



WEST WYALONG HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

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Monday 26 February 2024

Term 1 Week 5

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It has been a busy fortnight of activities and learning at West Wyalong High School. We had lots of fun and plenty of success at our recent swimming carnival and our Year 11 and Year 7 students have gained some new experiences during their overnight excursions.

I would like to extend a huge congratulations to all the students who participated in our recent swimming carnival. It was a resounding success, showcasing not only exceptional sporting talent but also the spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship that defines our school community. A big thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of this event.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous effort of our teachers in organising and participating in the overnight school excursions. These excursions play a vital role in enhancing our students' learning experiences beyond the classroom, providing them with valuable opportunities for personal growth and development. Your commitment to providing our students with enriching experiences outside the traditional classroom setting is commendable and greatly appreciated.

Last week, our Year 11 students participated in one of these overnight excursions, the mandatory Life Ready course at Milson Island. This immersive experience not only provided them with invaluable knowledge and skills but also fostered a sense of independence and responsibility. We are proud of our Year 11 cohort for their dedication and enthusiasm throughout the course and I have no doubt that the lessons learned will serve them well as they navigate various health and safety situations in the future.

The activities designed to prepare and support our students were met with enthusiasm and it was great to hear of their engagement and willingness to learn. I extend my gratitude to the teachers and staff who accompanied our students on this journey, providing guidance, support and encouragement every step of the way.

I am sure our Year 7 students (and teachers) slept well on the weekend after their wonderful excursion to Wollongong to experience the coast and various venues nearby. This annual retreat is an opportunity for our students to bond and is always a talking point for our students as they begin their high school journey. It will be interesting to see some of the photos from this camp when they graduate in Year 12.

A gentle reminder to all students and parents that mobile phones are a banned from NSW schools and should not be brought to school. All communications from parents and carers to their children should be via our front office land line or by visiting the front office. Parental support in this matter is greatly appreciated and don't hesitate to ring the school and speak to myself if there are exceptional circumstances.

Mr Sheens

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breaky Club at West Wyalong High School continues again in 2024. Ricky Bishop, our Student Support Officer, provides Breaky Club on Tuesday and Friday mornings serving toasted cheese sandwiches, Up & Go's, muesli bars and fruit.

This is a great way to say good morning and Ricky gets to give our students a great start for the day with fuel in their bodies.

STUDENT ORGANISATION

CALENDAR – TERM 1, 2024

WEEK 5	
Monday 26 February	P&C Meeting, School Library (6pm)
Wednesday 28 February	WR Boys Basketball trials, West Wyalong
WEEK 6	
Tuesday 5 March	WR Netball Knockout, Orange
Friday 8 March	Zone Basketball Gala Day, West Wyalong
WEEK 7	
Monday 11 March	Western Region Swimming, Dubbo
Wednesday 13 March – Friday 15 March	Year 8 Wambangalang excursion, Dubbo
Wednesday 13 March – Friday 15 March	NAPLAN testing
WEEK 8	
Monday 18 March – Friday 22 March	NAPLAN testing
WEEK 9	
Sunday 24 March – Tuesday 26 March	Year 12 Halogen Leadership Excursion, Sydney
Friday 29 March	Good Friday
WEEK 10	
Monday 1 April	Easter Monday
WEEK 11	
Friday 12 April	Last Day for Term 1
WEEK 1 TERM 2	
Monday 29 April	School Development Days
Tuesday 30 April	Students first day Term 2

MOBILE PHONES

WEST WYALONG HIGH SCHOOL



MOBILE PHONES

A reminder to our school community that mobile phones are banned.

Students are not to bring their phone/airpods to school. If a student has their phone sent to the office, the student will be given one warning. Any subsequent warnings, parents will need to collect the student's phone.

If you or your child need to make contact, please do so via the front office. Students can come to the office or parents can phone 6972 2700.

WWHS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to all students who attended and participated in the Swimming Carnival. There were plenty of great races in terms of both effort and skill and plenty of fun and enjoyment throughout the day.

It was perfect weather on the day and the effort, behaviour and involvement of students reflected the great conditions.

Congratulations to those students who were elected as House Captains and Vice Captains prior to the carnival. They did a great job organising and motivating their House groups throughout the day. Their next big task will be the Athletics carnival where they will have to work hard to motivate and organise their House groups.

The Age Champions and Runners Up will be presented with their certificates at assembly, along with a presentation for the records broken this year. There were some great performances throughout the day and a number of records were challenged. Some students dominated their age groups while others were involved in very tight competitions. It was great

to see students who have put many hours into their training, perform well and collect many points for their House groups.

Age	Champion	Runner up
12 Boys	N/A	N/A
12 Girls	Quincy Ng	Pippa Cooper
13 Boys	Seth Grimshaw	Asher Collins
13 Girls	Sophie Seaman	Paige Leonard
14 Boys	Kyle Bischoff	Isaac Charpentier
14 Girls	Missy Worner	Emily Jordan-Downes
15 Boys	Rhys Bischoff	Caleb Boneham
15 Girls	Indi Milsom	Sadie Wilmot
16 Boys	Bosco Ng	Will Tulloch
16 Girls	Emily Seaman	Mikayla Caldow
Opens Boys	Daniel Blackwood	Walt Bishop, Liam Duncan & Oliver Petrie
Opens Girls	Emma Miller	Annalise Bischoff

Neeld were crowned Swimming Champions this year with high participation throughout the day from all students. Last year's swim Champion House, Bridgen struggled for most of the day, however, some great swims and higher involvement in the second half of the day saw them finish second.

Congratulations to all swimmers who contributed to the win. House groups will now need to back up their performance at the Athletics carnival later this year to claim the House Champion trophy.

Neeld: 415 points
 Brigden: 336
 Hargreaves: 323
 Farrar: 316

There were four new records set during the carnival by two swimmers. The pair highlighted their swimming credentials after breaking some long-standing records.

Some competitors gave records a shake and missed out by narrow margins.

New records -

Quincy Ng – 12 yrs 50m Breast – 46.78

Previous record – 49.44 held by Bridie White (2017)

Quincy Ng – 12 yrs 50m Back – 43.28

Previous record – 47.87 held by Alara Barnes (2004)

Quincy Ng – 12 yrs 100m Free – 1.25.37

Previous record – 1.26.40 held by Lydia White (2015)

Bosco Ng – 16 yrs 50m Breast – 37.25

Previous record – 38.66 held by Josh Pace (2009)

WESTERN REGION SWIMMING

A number of our elite swimmers who have been training hard in recent months will travel to Dubbo on Monday 11 March to compete in the Western Region Swim Trials.

We wish them all the best and look forward to seeing who can qualify and be part of the Western Region Swim team for this year and travel to Homebush later in the term.



Parents, carers and students are reminded that aerosol spray deodorants are banned at school. They pose a health risk to students and staff through the potential for asthma attacks and allergic reactions.

These items will be confiscated if brought to school. If students need to use deodorant at school, they are encouraged to use roll on deodorant.



West Wyalong High School uses Sentral Parent Portal as our main communication tool with parents. Parents are able to access their child's timetable, academic reports, submit absence notes (either future or past), submit notes for excursions/extra curricular activities. At present, payments are unable to be taken on the Portal. Payments for excursions and other items can be made by cash to the front office and on the school's website (under 'Make a Payment').

Parent SENTRAL Portal instructions

This Quick reference guide can be used for both parents and students.

First time use and new user registration

The steps to access the Parent and student Portal are:

1. All parents and caregivers, are emailed their Parent and student Portal letters with their unique access key. If you do not have one, please contact the school.
2. Use Google Chrome to access the portal as some other browsers may not work as well.
3. Register for an account on the registration page
 - a. Enter in your username. This must be your current email address.
 - b. Create a secure password. Note - This is not where you put in the access key

You will now be taken to another screen.

1. Enter in the Access key from your letter.
2. SUCCESS! You now have access to the WWHS Parent and Student Portal.

Please contact the school if you require further assistance with access to the portal.

WESTERN REGION TRIALS

WWHS students have been successful over many years in being selected in a variety of Western Region teams with a number of them going on to higher levels. These students have been self-motivated, organised and spent many hours training to compete against other highly skilled athletes from our Region, State and even Australia.

Western Region Trial dates for various sport have been released and details can be viewed on the Western Region School Sport page (<https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/Western>) and accessing specific sports trials and events through the 'find events' tab. Explore the sports/events that you are interested in.

Any students who intend to trial for Western Region teams, please keep in mind that the school must approve your attendance at the trial. In addition, you will need to organise transport to and from the trial venue.

In order to ensure that you don't miss events that you are interested in, listen carefully to the daily notices or assembly reports for nomination dates and information and collect and return all relevant forms to Mr Duncan in a timely manner.

As with all absences from school, students are expected to talk with their teachers about class work and assessment tasks that may be impacted by their absences and find workable/appropriate solutions.



Date	Sport
26 Feb	Open Boys Soccer
27 Feb	Open Girls Soccer
5 & 12 Mar	Opens Netball
8 Mar	Open Boys Rugby Union

8 Mar	Girls Rugby 7's
11 Mar	Swimming
22 Mar	Lawn Bowls
27 Mar & 5 Apr	Rugby League (15's/Opens)
28 Mar	Open Boys/Girls Touch Football
6 May	Gymnastics
10 May	Golf
12 June	Cross Country
26 July	Boys & Girls Tennis
2 Aug	Athletics
20 Aug	Open Boys Cricket
10 Sept	Open Girls Cricket

Everyone is welcome to view current (and the most up to date) information on the Western Region website.

If you have any questions, please see Mr Duncan.

PUBLIC NOTICES

2024 EVOLUTION GOLD TRIATHLON

**EASTER SATURDAY
MARCH 30**

HOLLAND PARK POOL, WEST WYALONG





SHOW YOUR DETERMINATION
+ ENDURANCE TO WIN
CASH PRIZES

4 RACE EVENTS
STARTING AT 8AM

KIDS DUATHLON: RUN BIKE RUN
L+R GROUP JUNIOR TRIATHLON
BLAND SHIRE ENTICER TRIATHLON
EVOLUTION SPRINT TRIATHLON **MAIN EVENT**

FOLLOWED BY
RIVERINA TRI SERIES PRESENTATION + WATER WORLD

SEE WEBSITE FOR SPECIFIC RACE INFORMATION WWW.WESTWYALONGTRIATHLON.WEEBLY.COM/

PRE - REGISTRATION ONLINE
[HTTPS://WWW.ALPINETIMING.COM.AU/REGISTRATIONS/RG193/](https://www.alpinetiming.com.au/registrations/rg193/)
OR REGISTOR ON THE DAY OF FROM 7:00AM

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NAPLAN

Information for parents and carers

2024

Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Online NAPLAN tests are designed to provide precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive) which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. ACARA supports inclusive testing, so all students have the opportunity to participate in the national assessment program.

Adjustments are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), and our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests; however, it is not necessary for parents/carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at [NAP - Public demonstration site](#).

How is my child's performance reported?

From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected for the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling. Student achievement is shown against 4 levels of proficiency: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

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

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at myschool.edu.au.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

To learn how ACARA manages personal information for NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy.

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may not have the capacity to complete the tests in a shorter time frame.

The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 13 March 2024 and finishes on Monday 25 March 2024. Schools will schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3 students do the writing test on paper and on day 1 only.• Years 5, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations).	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with an idea or topic called a "writing stimulus" or "prompt" and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing).
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the writing test	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts, and then answer related questions.
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the reading test	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Students are assessed on spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the conventions of language test	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students are assessed on number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.