Welcome to Term 2. Hopefully the Easter school break allowed you to spend some quality time with family and recharge the batteries in readiness for another busy term. This term activities include Christian Living Camp for Year 6, NAPLAN for Years 3 & 5, Parent Teacher Interviews, CWA Public Speaking, St Columba’s Day, 40th Celebrations for The Church of our Lady and of course plenty of learning and teaching.

ANZAC Day
A huge thank you to all who were able to attend the ANZAC March last Friday. Our school was very well represented and the students looked very smart.

CWA Public Speaking Contest
All Primary students will present their CWA Speeches to the school tomorrow morning from 9am in the school library. The teachers will then select one student from each year group to compete in the CWA Public Speaking Contest in Bathurst on Wednesday 28th May. Parents are welcome to attend the speeches tomorrow morning.

Birthdays – Annabelle Englert (11) 21/4/2013

School Photos
You are reminded that school photos will be taken next Monday 5th May (Week 2). All students will need to be in full Winter Uniform on this day. Please remember to send in order forms with payment by Monday if you haven’t done so. Please contact the school ASAP if you have misplaced your order form.
**Winter Uniform**
Some students have begun wearing their full Winter Uniform which looks very smart. Students will need to be in Winter Uniform from next Monday.

**Girls**
- Maroon tunic or slacks
- Fawn blouse
- School Tie
- Maroon school jumper
- White socks or stockings
- Black shoes

**Boys**
- Grey trousers
- Blue shirt
- School Tie
- Maroon School jumper
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

Note: *Trackpants are not an acceptable part of school uniform*

**Christian Living Camp**
Laura, Phoebe, Teji and I will join with the Year Six Students and their teachers from the Catholic Schools in Blayney, Canowindra, Eugowra, Manildra & Molong for the Annual Christian Living Camp which will be held at “Ridgecrest” Lake Burrendong next Tuesday 6th – Thursday 8th May. There will be approximately 45 students and 7 teachers attending.

**NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy)**
All Students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 in all schools across Australia will participate in the NAPLAN Assessments Week 3 of this term. Due to the Yeoval Show on the Tuesday, both Yeoval Central School & St Columba’s will move the assessments back one day.
- Wednesday 14th May – Writing & Language Conventions
- Thursday 15th May – Reading
- Friday 16th May – Numeracy

**Mothers’ Day Stall**
Please remember that we will be having our Mothers’ Day Stall at school next Friday 9th May. A number of families have already sent in their donations for the stall. It would be greatly appreciated if all donations could be sent in by Thursday 8th May. Gifts will be priced from 50 cents to $5.00. Your support and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

**Parent/Teacher Interviews**
Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd May (Week 4). If you would like an interview please complete the form attached and return it to school by the next Monday 12th May. Every endeavour will be made to give you the time you request. Your interview time will be confirmed by Friday 16th May.

**Homework Activities**
Both Infants and Primary have begun homework activities for the term. You are reminded that homework consists of nightly reading and spelling activities. Students then select an extra activity to complete from the homework grid each week. It is hoped that each activity on the grid is completed by the end of term. Completed homework is to be brought in to school each Friday for the teachers to mark. Please remember to sign your child’s home reading record book so that they can receive their awards for nights read.

**P&F Meeting – 5pm Monday 5th May in the School Library**
Easter Raffle
Many thanks to all for supporting the Easter Raffle last term. We were able to draw 22 prizes with the great number of donations. $557 was raised!

The lucky winners were:
1st prize – Dave Rees  
2nd prize – Will Kerin  
3rd prize – Fergus Kerin  
4th prize – Wend Houston  
5th prize – Patrick Vaughan  
6th prize – The Englerts  
7th prize – Leona Anderson  
8th prize – Helen Swan  
9th prize – Meredith Harvey  
10th prize – Michala Harvey  
11th prize – The Antaws  
12th prize – Judy Baker  
13th prize - Gae Vaughan  
14th prize – Keith Anderson  
15th prize – Coco Wykes  
16th prize – Toby Brown  
17th prize – Milo Hunter  
18th prize – Julianne Harvey  
19th prize – Vicki Hyde  
20th prize – Molly Arthur  
21st prize – Aaron Quince

School Fees
The second instalment of 2014 School Fees are attached to today’s newsletter. Please contact me at school if you wish to discuss any aspect of the fees or methods of payment.

Kind regards

Glen Brown
Principal

Concentrate on the 4 small dots in the middle of the picture for about 30 seconds the close your eyes and tilt your head back looking up.
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

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 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
- contact your child’s school
- contact your state or territory’s education authority (details available on the NAP website)