The section below comes from the President of the Queensland Association of State School Principals, Mr Michael Fay and is timely given the lead up to NAPLAN testing and the pressures faced by students, staff and schools to perform. “This week, there was once again heightened interest in the My School website updates with the annual compare and contrast approach taken by many media outlets. We recognise that NAPLAN is beneficial at the individual school level for schools to reflect on what the results suggest to the professionals in the school about focus areas for teaching and learning and to recognise the other stories behind the data. However, NAPLAN scores should never be used to compare schools or to make judgments about their effectiveness. The huge number of schools that have significant populations of students with disabilities, students with learning difficulties, migrant students and disadvantaged students are themselves disadvantaged by these ill-informed comparisons. Nor do the raw scores tell the story for those schools with significant transience or those with major recent enrolment growth – both of these factors can also affect student performance on these point in time tests. Principals’ Associations around the country have for years expressed concerns about the misuse of NAPLAN data provided on the My School website. To emphasise these concerns, I would like to share the following quote relating to the inappropriate use of NAPLAN from Margaret Wu and David Hornsby, who are not simply passers-by giving their opinion. Professor Margaret Wu holds the following qualifications: PhD (Melb), MEd (Melb), B.Sc (Hons) (Melb). She is currently Principal Research Fellow at the Work-based Education Research Centre. Professor Wu has a background in Educational Measurement and Statistics. She has worked as a statistician and a psycho-metrician for many years. David Hornsby was with the Victorian Ministry of Education for 28 years and taught at every year level from Prep to Year 6. During that time, he also lectured at La Trobe University, the University of Melbourne and RMIT University. For four years, he was an education department curriculum consultant in primary and secondary schools and then returned to the primary classroom. He was the Principal of Ringwood Heights Primary School for five years. He is now working full-time as a private education consultant in schools. Their combined message is both strikingly simple and extraordinarily significant for those who are prepared to listen”

NAPLAN tests are tests for students. Using students’ test results to judge teachers and schools requires making an inference. Such an inference is not valid. Test scores cannot tell us whether a teacher or a school is good or bad because many other factors influence test scores (such as poverty, parental support, personality, interests, aspiration, motivation and peer pressure). Attributing low school per-formance to poor teaching is not only invalid but insulting since this implies that teachers are not doing their job. (Margaret Wu and David Hornsby, 2012)

Yours in Education

Daniel Bishop

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**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due NOW</th>
<th>Student Resource Scheme payments</th>
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<tr>
<td>27th March</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>31st March</td>
<td>Canberra Trip—Parent Info Evening @ St Josephs SS 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th April</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st April</td>
<td>Public Holiday - Easter Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd April</td>
<td>First day of Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th April</td>
<td>Public Holiday - Anzac Day</td>
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<td><strong>2014</strong></td>
<td>Years 5, 6, 7 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th—8th Aug</td>
<td>Canberra Trip</td>
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</table>
Preps are flying through the letters in the Jolly Phonics program, the Year Ones are acting as the ‘teacher’ to show the Preps the correct Jolly Phonics action for each sound. The ‘circle’ group of Preps have begun the gold words of the M100W sight words program this week and the ‘star’ group of Preps are beginning home readers next week. Students working on sight words will be heard three times a week: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We have begun ‘Show & Tell’ - we have listened to some very interesting news. Last week we looked at how technology effects our everyday life and we saw the many appliances students have in their homes that help us.

Our ‘grassheads’ went home last week and this week in science/history we have been looking at lifecycles. We read ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’ and a magic school bus book about seeds. We then watched time lapse videos of seed growth and the lifecycle of the butterfly.

Week 6
Green Slips - Peter, Eliza
Bookwork - Ryan

Week 7
Green Slips - Tara, Natalie
Bookwork - Miranda

Mrs Alex Brimblecombe

**1-2 Class News**

**ENGLISH**

Students will continue to learn about making connections between texts and personal experiences next week. We will begin our assessment task in week 8 also. This involves students choosing a fictional text and completing a number of questions related to what they have read. Students will then share their book with the class in an informal presentation.

**LECTURETTE**

During the week we have introduced the students to their lecturette topic – “What’s My Talent?”

Students have chosen their talent in class and have begun brainstorming ways of presenting this to their peers. The lecturette task sheet can be found in your child/ren’s Communication Book. The lecturettes will be presented during WEEK 9.

**MATH**

Mrs Webber’s group have been working really hard on their fast facts and have been doing brilliantly! This group has been working through Topic 4 – Place Value to 99 and Topic 5 – Skip Counting. Students will continue to work through these topics next week.

My group have completed Topic 6 – Fractions. Students had fun playing with halves and quarters. This week and next week we will complete Topic 7 – Addition and Topic 8 – Subtraction. We have enjoyed completing some REALLY hard addition with trading in our Maths Pad this week.

**SCIENCE**

This week we completed an experiment based on melting 3 different types of chocolate. It was a very exciting and tasty experience. Students compared the difference between White chocolate, Cadbury chocolate and Dark chocolate. We have continued to learn new scientific language to use during experiments. Next week we will complete activities based around cooking – Popcorn and Pancakes!

**GEOGRAPHY**

Students have been finishing their map of a local environment and labelling the distinctive features. Hopefully we can begin our assessment next week. This involves:

- Students identifying and describing natural, managed and constructed features of places using every day language.
- Taking photos with the school’s digital camera to demonstrate their understanding.
- Identify and explain that spaces can be arranged for different purposes and represent these locations with the images provided on the assessment task sheet.

**ART**

Students are learning about Rangoli, the popular floor art, from India. Next week we will dye different materials to use for our final Rangoli design. If parents could donate products such as – sand, little pebbles, rice or other grains for next week (week 8) that would be a huge help! Could you please send along an OLD SHIRT with your child next week to wear during these sessions, thank you!

**HIGH EXPECTATIONS HANDWRITING AWARD**

Week 6 – Hannah Mollenhauer
Week 7 – Matthew Kunde

**GREEN SLIPS**

Week 6 – Ryder Brown, Tyson Christenson and Rory Scott.
Week 7 – Darcy Mitchell, Clair Anderson and Cooper Mollenhauer.

Miss Sarah Sullivan.
We can hardly believe there are only 3 weeks of Term 1 to go. We have been working away at all of our units and are getting down to the pointy end now with a few assessments to complete in the coming weeks.

In English, we started our assessment for the poetry unit this week. There are three parts to our assessment. All of our assessment is centred on a poem called *Desert Community* by Frances Todd. Our first assessment was to answer questions about the language features and devices used in the poem including alliteration, onomatopoeia and adjectives. We also had to explain the purpose and mood of the poem. Next week we will complete the second part of our assessment which is to write an adaptation of Frances Todd’s poem about a setting of our choosing.

In Maths, we have continued our unit on multiplication and division. The year 3s continue to work on understanding the concept of multiplication and learning the times tables while the year 4s are focusing on division including division with remainders! WOW! After we finish this unit we will work on Patterns and Algebra for the remainder of the term.

In Science, we have been classifying animals based on their features. This week we went on a Mammal scavenger hunt and discovered some interesting facts about mammals. Did you know that the blue whale is the largest animal in the world? It grows over 100 feet long. The blue whale’s tongue is as heavy as an elephant and its heart is about the size of a small automobile.

In Geography, we have been looking at the human features of Queensland. There are many interesting places to visit in Queensland including The Big Pineapple, Australia Zoo, Opal Mines, Kuranda Skyrail and The Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame. Next week we will look at some of the natural features of Queensland. In week 9, we will complete our first piece of assessment for geography.

In Technology, we have finished our desktop tidies!! This is very exciting because we now have them on our desks keeping us neat, tidy, and organised. I have sent home a picture of your child with their desktop tidy in their link book. They all worked very hard on this project and should be proud of their efforts. This week we began creating an advertisement for geography.

Please continue to sign your child’s homework each night. They must complete all aspects of their homework to be eligible for rewards; this includes reading, spelling, and maths.

Just a dateclaimer to all year 3 students that they will be completing NAPLAN testing in Term 2 from the 13th-15th May. We will begin preparing for these tests in the coming weeks to ensure the children feel prepared and confident when completing the testing.

*Erin Hubbard*

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**News from the Big People**

**In Geography** students are quickly learning some new skills. We have looked at cartographic conventions, which are the written features of a map that enable the reader to understand the map. We are using anew acronym BOLTSS (Border, Orientation, Legend, Title, Scale, Source) to help us understand and apply conventions to maps. We are also looking at the relative location of Australia to other countries. This unit will continue for the Semester!

**In English** we are continuing enjoy “The Hunt for Ned Kelly” as told in the My Australian Story series. We are getting pretty good at identifying language devices including, similes, metaphors and figurative language.

**Palm Cards** for lecturette is due next Wednesday, so hopefully all students will meet this check dat.

We continue to spend time reminding our students about our expectations for behaviour and work habits as part of the senior class and are happy to report that they are all striving to meet them!

*Libby Meikle*

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**ICY CUPS $1**

Sarsparilla, Orange, Raspberry, Lime
P & C NEWS -

Centenary memorabilia items are available for sale from the office.

Next Meeting - Annual General Meeting on 27th March 2014 at 6.30pm

We would love for as many parents as possible to attend, newcomers and old, if anyone has any questions please feel free to chat to our committee;

President - Julie Brown 0429 059 131 browntonyjulie@gmail.com
Secretary - Ngaire Louis 0467 684 850 theflyz@bigpond.com
Treasurer - Kieran Ramke 0400 689 872 akramke@bigpond.com

Julie Brown
P&C President

RECYCLE FOR THE SCHOOL!

Do you have any old automotive Batteries lying around??
Please drop them off at Murgon Tyre & Auto who can recycle them for you and all proceeds will be donated back to our School.

Thank you to Murgon Tyre & Auto for this great program!

HONEY BACK ON SALE!

Available from the Office - $6.50 per bucket Proceeds to the P&C

JUNIOR GOLF

Murgon Golf Club are Hosting Junior Golf on Sunday mornings at 9am
Cost $5 per child

*More...NEW ZUMBA® CLASSES

Mon...Murgon PCYC 4.15pm-5pm
Mon...Wondai Town Hall 6.30pm-7.30pm
Tues...Wondai Town Pool 6pm-6.45pm
Wed...Wondai Town Hall 6.15pm-7.15pm
Join us now...Get fit, Have Fun and Feel fabulous!
Contact: ZUMBA SOUTH BURNETT for further details
0408598505

PLEASE ASK THE OFFICE ABOUT ADVERTISING YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR NEWSLETTER!
Nationally Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

Collecting data on school students with disability helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as students without disability.

All Australian Governments have agreed to work together on the annual collection of data on school students with disability.

In 2013, 10% of Queensland state schools participated in the first year of implementation. In 2014, two thirds of Queensland schools will participate and all schools will be collect data from 2015. Our school will be involved in the nationally consistent collection of data from this year.

Please be reassured that the Department will not provide on to another organisation any data that can identify an individual student. The only data being collected at the school level to be reported nationally is the:

- number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability;
- level of adjustments we provide for those students; and
- broad category of disability.

Consultation with parents is important not only for the data collection but also to ensure you aware of the adjustments being provided to support your child. We will therefore continue to consult with you.

While only data that cannot identify your child will be submitted outside of the Department, if you do not wish for your child’s details to be included, please let me know.

Information and fact sheets are available to help you make a decision from the:


Alternatively, if you have any queries about the collection or use of this data I encourage you to contact me directly.

Daniel Bishop