Hi everybody. I believe the following extract from the latest Queensland Association of State School Principals newsletter is worth sharing. Preparing our children for NAPLAN actually begins before our students walk in our gate. It begins with a safe, secure home environment that values communication and literacy.

At Mabel Park State School we know that every year level contributes to NAPLAN along with the stories that sit behind our students. Most importantly, we know to put NAPLAN in perspective and focus daily on continuing to provide the very best teaching and learning possible. Thanks for your ongoing and incredible commitment to our school.

QASSP extract:
“As NAPLAN testing has commenced, it is worth reiterating that these tests provide point in time information about individual student performance, but ‘... 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).’ (Margaret Wu and David Hornsby, 2012.)”

Parents and children need to remember that the NAPLAN test does not assess all of what makes our children exceptional and unique. The scores obtained from this test will tell our children how well they went on the day, but they will not tell us everything. They cannot tell us that our children have improved on something that they once found difficult. They cannot tell us how they brighten up their teachers’ day. This test cannot tell our children how amazingly special they are.

While NAPLAN remains of value at the school level to look at distance travelled for students, we need to ensure that this use remains school-based, appropriate and responsible.

Staff Car Park
You may be aware that there have been ongoing issues with traffic, parking congestion and parents parking in a designated staff parking area on the Junior Campus.

I need to remind parents that the Car Park located on the corner of Aldren and Collins Streets is a **STAFF CAR PARK ONLY**. This car park is very clearly sign posted. It is not a drop off zone and no parent vehicle is permitted to enter this car park under any circumstances. Service vehicles enter our Junior Campus using this gate and are regularly prevented from performing their functions due to the presence of parent cars parked in clearly marked no standing areas.

As a result of parents ignoring the clearly signposted directions not to enter the car park, I have found it necessary to direct grounds staff to lock the gates to this car park at the commencement of our learning time, which is 8.40am. Consequently, parents may unfortunately find their cars locked in. Whilst this may cause inconvenience, I feel this is the only course of action available to us at this time.

Parents are encouraged to utilize available parking in the car park located on the corner of Borman and Aldren Streets. Students and Parents can have easy access to the Junior Campus from this car park and entrance gate. The Mabel Park State School Community appreciates your support and cooperation in assisting us to make traffic management as effective and as safe as possible for our students.
Semester 2 change
I have been advised by Education Queensland that my application for relocation has been supported. At the end of Semester 1 this year, I will be leaving Mabel Park SS to begin as Deputy Principal at Mudgeeraba SS. A process to identify a Deputy Principal to replace me will occur this term and our school community will be advised of the new Deputy Principal for the Middle Campus towards the end of the term.

Attendance
The following are interesting facts relating school attendance directly with academic improvement and achievement:

- every extra day attended increases a student’s likelihood of achieving at a higher level and reaching higher post schooling outcomes
- early establishment of good attendance behaviour is likely to have lasting benefits for students
- Year 1 students who attended less than 85% of the time are more likely to repeat this attendance pattern at Year 2 and Year 3 and more likely to perform poorly on their Year 3 NAPLAN tests
- students not present in school are more likely to miss critical learning building blocks and are, as a result, less likely to feel a sense of mastery over the curriculum and their own learning
- the recommended attendance range is between 95 and 100% attendance rate. Over a 12 year period a student who attends 92% of the time will have lost almost 1 year of school contact.

Uniform
Most of our families have been very supportive of our uniform policy and the majority of our students proudly wear their uniform to school on a daily basis. Thank you!
During colder months a maroon or grey jumper can be worn and/or maroon or grey tracksuit pants. Uniform breach notes are distributed where correct uniform is not worn. If providing correct uniform for your child/ren is financially difficult, please discuss this with the relevant Deputy Principal.

Fun and educational websites to assist your child
The internet offers a range of engaging educational websites to help children strengthen and consolidate their literacy, numeracy, science and other knowledge. Parents can work with their children to extend their understanding of concepts or simply spend time completing fun, interactive activities with them. To complement the resources available through the Learning Place (Education Queensland’s eLearning environment) below is a list of independent websites you may wish to explore to support your child’s learning.

Got a concern or complaint?
During the course of your child’s school years, you may have cause to make a complaint about an issue or concern you have with their education. At Mabel Park SS, we are committed to ensuring that all complaints are dealt with in a fair and equitable manner. There are processes and support networks in place to enable you and your child to work through any issues or concerns you may have. To achieve an effective resolution for all parties, when making your complaint, you should ensure you:

- provide complete and factual information in a timely manner
- deliver your complaint in a calm and reasoned manner
You should be aware that if you are making a complaint about a staff member that, in most instances, the staff member will be told of the complaint and offered the right of reply. You also have the right to have a support person participate throughout the process.

Should you have a concern or complaint, please organise to discuss the issue with the teacher, a Deputy Principal or the Principal.

What is bullying?
Bullying is an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power over one or more persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious or hidden.

Some conflicts between children are a normal part of growing up and are to be expected. Single incidents and conflicts or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not considered bullying, even though they may be upsetting and need to be resolved.


Reconciliation Week – it’s time to change it up!
In two weeks time, we will be celebrating National Reconciliation Week. National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is celebrated across Australia each year between 27 May and 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. The week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.

Here at Mabel Park SS we recognise this by hosting our annual Reconciliation BBQ and we invite our whole school community to attend. Again this year we will share in a ‘Smoking Ceremony’ and be entertained by our very own Mabel Mob dancers. Our learning centre students will also have done some planting of native trees for us in our native garden which is situated in front of the resource centre. Please make the time to come along to share in a lovely afternoon. To find out more about Reconciliation Week visit the following website http://www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw

Attendance
I realise I discuss attendance quite regularly in the newsletter and there will be many of you thinking to yourself, “Here she goes again.” I encourage all of our students to be at school every day, learning and achieving and that’s not just because it’s the Mabel Park State School mantra! It is because the benefits of attending school far outweigh the benefits of not attending. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. When they start building the habit of regular attendance in Prep, they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help your child do well in high school, university and at work. Here are some tips to help you support your child.

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before
- Don’t let your child stay home unless s/he is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home
- If your child seems anxious about going to school discuss this with your child’s teacher or other parents for advice on how to make him/her feel comfortable and excited about learning
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbour, or another parent
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session
Individual Learning Plans and Individual Support Plans

At the end of last year your child’s Special Education Teacher and Class Teacher would have met with you to discuss and plan your child’s Individual Learning Plan (ILP) and Individual Support Plan (ISP). It is best practice for this to be a collaborative process with the school and family. We will be reporting on their goal progress (ISP) in September. Their ILP is directly linked to their Academic Report Card.

Individual Learning Plans are for students who have a disability and are working at an alternative year level. The following is an excerpt from the P-12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework that gives basis for alternative year level curriculum, assessment and reporting.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards) require education providers to make reasonable adjustments to assist a student with disability to participate in learning and to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding. The Standards (Part 3) describe the process for determining if a reasonable adjustment is necessary. All Queensland education providers are required to adhere to the Standards.

The Standards provide a framework to ensure that students with disability are able to access and participate in education on the same basis as other students. The Standards do this by providing clarity and specificity for education and training providers and for students with disability. The Standards are intended to give students with disability the same rights as other students.

Individual Support Plans will continue for students who are not accessing an alternative year level. It is important that we recognise that these students have individual goals to work towards. Again, best practice is for a collaborative process with the school and family.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

Information for Parents and Carers

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with disability. The data collection is being introduced in stages over three years, and started in 2013. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year. All Australian governments have agreed to this.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact us at school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may affect your child.

You can also visit www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability

Road Safety

If your children ride or walk to school please take the time this week to talk with them about road safety. It is important that students walk directly home using the footpath in a safe manner. Below is a valuable article about road safety from the Department of Transport.

Pedestrian Safety

Children need assistance dealing with the traffic environment until at least the age of 10 as they are not equipped physically or developmentally to make the crucial decisions to keep them safe. Like learning to drive a car, children need practise and experience to walk in the traffic environment. Alongside the benefits of learning road safety, it is great chance to spend time with your family and good exercise! Children are vulnerable road users. Anywhere where there is a potential for moving vehicles is a potentially dangerous traffic situation for children. This includes residential areas, car-parks, at traffic lights, along footpaths, zebra and other crossings, driveways, quiet streets, and busy streets.

Although children may think they can handle crossing a road by themselves, remember that children crossing:

• are easily distracted and focus on only one aspect of what is happening
are smaller and harder for drivers to see
are less predictable than other pedestrians
cannot accurately judge the speed and distance of moving vehicles
cannot accurately predict the direction sounds are coming from
are unable to cope with sudden changes in traffic conditions
do not understand abstract ideas - such as road safety
are unable to identify safe places to cross the road
tend to act inconsistently in and around traffic

Many children below the age of 10 years do not have the capability or judgement to handle many pedestrian situations. Children need to be accompanied and closely supervised by a parent or adult carer to keep them safer.

NAPLAN 2015
Congratulations to all Year 3 and 5 students who are currently taking part in national testing this week. The behaviour and attitude of students whilst undertaking these tests has been exemplary. All students have put in their best efforts and done all that they can to achieve the best results. Good luck to all for the final test tomorrow – numeracy. Catch up tests will be conducted Friday for any students who were absent. Results can be expected towards the end of the year.

Handwriting Resources
Does your child love to write? Encourage them to use the correct cursive writing at home with these great resources provided by Education Queensland. At this site you can install the Queensland Cursive font and there are supporting handwriting and spelling activities. A great way to reinforce what they are learning at school in your own home!
https://learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources/file/6ec3c227-4ee7-9d60-91cc-1eb43021a9d4/3/index.html

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Students who receive Gotchas throughout the term are presented with a Gotcha Certificate for excellent behaviour in the playground.

Gold Gotcha (20): Malaki G
Silver Gotcha (15):
Bronze Gotcha (10): Chase G
**Weekly Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Elly J, Leilani I, Lucas M, Lillianda BR, Soraiya M, Jazmin J, Ma’asea I, Savannah K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Malakai F, Krystal C, Ayan A, Jade AF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Ilaisane T, Wylliam S, Bastian R, Maryam D, Roma O</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Madison S, Eh Pa Z, Christian F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Simi S, Marshall S, Simon M, Cam B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Braidyn V, Katie-Anne WS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extension</td>
<td>LJ L, Keara W, Astara S, Taniera D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Kaylan TK, Kalisha H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Keara W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PE News**

**Logan District Cross Country selection**
Congratulations to Nicholas S, Feleti V, E’Staisha F, Udgoon A and Tate H for their selection in the Logan District Cross Country team. Good luck at the upcoming Metropolitan East Regional Cross Country trials that will be held on Tuesday 19 May at John Paul College.

**Sports Day Carnival**
Our annual Sports Day Carnival will be held on Monday 15 June (Week 9). In the case of rain, Sports Day will be rescheduled for Monday 22 June (Week 10).
Return Serve Tennis Program
A Reminder to all families who have signed their children up to the Return Serve Tennis Program it started Thursday 7 May. The program will continue every Thursday afternoon from 3:00pm-4:00pm until the end of Term 2. Students will need to meet in the parade area on the junior campus. Don’t forget to bring a hat, a water bottle, a gold coin and lots of energy.

Logan District Representative Team
Congratulations to Fiva T who represented the Logan District in the Under 11’s Rugby League team and the Under 12’s Touch Football team. Well done on your efforts.

Advertisements and Notifications
Super Sisters

Work | Skills | Friends | Future

The Super Sisters Program empowers women and helps build their confidence to work in Australia.

Come meet with like minded women to learn about working in Australia, how to identify your skills and to learn basic computer skills.

Register your interest now!

Program runs for 5 weeks commencing in April
Contact your caseworker or Monica on Ph: 3412 6229 | E: monicasalhassi.org.au

Contact Jane Moli Community Hub Leader on 3386 5333 or jmoli2@eq.edu.au

Energy Saving Workshops

You are INVITED to.......

When: Wednesdays from 4pm - 1:30 pm starting 29th April 2015
Where: Mabel Park State Primary School, H Block (Community Hub, Chappy's room)
What: Christine from Youth Family Services is coming in to run free workshops on how to save energy in the household. Come and learn some great tips! These workshops will run for four weeks.
Light refreshments provided.

Contact Jane Moli Community Hub Leader on 3386 5333 or jmoli2@eq.edu.au

Do you want to find out more about how to save money on your electricity bills?

When: Monday 25th May 9:30 am
Where: Mabel Park State Primary School, Borman Street Slacks Creek
What: Christine and Theodore from YFS are coming to our Get Connected morning tea to give a talk about electricity bills and money management.

Contact Jane Moli Community Hub Leader on 3386 5333 or jmoli2@eq.edu.au

Get CONNECTED!
DO YOU KNOW A FATHER WHOSE SACRIFICES GO UNNOTICED? YOU CAN HONOUR HIM TODAY!

Nominate a deserving dad or father-figure today for the 2015 Queensland Father of the Year award!

NOMINATIONS CLOSE 17TH JULY 2015 AT
qldfatheroftheyear.org.au

Want to try basketball? Join the Cavs
Ages 4-19

The Cavs is a founding club of Logan Basketball and was established in 1998.

All enquiries contact
Sandra (Registrar) 0438 585 969
or email: pato59.sp@gmail.com

You are invited to our
2015 COMMUNITY INTO THE CLASSROOM DAYS

Vip & Partner Student Centre
Time: 8.45am – 10.15 am
Dates:
Term 2 Monday 9 February
Term 2 Monday 26 May
Term 3 Monday 27 July
Term 4 Tuesday 20 October

What’s on?
8:40 Student Assembly
9:00 Parent Information Session – What’s new at MPSHS in 2015?
9:30 Classroom Visits – Find out what your student is learning about today.
10:00 Sausage Sizzle – $2 Drinks, $2 Sausage

Logan Fun Run
From families to fitness fanatics, there’s a course for everyone!