Nowra Anglican College

COURAGE TO EXCEL  COMPASSION TO GIVE

Term 1 Week 6  2014
National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence  

This week I visited a prominent school in Sydney to attend a conference for Principals from the independent schools in NSW. I arrived quite early and while I was waiting I heard four boys taunting another student by saying two “throw away sentences”, teasing him sarcastically about his clothes. At the time I thought I should say something to these boys. Unfortunately I didn’t follow my convictions and remained silent. The next day, the key note speaker for the conference made a very pertinent statement. She said;

“The standard that you walk past is the standard that you accept.”

This made me think about my own action, or inaction, as the case may be. By my walking past and not saying something to those boys, I condoned their behaviour. I don’t feel pleased about this, particularly as I continually promote that all students in our School community need to be treated with dignity and respect.

On Friday 21st March, 2014 the School will participate in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. This annual day provides a focus for all schools to say “Bullying. No Way!” and it will help us strengthen our everyday messages that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time.

What is bullying and harassment?

Bullying is the repeated, wilful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten, isolate, exclude or embarrass someone. Bullying can occur face to face, through written means, by mobile phones, messages and computers.

We will join with over 1400 schools across Australia to participate in this event and show our support for anti-bullying work in our community. Most bullying situations involve ‘bystanders’ - other people who watch or are nearby at the time the bullying takes place. Classes will participate in lessons which will educate and support students to take action against bullying and equip them to be active bystanders. I encourage all of us, to show courage and compassion and to stand up for those who may be experiencing bullying.

The Bible teaches us to;

*Defend the weak and fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.* Psalm 82:3 (NIV)

Lorrae Sampson  
Executive Principal

www.bullyingnoway.gov.au
Wisdom To Families

At the recent Year 11 Dinner it was great to see students and parents sitting together, in their best formal dress, enjoying a night out together. These are treasured memories but we know family life is not always picture perfect. Growing up the Brady Bunch made us feel as though there was something really wrong with our own family by comparison, but shows like Married with Children and The Simpsons helped us get a more realistic picture of family life. Which more closely resembles your family?

As we continue our look at Jesus brings good things, I would like to briefly share how Jesus brings wisdom to families. Luke Chapter 2 in the Bible records a snapshot of Jesus at age 12. The comment which strikes me is “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men.” (Luke 2:52)

Growing in strength (physically), wisdom (intellectually, emotionally) and in the eyes of God and others would be important to many parents. But how?

An intriguing passage in Ephesians Chapter 6, verses 1 to 4 gives us a couple of clues. 
Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honour your father and mother”-which is the first commandment with a promise- “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”
Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Firstly, children are to obey their parents. Sounds simple but at times it’s just not. Children grow in wisdom as they obey their parents who have been appointed by God as responsible to guide and protect them. Children are encouraged to do this out of a desire to honour their parents, not kicking and screaming as if going for root canal therapy!

But there is a twist here for you parents (and teachers); you are not to exasperate your children! Being petty, pedantic, nagging or hypocritical will just harden your child. At times, parents have to remember they are the adults and need to act accordingly. Growing eyes, ears, hands and feet are ready to copy what we do, like a personal Mini Me.

The good news of the gospel is that God seeks to reconcile relationships that are strained and broken. Jesus provides a perfect example of obeying his father. We are invited to join his family, becoming adopted as God’s children and heirs. Accepting this invitation shows the greatest wisdom for any child or parent.

With God’s blessings for you and your family,

Jim Dayhew
Chaplain

Tuesday 11th March is cupcake day at NAC!!
Please support the school Relay for Life team: “Nac for Life”
All donations of cupcakes will be greatly appreciated.
Please bring your cupcakes to the canteen area on Tuesday morning.
Cupcakes will be sold for $1

Thank you for your support!
We welcomed thirty five parents to last week’s Parent Morning to learn about volunteering at NAC. It was wonderful to have such a great roll up and our staff is very appreciative to have such a supportive parent body. Educational research (Henderson and Berla, 1994) shows that parent involvement at school provides benefits to both children and to their parents.

**Benefits for the Children**

Children tend to achieve more, regardless of ethnic or racial background, socioeconomic status, or parents’ education level.

Children generally achieve better grades, test scores, and attendance.

Children consistently complete their homework.

Children have better self-esteem, are more self-disciplined, and show higher aspirations and motivation toward school.

Children’s positive attitude about school often results in improved behaviour in school and less suspension for disciplinary reasons.

**Benefits for the Parents**

Parents increase their interaction and discussion with their children and are more responsive and sensitive to their children’s social, emotional, and intellectual developmental needs.

Parents are more confident in their parenting and decision-making skills.

As parents gain more knowledge of child development, there is more use of affection and positive reinforcement and less punishment on their children.

Parents have a better understanding of the teacher’s job and school curriculum.

Parents’ perceptions of the school are improved and there are stronger ties and commitment to the school.

**Guidelines for Volunteering at NAC:**

Volunteers are required to complete the Application for a NSW ‘Working with Children Check’ https://wwccheck.ccyp.nsw.gov.au/Applicants/Application

All visitors to the College are required to:

1. Sign in on arrival and sign out on departure (at the main office)
2. Wear a visitor’s badge
3. Follow the staff code of conduct

Susan Pearson
Head of Junior School

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Relay For Life

Once again, Nowra Anglican College have entered a team in the Cancer Council’s Relay for Life.

Our team is called “NAC for life!”

This year the Relay takes place at the Nowra Showground on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th March 2014.

We would love to have parents, students and friends of the College join our team for this event; so come on, join us for some fun and pledge your support to fundraise for our team: NAC for Life!

For more information or to join our team simply go to:


or contact Fiona Schreurs on ph 0401 002 315 or email schreurs@shoal.net.au

join the NAC for life! team

We look forward to seeing you on the track!
Home - School Reading

Home-school reading is a program that provides children with the opportunity to practise their developing reading skills in a warm, friendly and non-threatening environment i.e. your home. To begin with, it involves the child reading aloud a different short book every night, but as children develop as readers, they are expected to read silently to themselves and to sustain the reading of longer books over a number of nights.

What is the role of the parent?

The activity is intended as a sharing time and not as a test. Your children should be able to read their home-reading books with a high degree of independence. If your child is experiencing significant difficulty with their home reader, please let the teacher know. After reading, or as you read, it’s a good idea to talk about the story because this helps understanding. Above all, it’s important the children enjoy their reading. Don’t allow reading to become a chore or a battlefield.

Does home reading take the place of bedtime reading?

Home reading is not intended as an alternative to you reading picture books, poems or longer stories to your children before bed. There is always a place for children to be read to at any age. Try to continue this practice as long as your children enjoy it.

Premier's Reading Challenge

“The Premier’s Reading Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Kindergarten-Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools”.

At Nowra Anglican College we strongly encourage our students to participate in the PRC each year.

We have received the certificates for children who participated in 2013 and they will be presented at a morning assembly. Gold certificates for those who have completed the Challenge over four years or more will receive their certificates at the end of term Presentation Assembly on Tuesday 8 April.

If you would like to help and support your child at home with the challenge the website has all the information you need. https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

At the end of term the class (Years 3-6) that has collectively read the most books will have a sausage sizzle and an extra playtime in Apex Park.

Each child needs to keep their own reading record which will be distributed by Mrs Markham in the Library. K-2 students may be helped by their teachers and parents. Please note that all students who participate and who successfully complete the Challenge will have their names published in the Sun Herald. It is a condition of entry that students entering and successfully completing the Challenge will receive a PRC certificate and appear on the PRC Honour Roll.

Thank you for encouraging your children as they attempt to read 20 books between now and September.

Susan Pearson
Head of Junior School
News From Senior School

Awards
Congratulations to all prize winners this fortnight.

Bronze Academic
Year 8
Victoria Hancock (x2), Taylah Narbeth
Year 11
Phillip Muzzall

Bronze Co-curricular
Year 8
Joshua Handel
Year 9
Ethan Ford, Isabelle Cork, Sarah Barker

Bronze Service & Character
Year 8
Taylah Narbeth, Andrew Pearson

Year 11 Ball
Last Friday night we held our Year 11 Ball. It was a spectacular occasion and a great evening. My congratulations to Year 11, you all carried yourselves with class and style! My thanks to Mrs Sue Sproule and Ms Felicity Reynolds who organised the event. Thanks also to Bomaderry Bowling Club for their support in waiving the venue hire fee and supporting our Year 11 Cambodia/Vietnam Service Trip.

Camps
Just a reminder to please get camp notes and medical forms in as soon as possible to allow staff to plan for these busy events later in the term.

College Open Day
I would like to invite all parents/carers and their families along to the

NAC Open Day
Saturday 22nd March
10:00am - 1:00pm

It will be an action packed 3 hours with numerous activities to choose from. PowerFM will be broadcasting from the school, there will be musical items, art displays, a café with great coffee, and much more.

If you know of a family that are looking for schooling for their children please forward these details on.

David Hamaty
Head of School
Max + Alpacas = Prizes

Max Mathews (Yr 12) pictured with a couple of his prize-winning alpacas at the Gunning Show; Yaamba ‘Shades of Grey’ and Bardella Park ‘Soiree’. His alpacas won many prizes and we congratulate Max who is involved in all areas including the breeding, training, grooming and showing. He still has several shows before the Royal Easter Show. All the best, Max!

- **Soiree**: 1st junior grey/roan female and Junior champion female
- **Driving force**: 2nd junior white male
- **Mirrabelle**: 1st intermediate light fawn female and reserve champion intermediate female
- **Golden Elegance**: 1st intermediate medium/dark fawn female
- **Angel**: 1st adult brown female and reserve champion adult female
- **Shades of grey**: 1st adult grey/roan female, Champion adult female and best grey in show
- **Snow Prince**: 1st adult white male and reserve champion adult male
- **After Party**: 2nd adult grey/roan male.

Penelope’s Hard Work Pays Off at the Nowra Show

Penelope McMillan, a NAC Year 8 student, is a keen exhibitor at the local agricultural shows. 2014 proved to be no different with her string of wins including awards in Equestrian, Cooking (both junior and open - up against ladies a lot older than herself), Poultry, Craft, Art, Ceramics and wood work. Penelope has been exhibiting at the local Nowra show since the age of 3 and each year sees her set the bar high for what she wishes to achieve.

**Equestrian**

2014 is the first time Penelope competed in the equestrian events with Riveroak Malaki a newly trained to saddle Australian heritage horse gelding, a testament to her horsemanship skills. They competed in the registered other breeds classes bringing home:
- 1st gelding any other breed handlers class
- 1st ridden horse any other breed
- Champion horse overall in the handlers class any other breed
Her **baking awards** included in the **Junior** section:
1st place chocolate cake – open section
1st place chocolate balls
2nd sponge sandwich iced
2nd butter cake iced

And her major award, the **Voni Muller Most Outstanding Exhibition** with her iced patty cakes, was very impressive as she is the youngest to have ever won this award.

**Novice** (adult cooking section)
1st novice sponge sandwich
1st novice cup cakes
2nd patty cakes
2nd novice iced chocolate cake

**Junior Art**
1st smallest backyard bird

**Woodwork**
2nd place woodwork any item

**Poultry**
1st place 15yrs and under drawing any medium
2nd best behaved backyard bird
2nd prettiest backyard bird
2nd soft feather bantam male in the adult section

**Junior Needlecraft**
2nd 18 yrs and under pottery item

**Ceramics**
2nd place specimen of needlework/craft not listed

Congratulations Penelope on your success at the Nowra Show.

**Facebook**
Facebook is a popular way for teenagers to relate to each other online, but there are a few things you should know.

**You must be at least 13 years of age to register an account on Facebook.**
If your child is under this age and has a Facebook account, they have lied about their date of birth. They should deactivate their account and, if they want to use it after they are 13, they can then reactivate it.

**Disclosing too much information about yourself on Facebook can be dangerous.**
Having your name, profile photo and posting your location on Facebook can provide strangers with too much information. It’s best to use a photo other than your own and not to show where you have been. Likewise, photos revealing your school or home address are also unwise to post.

**Privacy settings should be used.**
Facebook’s default settings keep information public until you make it private. Many teenagers don’t realize that anyone can view all that they’ve written on Facebook. Selecting “Friends Only” is a good choice, but you can be even more selective. Make sure your child knows that, if their settings are on “Public”, anyone can read what they’ve written and see the photos they’ve posted online.

**Think before you post.**
Many employers do a Google search of your name before they hire you. You don’t want them seeing photos of sexy poses or you drinking or engaged in dangerous activities, nor do they want to read swearing or racist, derogatory comments.

**Nothing’s private.**
Note that even if you think you’re having a private chat with others, if they don’t like what you’ve written they can take a screen shot of the conversation and show this to their parents, teachers or even the police. Nothing is truly private on Facebook. Don’t write anything that could be misunderstood or used against you later.

**Don’t defame others online.**
If you defame someone online, they may sue you, so if it’s not nice, don’t post it on Facebook. Note that it is defamatory to:
• state that someone is corrupt, dishonest, or disloyal
• state that someone is suspected of committing, or alleged to have committed an illegal act
• ridicule an individual
Nowra Anglican College newsletter p9 Term 1 Week 6

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Senior School Sport} \\
\text{Swimming Carnival}
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With threatening rain the Lord smiled upon us and gave us a great day to have our swimming carnival.

First event was the 200m freestyle, which ran before the carnival started; it was well represented by around 25 students from all age groups.

The Houses arrived with students dressed up in House colours, donning sunscreen and coloured zinc, they took up there places around the pool. With last year’s winners, Best, taking up the prime spot on the other side of the pool. This position reminded all Houses that they are the team to beat. All in position it was now time to take to the pool.

First races were the A Grade divisions. Starting with all the 50 metre races, Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and then Freestyle. Next were the 200m IM swum in Junior, Intermediate and then Senior divisions. Then came the chance for all those who had not yet had a chance to compete, the B Division 50m Freestyle. All not only gained valuable points for their House but were able to get wet and have a swim on this warm sunny day. It was very good to see many students giving it a go and having fun at the same time.

The most anticipated race of the meet was finally here, the Year 12 novelty race. Dressed to impress, the Year 12s took to the pool with floaties, flippers, wigs, hats, wetsuits, tutu’s and pool toys to formalise their last swimming carnival.

Now back to the racing with the A Division 100m Freestyle events, then the hotly contested 4 x 50m House Relays. This included the Staff V’s Students final relay. It was a close contest but in the end it was the Trickett boys who edged out the staff team for a student win. For the staff, there is always next year.

**If in doubt, take it out.**
If you’ve posted something that you later regret, delete it by using the ‘Remove Post” button.

**Don’t be “friends” with anyone you’re not friends with.**
If someone sends you a friend request and you don’t really know him or her, don’t click “Accept”. Even if they’re a friend of one of your friends, it doesn’t mean you can trust them. There have been adults who’ve created false Facebook accounts and befriended teenagers online in order to harm them. Don’t place yourself in this situation or say, “This would never happen to me.” Remember that online friends can be dangerous strangers.

**Beware of alias Facebook accounts.**
70% of teenagers hide their online behavior from their parents, yet many parents deny this. Some teenagers set up an alias or “duplicate” account to continue their rebellious behavior undetected. However, teens are finding that much of this online behavior is attributing to personal problems related to pornography and bullying. Robert Siciliano, McAfee Online Security expert says, “Parents need to get informed about their children’s online behavior. The fact is that allowing teens to participate in unmonitored online activity exposes them to real dangers with real consequences, and these dangers are growing exponentially with the proliferation of social networks.”

**Help for parents when social media becomes a problem.**
If social media becomes a problem in your child’s life, you are not powerless. You can set parental controls, obtain your child’s email and social network passwords, take away their computer and mobile devices or use location-based devices to keep track of them. You can also talk to your child’s Pastoral Leader to discuss your concerns. There are some great books available such as Cyber Parenting by James and Simone Boswell. Technology professionals can also help you set up safe systems for your children - see the ‘Connect the Dots’ flyer at the end of this newsletter for Leanne Windsor’s contact details.

Keturah Jones
Coordinator of Pastoral Care


Over the carnival, the lead changed several times. Trickett, was first early in the day, then at the next break was Hargrave and then Best started to make their move.

In the end, the boys section was hard fought and tight with Trickett taking out points with 429, followed by the Best boys with 418, then Procter with 375 and not far behind Hargrave with 373. In the girls section the top two houses were neck and neck with Procter edging out Best with 402 to 392, in third was Hargrave on 275, but the Trickett girls could not keep up with 176 points.

So the final standings and the House Swimming Carnival Winners for 2014 was Best on a combined total of 811, Procter in second on 777 points, followed by Hargrave in third on 648 and Trickett finishing in fourth on 605 points. These teams were massively helped out by some incredible individual performances.

Our Age champions were:

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<tr>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abbie Macdonald 12yrs</td>
<td>Dante Hyam 12yrs</td>
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<td>Elena Domazar 13yrs</td>
<td>Callum De Rooy 13yrs</td>
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<td>Sarah Barker 14yrs</td>
<td>Zac Hale 14yrs</td>
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<td>Eloise Lawther 15yrs</td>
<td>Matthew Davison 15yrs</td>
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<td>Sally Woods 16yrs</td>
<td>Lucas Logan 16yrs</td>
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<td>Jorga Willmott 17yrs</td>
<td>Thomas Gibbs 17yrs</td>
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<td>Tahlia Urquhart-Jack 18yrs</td>
<td>Richard Ingle 18yrs</td>
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I’m sure that you will join with me in congratulating these students on outstanding individual efforts. Overall, a wonderful swimming carnival, a fantastic day of racing with enthusiastic House spirit and participation.

Greg Baker
Sport Co-ordinator

Uniform Shop

Our Uniform shop is pleased to advise that they are now stocking three styles of school shoes. The shoes are lightweight and long wearing and come in three styles.

They are also stocking trolley bags. These are a wonderful product for children with heavy loads.

Finally, don’t forget winter is just around the corner and the shop is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday for all your uniform needs.
**Coming Up**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Mar</td>
<td>SS Yr 9 PASS Water Polo</td>
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<td>Tue 10 Mar</td>
<td>HSC Workshop with Yr 11 &amp; 12</td>
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<td>HSC Parent Forum</td>
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<td>Wed 12 Mar</td>
<td>Girls Get Active Schools Gala Day</td>
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<td>Thu 13 Mar</td>
<td>SS Bundanon Art Camp 2014 Begins</td>
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<td>JS Shoalhaven Football Soccer Clinic Begins</td>
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<td>JS SASC Leadership Day</td>
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<td>Tue 18 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 10 Coastal Geography Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 20 Mar</td>
<td>JS Yr 1 &amp; 2 Parent Morning</td>
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<td>Fri 21 Mar</td>
<td>JS SASSA Boys Soccer</td>
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<td>JS SASSA Netball Gala Day</td>
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<td>Tue 25 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 7 2015 Information Night</td>
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<td>Wed 26 Mar</td>
<td>JS CIS Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yr 7 Camp Begins</td>
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<td>Yr 9 Camp Begins</td>
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<td>Yr 11 Camp Begins</td>
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<td>Yr 12 Half Yearly Examinations Begin</td>
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<td>Thu 27 Mar</td>
<td>Kindergarten 2015 Information Night</td>
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<td>Fri 28 Mar</td>
<td>JS Cross Country</td>
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**Community News**

**Bomaderry Junior Rugby League Football Club**

are still looking for more players in the under 6’s, 7’s, 9’s & 11’s.

All new players must bring an original birth certificate.

For more information contact the President Steve on 0403591014.
All women, their families and friends are invited to the **Shoalhaven Women’s Wellness Festival**, **March 21st, 1 – 7pm** at TAFE Illawarra – Nowra Campus, cnr Beinda Street and Princes Highway, Bomaderry.

This year’s Festival is dedicated to Ovarian Cancer Awareness as women are urged to **KNOW THE SYMPTOMS**.

Dr Robyn Sayer, Gynaecological Oncologist at Royal Hospital for Women, Randwick, will speak on the importance of awareness and early detection at 2.10pm.

Community Health Nurses specialising in women’s health, cardiovascular health, diabetes prevention and gynaecological cancers will be available to chat with people individually between 1pm and 4.30pm.

Other highlights include a variety of **health information stalls** from 1–4.30pm; **workshops** from 3-4.30pm, **free food**, **fun stuff**, and **food stalls** like Fred's Bush Tucker and Pizza. **TAMARA STEWART**, award winning **country music singer** headlines the entertainment from 5pm onwards.

For more information, LIKE us on FACEBOOK: Shoalhaven Women's Wellness Festival.

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**Guiding Gifted Children: Workshops for Parents**

These one day workshops for parents are filled with practical information, with a solid research base, presented by experts in the field with real life experience, to help you better understand giftedness and how to help your gifted child thrive. Select one or both workshops.

**Saturday 24th May, 2014 – 9:30am–4:30pm**
For parents of primary school aged children and preschoolers.

Sessions include:
- Identification and psychometric (IQ) testing: why, how and when
- Parenting sensitive gifted children
- Motivating gifted children to develop their abilities
- Gifted children, their friendships and relationships
- Gifted children with learning and other disabilities
- Advocating for your child in the school system

**Sunday 25th May, 2014 – 9:30am–4:30pm**
For parents of high school students and for parents of younger children who want to be prepared for adolescence.

Sessions include:
- Understanding the gifted adolescent
- Maintaining motivation in the secondary years
- Mental health, resilience and emotional well-being
- Developing academic and study skills
- Computers, gaming, social media and the gifted adolescent
- Against the odds: learning and other disabilities
- Making a successful transition to university and careers

**Cost:** $150 (including GST) per day
$125 Early Bird Registration by 1st May Venue: Smith's Hill High School, Wollongong

For bookings please visit: http://www.trybooking.com/EMBM

For further information please email: michele@clearingskies.com.au or phone: 0438 744 994

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**Uniform Shop Hours**

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**Contact NAC**

Phone: (02) 4421 7711  
Email: enrol@nac.nsw.edu.au  
Web: www.nac.nsw.edu.au  
PO Box 2382  
Bomaderry NSW 2541
Dear Parent/Carer,

Due to ongoing issues with traffic movement in and around Nowra Anglican College we have been asked to implement the following actions by Shoalhaven City Council, Traffic Management Section. This is to prevent congestion in nearby streets and the Princes Highway, and to free up egress to the Ambulance station and our neighbours.

AUSTRALIAN ROAD RULES – REG 168

NO PARKING signs have been installed around the TEAR DROP.

This will allow drivers 2 mins only to drop off and collect passengers. During this time you may be no further than 3 metres away from your vehicle. Vehicles WILL NOT be permitted to park and wait as they currently do from 3.00pm.

To use the TEAR DROP delay your arrival at the campus until 3.20pm

This allows time for students to walk up to the top of the school and wait for the arrival of their pick up.

Instruct your children to be attentive and watching for you

We observe children every day playing instead of waiting to be collected. This is causing much of the delay and traffic congestion.

CLOSURE OF TEAR DROP

Failure to observe the above request will force the school to close the TEAR DROP. Drivers who need to wait longer than 2 minutes should park in the Southern car park.

Thank you for your assistance as we seek to improve safety and reduce traffic congestion.

Regards,

D Hamaty
Head of School
Nowra Anglican College
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.

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.

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.

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 that 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.

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 text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au
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 10 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 represents 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 16 May 2014.

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 to you. 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: www.myschool.edu.au

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).

### NAPLAN 2014 tests timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tuesday 13 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 May</th>
<th>Thursday 15 May</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language conventions</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 45 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Year 5</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Language conventions</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 50 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy 50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Year 7</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language conventions</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy Calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 9</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language conventions</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy Calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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.
About Me
With over thirty years' experience in educational and corporate library settings in Australia, Japan and the United States, I have substantial skills in, and knowledge of, technology use, research methods and information management.

How I Can Help You
Contact me to discuss your needs and arrange personalised in-home technology training or gather some friends for a small group lesson. All training is conducted in a professional and confidential manner.

Need Help With Technology?
Do you need advice about what technology to buy or how to use your computer, tablet or smartphone?

Need help organising & storing your files?

Are you confused or unsure about what your children or grandchildren are doing on the internet and want to learn more?

Are you a student and want to learn how to do effective research on the internet?

Want to get your head around online banking, electronic bill payment or social media like Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest?

Want help with your privacy and security settings on social media or setting up safe searching for your children?

Want to learn how to share photos safely online?

Other technology concerns or questions?

Please contact me to discuss your individual needs.

Contact Me
Leanne Windsor
Phone 0407-80-2053
Email librareanne@gmail.com
Web www.conthedots.com
Facebook www.facebook.com/conthedots
Serving the Shoalhaven and Illawarra

Rates
Individuals $60 hr
Group rates negotiable based on numbers
Gift certificates available