Dear Parent/Guardian

On **Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May**, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, or NAPLAN, as it is commonly known.

Skills that will be tested include: reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

These tests are done here at school and are considered just another part of the curriculum.

It is important for you and your child to know that NAPLAN is not a pass/fail test. It simply looks at what level students are achieving in literacy and numeracy against National Standards and compared with student peers throughout Australia.

NAPLAN cannot be studied for and students are not expected to do so. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that it is just a routine part of their school program, and to urge them to do the best they can on the day.

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in NAPLAN testing.

Later in the year we will send parents an individual student NAPLAN report that you can use to view and monitor how your child is progressing.

More information is available on the NAP website.

If you have any concerns, please contact Dr John Snell, Director of Learning and Teaching, either by phoning the College on 6245 0099 or jsnell@mackillop.tas.edu.au

Yours sincerely

Dr Sally Towns
**Principal**
General NAPLAN

- NAPLAN is used by governments, education authorities and schools to determine whether young Australians are meeting important educational goals in literacy and numeracy.
- Valuable data to support good teaching and learning, and school improvement.
- As your child progresses through their school years it is very important that checks are made along the way to see how well they are learning the skills of reading, writing, and mathematics - essential skills that will set them firmly upon the path to success as adults.
- It is important to know that NAPLAN is not a pass or fail test. It simply looks at what level students are achieving in literacy and numeracy against the national standards and compared with their peers throughout Australia.
- NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Children can prepare for NAPLAN through studying a broad rich curriculum.
- On its own, NAPLAN is not a test that can be studied for and students are not expected to do so.

Nervousness

- As a parent, you can help your child by treating NAPLAN test days just like any other school day.
- Some nervousness is natural.
- NAPLAN is not a pass or fail test.

Teaching to the test

- Students cannot prepare specifically for NAPLAN and are not expected to do so.
- NAPLAN familiarisation is important, but drilling and excessive practice is unnecessary and unhelpful.
- These tests contain questions similar to those that occur in regular classroom learning and assessment.
- If you have any concerns encourage parents to talk to their teacher who knows your child’s learning best.

Narrowing the curriculum

- NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum.

Year 9 students sat first ever NAPLAN in 2008

- Parents of children who sat NAPLAN in Year 3 in 2008 and are now sitting NAPLAN in Year 9, by later this year they will have four NAPLAN reports for their child.
- NAPLAN tests are reported on what is called a “single scale” - this is a valuable measurement tool that means you can make comparisons from test to test for individual students.
- Parents can see the development of their child (eg growth / gain) over time.
- Parents can track their child’s performance over time compared with the national average and the school average.