

# NEWSLETTER



**Monday, 13 May 2013**

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[www.gundagai-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.gundagai-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Principal: Jennifer Miggins

## **DATES FROM THE CALENDAR:**

### **Term 2**

#### **Week 3**

- ✓ **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
Year 12 Work Placement continues

#### **Week 4**

- ✓ **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May**  
Zone Athletics in Temora

#### **Week 5**

- ✓ **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**  
Zone Cross Country at Murrumburrah



We acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the traditional custodians of this Land.

## **Principal's Message**

### **Thank you**

Jim Sharman, Drew Miller and Jim McDonnell for your time and effort in making our ANZAC Day Assembly a memorable occasion. Students and staff really connected with Drew's address, with photos of his personal journey to important memorial sites in Europe.

Jim Sharman and Jim McDonnell spent time with Year 10 students, before the Assembly, relaying their experiences regarding wartime events. These real life stories help the understanding of students and give them a real connection to the soldiers.

Our partnership project with the Gundagai RSL sub-branch came to fruition at this year's assembly with the presentation of research projects by Sabrina Meurs and Daniel Stuckey. They each researched the life of a fallen soldier that has a recognition paver in ANZAC Grove. Two very interesting and excellent presentations. Well done!

### **School Development Days**

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April staff were actively engaged in professional learning activities that focused on the implementation of the new NSW syllabuses which incorporate the Australian Curriculum. These new syllabuses focus on students learning and developing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills rather than just learning content, so the teacher's professional learning was and will be on writing units of learning around these skills.

### **Congratulations Terry Watson**

Terry has been successful in his application to attend the New South Wales School's Constitutional Convention at Parliament House, Sydney on Monday 17 June 2013.

This is a valuable opportunity to extend Terry's interest in and understanding of our Constitution.

Students at this NSW Convention will select 30 of their number to attend the 3-day National Constitutional Convention held in Canberra, early 2014 and these selected delegates will have the opportunity to express an interest in attending the Regional Youth Parliament, to be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 24 September to 1 October, 2013.



## Well Done

To all those students that participated on Wednesday, at the school's Cross Country Carnival. Congratulations to the Age Champions: Lilly Bowditch, Rhys Murray, Teighan Worsnop, Chaz Bishop, Elise Hughes, Clay Willshire, Jeana Bell, Candyce-Lee Crowley, Ellie Sheahan, Jock Lindley, Stephanie Cribb, Tom Lemon and James Murray. The Boys 15s is still to be advised.



## Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership

Gundagai High School has been selected and allocated funds to participate in this partnership for 2013 – 2014. The funding will enable a review and refinement of current whole school approaches in literacy which will lead to actions that identify strategies to increase the capacity of staff through professional learning to address student literacy needs, particularly in Years 7 and 8.

Jennifer Miggins  
Principal

## Deputy Principal's News

### Clothing

With cooler weather now upon us, please ensure that students have jumpers, jackets and tracksuits labelled so we can return any lost clothing. Unmarked clothing that is sent to the front office and isn't claimed by its owner is sent to the op-shop at the end of each term.

Simon Bridgeman  
Deputy Principal



## FRONT OFFICE NEWS

### Stewart House

Please return any donations to Stewart House in the envelope provided with this newsletter to the school office by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May**.  
Thank you.



### Family Details Update

Tomorrow your youngest child at Gundagai High School will be given an envelope containing the family details update sheet to take home.

Please carefully check through this information making any necessary changes, especially phone numbers as these are important should the school need to contact you when your child is sick.

Medicare numbers are also required as these are now important for when students are going on excursions as well as work placement/work experience.

Please sign and return to the front office whether or not you have made any alterations by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May**. Thank you.



## MATHS NEWS

### New Opportunity

Announcing the maths knowledge and numeracy builder class which will let students and their parents work together and help improve the student's maths performance.

### Program Delivery

The program will use customised self-paced online mymathsonline learning software and will be supervised by Maths teachers and volunteer tutors. Parents are welcome to attend with the student whenever they can. Attending will allow parents to provide support at home to the student.

**Venue:** The Gundagai High School Library

**Time:** between 3:45pm and 5pm after school on Tuesday afternoons

**Starting Date** 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013

**Length of program** depends on the pace chosen by students.

### Aim

- To provide ALL students a systematic structured system to improve their maths knowledge and skills
- The objective is to let students and parents work on their own to fill specific gaps or weak areas i.e. a student and parent may find fractions challenging.
- They can work on a set of lessons that develop the underlying concepts and then go on to do all the learning content on the topic to master it.
- Advanced students can also benefit by taking on topics that extend what they already know

### Benefits

- There will be awards at all levels to promote doing online maths work, an activity that is cool to do. Sponsorship offers are welcome.
- Creating a culture and familiarity of using the mymathsonline software and in general the concept of self-paced online learning, from anywhere at any time.

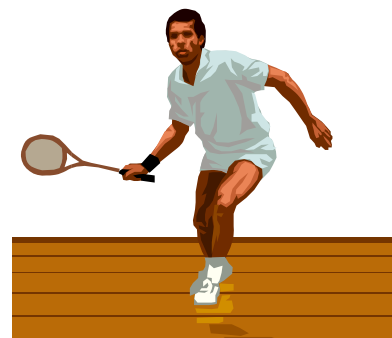
- Improving the maths skills for ALL students at all levels from Year 7 to 12 by giving them a reason to spend time doing maths.
- Giving students an incentive to persevere until they achieve complete learning and excellence on a topic. We hope they will even ask teachers for help when they get something wrong or can't understand.

There may be an opportunity for advanced students to volunteer as a facilitator/tutor.

Mr Mukerji  
Maths Teacher

## SQUASH NEWS

In the last week of term 1, The Boys and Girls squash teams travelled to Wagga and competed against Wagga High School in the first round of the CHS Squash Knockout.



After trials were held, Four Boys and Four Girls travelled to Wagga Squash courts with Mr Bridgeman and Mrs Beverley Jones

Ranked 1-4 in both teams, the students played the equivalent ranked student from Wagga, who all seemed more experienced and older. Gundagai's students all performed to the best of their ability and proved that practice, trying hard on the day, and good sportsmanship would make for a fun day out.

The Teams and results were as follows

### Girls

1. Jade Smith won 3-0
2. Ellie Sheahan won 3-2
3. Teagan Porter won 3-0
4. Zoe Watson won 3-0

### Boys

1. Jack Jones was defeated 2-3 in a very close game
2. Jake Elphick was defeated 1-3 in another close game
3. Tom Evans was defeated 0-3 against possibly their best player on the day
4. Matt Bell was defeated 0-3 in the competition game, then played Wagga's reserve player in a game and won 3-0

Gundagai's girls team now play Leeton and Temora in round 2 & 3. We travel to the same venue on Tuesday of week 3.

A special Thank you to Mrs Jones and also the students for your commitment to training and your fantastic sportsmanship on the day.

S.Bridgeman

Thank  
You!

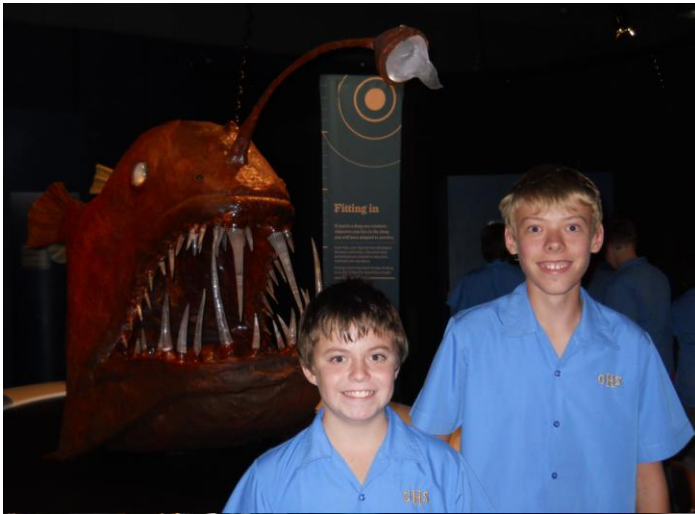


# Sports Carnival





# Questacon



# MATHS COMPETITION PERMISSION SLIP

## 2013

I give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
of \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the following maths competitions.  
Class

	Fees
ICAS 2013 run by the University of NSW Global	8.00
2013 AMIC run by the Australian maths trust	6.00
Total	-----

Please find enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ entry fee.  
Amount

Name of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_









# 2013 LIONS TOUR

## — AUSTRALIA —

Tumut Bullants invite you to watch  
the Wallabies take on the British & Irish Lions  
for the first Test .... LIVE on the BIG SCREEN

22 June 2013

St Pat's Hall  
Gundagai

**Calcutta & BBQ from 6.45pm ... Kick off 8pm**

**BBQ & soft drinks available (BYO alcohol)**


A Calcutta fundraiser will be run pre-game.  
Raffles & prizes to be won throughout the game.


All funds raised will support the  
Tumut Bullants Rugby Club.


RSVP by 19 June  
tanya.ginty@yahoo.com  
Phone: 0403 128 056 or 6945 3241





## An Invitation to all 2013 Year 9 and 10 students to attend





 **ENJOY** 3/4 days in which you will be introduced to some of the wonders of science and technology


 **PERFORM** interesting experiments in a university laboratory


 **HEAR** leaders in science, technology and engineering


 **LEARN** about careers in science and technology


 **LOCATED** 35 campuses nationally

 **PROGRAMS** are non-selective

 **COST** is \$115 (inc GST) for 3 days and \$150 for 4 days



 **DATES** see website

 **SPONSORSHIP** maybe available through Rotary, or the National Office.



Further information and application forms are available from your school, local Rotary club or **The ConocoPhillips Science Experience** website.

Early application is advised.

The ConocoPhillips  
Science Experience  
PO Box 514  
BAYSWATER VIC 3153  
Ph: 03 8288 1001



## NAPLAN 2013 tests timetable

	Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May
Year 3	Language Conventions 40 minutes  Writing 40 minutes	Reading 45 minutes	Numeracy 45 minutes
Year 5	Language Conventions 40 minutes  Writing 40 minutes	Reading 50 minutes	Numeracy 50 minutes
Year 7	Language Conventions 45 minutes  Writing 40 minutes	Reading 65 minutes	Numeracy <u>Calculator</u> 40 minutes  <u>Non-calculator</u> 40 minutes
Year 9	Language Conventions 45 minutes  Writing 40 minutes	Reading 65 minutes	Numeracy <u>Calculator</u> 40 minutes  <u>Non-calculator</u> 40 minutes

- **Language Conventions** includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- **Numeracy** includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
- **Calculators** are NOT permitted in the Numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, there is one Numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.

**NAPLAN** NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM  
Literacy and Numeracy  
[www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)

**acara** AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM,  
ASSESSMENT AND  
REPORTING AUTHORITY  
[www.acara.edu.au](http://www.acara.edu.au)

# NAPLAN 2013

## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

### Literacy and Numeracy

## Information for Parents



## What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

## Why do students do NAPLAN tests?

NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of the school's assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance.

## What will be tested, and how?

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the National Statements of Learning for English and Mathematics which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The Writing task requires students to write a persuasive text.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample Writing task can be accessed on the NAP website: [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)

## Who will run the tests?

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or the principal. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

## How can I help my child prepare for the tests?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child's preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

## What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?

All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments which reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions, or who has recently arrived in Australia and is from a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can provide you with more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

## How is NAPLAN performance measured?

NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has ten bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands will represent the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

## What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?

Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 17 May.

## Will I receive a report on my child's performance?

A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent home. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

## How are NAPLAN test results used?

- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the *My School* website.

## Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- visit [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)
- contact your child's school
- contact your state or territory's education authority (details available on the NAP website)