varieties - Cheese for $2 and Ham & Cheese for $3.50.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 14/6</th>
<th>Thursday 15/6</th>
<th>Friday 16/6</th>
<th>Monday 19/6</th>
<th>Tuesday 20/6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renee Walker</td>
<td>Louisa Boyle</td>
<td>Liz Etheridge</td>
<td>Mad Standing</td>
<td>Connie Martinelli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristy Goodbun</td>
<td>Nadine Ptolemy</td>
<td>Natalie Rayner</td>
<td>Natalie Prince</td>
<td>Sally O'Dell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenny MacDonald</td>
<td>Kate Catzeddu</td>
<td>Vanessa McCormack</td>
<td>Jo Kim</td>
<td>Amanda Walton</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rachael Hill</td>
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<td>Magda Ramsay</td>
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Playgroup – 16th June
Come along and join us at playgroup in the school hall this Friday 16th June from 9.15am - 11am.
Cost is $3 per family with morning tea provided for parents. Please bring a drink and snack for your children.
Please contact Kate if you have any questions about playgroup on 0414952491.
Look forward to seeing you there.

School Disco 2017
The school fancy dress disco is being held on Friday 23rd June.
Entry is $8 and includes drink, snack and glowstick.
Tickets must be pre-ordered through flexischools.
Infants 5.30pm - 6.45pm Primary 7.00pm – 8.30pm
We require parent volunteers to help with duties and supervision. If you can help out with Infants or Primary session. Please contact Belinda Mortimore on 0400931650 or email belinda.mortimore3@gmail.com
Curriculum Updates

PBS
For the next 2 weeks we will focus on INTEGRITY by displaying PERSEVERANCE. Perseverance means we persist in doing something even though it may be difficult or success may take a long time to achieve, some people also call this "grit". Perseverance is not an easy behaviour to practise as often we may feel frustrated and angry or even upset that we find tasks difficult or cannot achieve success easily. But as the saying goes "nothing worth doing is ever easy", so this week talk to your child about perseverance. In this digital age perseverance may be even more difficult as we receive instant gratification from online games and internet searches for information. Some ways to practise perseverance is to try something new e.g. taking up an instrument or new sport, resisting the urge to look up information of the internet you may have forgotten - instead let your brain keep trying to find the answer and trying "brain teaser puzzles" such as KenKen and Sudoku.

Congratulations to the students that received the School Spirit Awards last week in their grade or stage assemblies for displaying INTEGRITY by "being responsible"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Spirit Award for demonstrating INTEGRITY by being responsible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamish Lawrence &amp; Sienna Ansted (KB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Blazevic &amp; Vincent Cashman (KHD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey Ladmore &amp; Sienna Walton (KM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sachin Ramanujam &amp; Ava Randall (1C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura MacDonald &amp; Mae Petrohelos (1CH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelia Brown &amp; Olivia Smerekanycz (1WP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Montgomery &amp; Myles Northcote (2A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppy Crouch &amp; Peter Van Den Heuvel (2M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Brien &amp; Daniel Jomon (2WM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arielle Rodd, Jake Roxby, Emily Turney &amp; Macey Wood (3K)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Dwyer &amp; Ava Ramien (3R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gus Fitzgibbon &amp; Jorja Matevski (3SJ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessy Barretto &amp; Julia Dodge (4C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Baxter &amp; Harry McCarron (4N)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angus Hill &amp; Jack Wilkes (4PV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason Hamall &amp; Ella Mondy (5B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Grob &amp; Christian Prince (5GS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Fitzgibbon &amp; Jacob Manak (5P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucan Evan &amp; Maeve McCarthy (6J)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Dwyer &amp; Charlotte Murrell (6M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah Loizou &amp; Brodie Young (6S)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WELLBEING

Environment Day
Last Friday we celebrated World Environment Day at St Therese's and boy did we feel the elements - the day was wet, wet, wet! The rain kept us from our planned outdoor activities, but all classes were able to do some activities in their classes to raise awareness about how we can look after planet earth. The environmental team also visited classrooms to find the best "Nude Food" lunch box. The environmental team had trouble picking just one person from each class, as the standard across the whole school was very high. Winners received a special certificate and a small prize. A total of $420 was raised to buy some play tools for our rock garden, thank you to everyone for your kind donations.

Mrs Julia Briggs & The Environmental Team

Kids Matter ~ Problem Solving Wheel
This Problem Solving Wheel is fantastic for many age levels and would work nicely for strengthening inhibitory control (ie, helping kids control their emotions/behaviour). Some adults may even benefit from printing it and placing it somewhere to remind them of their own options when they themselves become upset. 

Julia Briggs ~ Primary Coordinator

SPORT
Rugby League
Congratulations to our Junior Rugby League team who played in their first Newcastle Knights All schools Cup last Tuesday. By all reports the students enjoyed the day and played well, showing great sportsmanship to the others teams. Thank you to the parent helpers and in particular to Mr Daniel Quinn for coaching the boys. Please parents send back in the school Rep. Jumpers (clean) as soon as possible.
Independent and Catholic School Cup
Second round for the Senior Rugby League team to be played on Friday 16th June - please hand in your note asap players.

Soccer
Thursday 15th GIRLS Gala Day - Meet Mr Rouse (Juniors) and Mrs. Sturt (Seniors) at the venue. The $10 should be paid to these teachers on the day and then they can pass it on to the convenor.

Thursday 22nd BOYS Gala Day - Meet Mrs Venables (Juniors) and Mrs. Smith (Seniors) at the venue. The $10 should be paid to these teachers on the day and then they can pass it on to the convenor.

Permission notes for both soccer gala days are now overdue.

Deb Petersen – Primary Coordinator

News from the Classroom

5 cent challenge for Year 6 Fundraiser
Thank you to everyone who has donated to the 5 cent challenge.
After another fantastic week, the following classes are leading the race to win a class ice-cream party

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6M</td>
<td>$131.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KB</td>
<td>$119.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6S</td>
<td>$108.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks again for all your support
Year 6 students and parents

Poetry from 4PV

HAPPINESS by Justin
Happiness is as yellow as a glowing angel
It tastes like a lemon-lime tart
It smells like sugar, butter and cinnamon mixed
It looks like an angel with rapper glasses
It sounds like a beet boxer
It feels like a marshmallow

EMBARRASSMENT by Monique
Embarrassment is the colour pink
It tastes like seaweed
It smells like trash
It looks like a lonely flower with no petals it sounds like a river going up and down
It feels like a caterpillar curled in a ball

SURPRISE by Layne
Surprise is as rainbows as the streamers in a party popper
It tastes like pink and purple love-heart lollipops
It smells like strong, lovely perfume
It looks like jumping on a trampoline and reaching for the clouds
It sounds like the birds chirping on a hot sunny morning
It feels like you’re sliding down a rainbow

GENERAL NOTICES

Boys uniform for sale
2 x grey uniform jackets – size 8
2 x blue sport jackets – size 10 & 12
$12 each
Phone: Trish on 0400 696780

OOSH
Bookings are now open!

There's no such thing as "boring" with YMCA Vacation Care these July school holidays. We're calling all young Explorers, Artists and Dreamers to get out of the house and into your local YMCA for:
- Out-of-this-world excursions and cultural incursions
- Action packed sports, games or mind bending challenges
- Creativity workshops and activities galore

Visit www.ymcansw.org.au to find out what's on, choose your own adventure, and get ready for non-stop fun and discovery today!
Have a fantastic week!
Kylie Nadalin - Coordinator
YMCA NSW – Newcastle Region I St Therese’s Primary School,
New Lambton NSW 2305
m 0402165617
e oshc.newlambton@ymcansw.org.au w ymcansw.org.au
Follow us! facebook twitter youtube Instagram

Anita’s Cleaning Service

No time during the week or on the weekend to clean?? House work getting you down?? Oven looking grimy?? Would you like to Come home to a sparkling clean house??

If the answer is “YES”
Call Anita on 0405 445957

D A Y T I M E
BABY SITTER

I am 18 years old and the eldest of four children. I have my First Aid certificate and Royal Life Saving Bronze Medallion.
I am available for casual babysitting 8am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday.
I am hoping for some daytime work to help me save up for my trip.
I have been babysitting for 5 years, references available on request.
I am more than happy to meet up with parents to make sure they feel comfortable with me and to understand their expectations.
Contact Kristen McSpadden on 0478385448 for details.

Holy Trinity Parish Secretary

The Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils together with the Parish Administrator, Father Dom Carrigan, have authorised the recruitment of a Parish Secretary which is an important new role to provide both clerical and administrative leadership. The appointee will be responsible for the smooth and professional running of the Parish office at Waratah. A number of experienced volunteers support the day-to-day Parish administrative activities. The role will encompass the coordination and implementation of office procedures and have responsibility for specific projects and tasks such as responding to requests for sacraments (baptisms, weddings etc.) as well as overseeing the maintenance of the Parish Calendar and Diary, the Parish Database, the Parish Sacramental records, the Parish financial records and managing the content of the Parish website.
The Parish Secretary will demonstrate—
- Motivation to work for the Church and possess a strong understanding and commitment to its values.
- Proven organisational and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills and a pastoral attitude.
- Initiative, energy and capacity to work with minimum supervision.
- Computer competency

This position is a 6 month maximum term contract with the hours and remuneration to be negotiated (Clerks Private Sector Award). Further details and an information package are available through Finance Council member Paul O’Sullivan paulg.osullivan@telstra.com / 0427 257 867 or triparish@mn.catholic.org.au with expressions of interest closing on Tuesday 20 June 2017.

Dear Parents,

The following has been provided by the Australian Psychological Society to help parents respond to children as they encounter reports of violence in our world. If you are concerned about your child’s reaction over time, you might mention it to their teacher.

Tamara Burns – School Counsellor

The extensive media coverage of terrorist attacks, violence, conflict, and war in the international community means that many children these days are aware of world events as they unfold. Parents are faced with the challenge of explaining traumatic violent events to children. These are difficult but extremely important conversations that give parents and teachers a chance to reassure children that they are safe and secure. These conversations also provide an opportunity to model skills in how to cope with distressing events and manage difficult feelings, and to help children make sense of
complex events and develop their understanding of the world.

**Key points**

- Conversations with children about violent conflict, war and terrorism can be difficult but important.
- Very young children can be shielded from traumatic events by not letting them see or hear media reports, or overhear adult conversations about the events.
- Parents and carers of school aged children can open the conversation to check how the child is feeling, clarify facts, and set the emotional tone.
- Listen to understand how children are feeling and thinking.
- Look out for changes in children’s usual behaviour that suggest they are unsettled or distressed.
- Reassure children and let them know that they are safe and are being looked after, and that nothing bad will happen to them personally.
- Limit the amount of time children spend watching media coverage of tragedy and terror, or watch with them so you can provide your adult presence and perspective.
- Provide truthful but simple and thoughtful explanations that will help them to develop a realistic understanding of the event.
- Avoid stereotyping, narrow analyses of the problem, disaster or crisis, and blaming of whole groups for the actions of a few.
- Leave children with a sense of security but also hope, and help them to see that their world is basically a safe place, people are usually good, and that life is worth living.
- Look for the helpers and the heroes that help to make the world a better place.
- Help children find something positive to do in response to distressing world events, so they feel they can make a positive difference in the world.
- Pay attention to your own reactions and model good coping skills for dealing with distressing and confusing events.

**What age should children be before we have these conversations?**

Hearing about terrorism and war can be very disturbing and distressing for children. Parents often wonder what age they should start to talk about these things with children.

For pre-school children, it is best to try to protect them completely from hearing about frightening or traumatic world events. This means not letting young children watch or hear media coverage of such events, as well as being aware of how you talk in the presence of children. Shield young children from in-depth adult discussion about world events, especially if they cannot join in at their own age or stage of development. Children can distort what they hear or see, especially when the information is received through indirect communication (for example, overheard adult conversations about worrying things).

Primary school-aged children are more exposed than pre-schoolers to hearing about events from peers, in the school yard, or through the media. It is often helpful for a parent or carer to start the conversation so that you can clarify facts, correct misperceptions, and set the emotional tone for the conversation. Just letting the child know that the door is open and that their questions are welcome is really valuable.

Older children are likely to be very aware of the media coverage of events, and may understand the political issues better. They need the chance for more in-depth discussions with parents and teachers to help them make sense of the events as well as process the feelings that arise.

**Signs that children are feeling distressed**

Children are not always able to express complex feelings in the same direct way that adults do, and therefore might not show the same reactions to stress as adults. It is therefore very important to look out for changes in children’s behaviour that suggest they are unsettled or distressed, such as:

- Changes in their play, drawing, dreams or spontaneous conversations
• Regressive behaviour - children behaving younger than they normally do
• Nightmares
• Anxiety about sleeping alone
• Trouble getting to sleep
• Irritability or anger
• Tantrums, increased defiance
• Increased aggression, angry outbursts
• Fussy eating
• Increased somatic complaints (e.g., sore tummy, headaches)
• Withdrawing
• Wanting to stay close to a parent, becoming more clingy
• Decreased concentration or attention span
• Feelings of anxiety, fears, and worries about safety of self and others
• Questions about death and dying

What adults can do to help
The following activities and suggestions will vary depending on the age of the child.

Listen to understand how children are feeling and thinking
Children often cannot easily understand time and place. They may experience events as concrete, local and deeply personal and emotional, and wonder if harm will happen to them. They can easily think that everyone and everything, everywhere, is coming apart, particularly if the way adults are behaving gives them that impression. Children also tend to personalise situations. For example, they may worry about friends or relatives who live in a city or state associated with incidents or events.

• Encourage (but don’t force) children to talk about their thoughts and feelings about the events.
• Let them know that it is normal to think and feel as they do.
• Provide children with opportunities to express their feelings
• Sometimes children can better express their feelings through play than through words, so make time to play with them.
• Let children be children. They may not want to think or talk a lot about these events. It is okay if they would rather just play!

Monitor media exposure
• Children can become distressed and fearful after watching repeated images of frightening events on the television, as well as other forms of media, and can come to believe that the world is a scary place. Many children retain longer-term recurrent disturbing memories from viewing violence. It is important to limit the amount of time children spend watching media coverage of tragedy and terror.
• If children are viewing media stories of distressing events, it is best to watch with them. They need your adult presence and perspective. Being able to talk about the material with a caring and reassuring adult can reduce these reactions.

Answer children’s questions
• Expect that children might ask the same questions over and over as they attempt to make sense of events.
• Remain patient, and provide truthful but simple and thoughtful explanations that will help them to develop a realistic understanding of the event.

• Correct any misperceptions they might have about the events and likely risks.

• Children need our best answers. Avoid stereotyping, narrow analyses of the problem, disaster or crisis, and blaming of whole groups for the actions of a few.

• Help children to separate angry thoughts and feelings about specific people who behave in cruel ways from the larger cultural or religious group to which those people may belong.

• Avoid black and white answers.

• Help to contextualise the events – for example, explain that terrorists are a tiny minority who use violence and fear to impose their ideas. The vast majority of people in the world defend their own ideas at the same time as respecting other people’s ideas.

Reassure children

• Children need comfort, reassurance and support, and to know that they are safe and are being looked after, and that nothing bad will happen to them personally.

• Let children know that there are people all over the place working hard to make sure that people stay safe, and that these people are very good at their job.

• Do calming activities with children who are distressed.

• Reassure them that you are watching out for them.

• Try to spend more time with your children at times of heightened anxiety, and provide them with plenty of affection through cuddles and hugs.

• Let them be more dependent on you for a while.

• Maintain good routines – predictable family activity is very reassuring for children

Leave children with a sense of security but also hope

• Keep your focus on the life skills and values you want to communicate to your children.

• Help children to see that their world is basically a safe place, people are usually good, and that life is worth living.

• Help children to see that people are amazing, and that humans have a strong spirit for survival.

• Look for the helpers and the heroes that help to make the world a better place and are inspiring role models

• Help children find something positive to do in response to distressing world events, so they feel they can make a positive difference in the world.

Pay attention to your own reactions

Remember that children learn from watching their parents and teachers. They are very interested in how you respond to events. They learn from listening to your conversations with other adults. Children may respond to the anxieties felt and expressed by the people around them. They often see and hear far more than adults are aware of, and they will take their cues for how to respond from you.

• Talk privately with trusted adults if you are needing to air your own feelings or explore your own reactions to the events.

• Share your own feelings, but show that you are in control of them.

• Learn and teach communication skills and non-violent ways of resolving conflict.

• Live well, defend your own ideas, and respect those of others.

• Build your understanding of other religions and cultures - visit a mosque or church or a synagogue, join in with Muslim community events.
- Join groups that have a peace or social justice mission in order to reap the benefits of mutual support and collective action. Donate time and money to such causes.

- Challenge hateful attitudes and actions and correct unhelpful misconceptions wherever possible (and when it is safe to do so).

- Practice forgiveness and acts of kindness.

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**Fact sheet for parents and carers**

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Planning has begun to move NAPLAN from a pen and paper assessment to an online assessment.

**What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?**

**Results will be faster and more precise**
- Your child’s individual results will be returned to you within just a few weeks of the NAPLAN testing.
- Online assessment will reduce the time it takes to mark and provide feedback to schools, teachers and parents.
- Improved precision and timing of results will help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to address students’ learning needs.

**Tailored tests will provide better assessment**
- The online format allows for ‘tailored testing’, where the test adapts to a student’s performance and asks questions that match their achievement level.
- Students in each year level start with the same set of questions which can then branch into a different set of questions based on their responses to the first set of questions.
- This means that students will be directed to questions that may be easier or more challenging depending on their responses.
- This test design will allow students to better demonstrate their literacy and numeracy skills.
- Students find online assessment is more engaging*, which means they are encouraged to persist longer and try harder.

* Research by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) into online assessment has shown that students have engaged well with electronic tests.

**NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test**

NSW schools will participate in a school readiness test between 14 August and 22 September 2017. The school readiness test is a ‘practice run’ for schools to assess their technology ahead of NAPLAN Online. The readiness test is not an assessment of student ability. The readiness test allows schools to:
- become familiar with the NAPLAN Online test format and processes
- check whether they have the technical capacity, rooms and devices to administer NAPLAN Online
- provide students in NAPLAN years 3, 5, 7 and 9 with the opportunity to experience the online test question types and format by completing a practice NAPLAN online test.

**For more information**

Parents, students and schools interested in familiarising themselves with the NAPLAN Online format can access the NAPLAN Online demonstration site that includes sample tests for each NAPLAN year. Use the following link:

http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/
naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site

Further information about NAPLAN Online is available on the national ACARA website:

http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/
aplan-online

Contact your school principal or visit the ACARA NAP website for more detailed information:

Frequently asked questions

Which students will participate in the NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test?
Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will participate.

How should I prepare my child for the NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test?
Your child will not need any academic preparation for the school readiness test. This is not a test of their literacy and numeracy skills, but an opportunity for them to experience the online test format and for their school to assess its online testing capability.

How long is the school readiness test?
The school readiness test is expected to include two assessments: a writing assessment* and a combined numeracy/literacy assessment. The duration of each assessment will be approximately 40 minutes.

* Year 3 students will only be expected to complete the combined numeracy/literacy assessment.

When will my school participate in the readiness test?
One week within the test period in August and September will be identified for each school to conduct readiness testing.

How will students be prevented from using the Internet or spellcheckers when completing the test?
The NAPLAN Online assessment platform will have state-of-the-art security protections. The assessment is delivered inside a locked-down browser. This ensures students cannot access the internet or spellcheckers while completing the test.

Will schools and parents be provided with information on the results of the readiness test?
There will be feedback to schools about the technical information gained from the readiness testing. There will be no reporting of student test results from the readiness test.

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Helena’s Mandarin Class

My Mandarin classes aim to let your child learn a new language with fun & in a relaxed atmosphere. The class is interactive, creative & educational with lots of games, songs & play. I am a native Mandarin speaker with many years teaching experience. I will let your child be immersed in a wonderful cultural & language experience. Your child in my class will build up a solid basic foundation of the Mandarin language giving them the confidence to obtain wings to fly into a new learning world in their later school years.

With my help & guidance your child will gain communication skills in Mandarin. It is the perfect introduction to any child wanting to learn Mandarin.

Please contact me for more information:
Helena McNamara
Email: helenamcnamara@bigpond.com.au Mobile: 0407368322
COMBO DAY
WEDNESDAY 28 June
$5
FRESH BAKED
INDIVIDUAL PIZZA
(Hawaiian or
Meatlover)
Freddo Frog
& JUICE or WATER
Gluten Free Also
Available
Orders via
Flexischools Only
Order Close Monday 26
June 9pm

St Therese's
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
YR 6 FUNDRAISER
DESPICABLE ME 3
SUNDAY 18TH JUNE - EVENT CINEMAS GLENDALE
3.30PM PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES - 4.00PM SCREENING
TICKETS $10 EACH • PURCHASE AT WWW.FLEXISCHOOLS.COM.AU

WIN AN ICE CREAM PARTY FOR YOUR CLASS

It's the 5c Challenge

On Monday 29th May, a glass jar will be placed in each of the classrooms. Children are to place their 5c pieces there.
Each Friday afternoon the jars will be collected and coins counted by Year 6 parents until Friday 23rd June.

Each week at assembly Year 6 will update the children on how much each of the classes have raised.

The class that raises the most money will win an Ice Cream Party in the last week of Term 2.

Start collecting your 5 cents!
Thank you from Year 6 Fundraising team.