



8TH MARCH 2024

# THE NEWSLETTER

*The latest news and updates from Foster Primary School*



## NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*by Scott Moorhouse*

In the realm of education, assessments play a pivotal role in gauging student's academic progress and identifying areas for improvement. Among these assessments, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) stands out as a cornerstone of Australia's education system, offering invaluable insights into student's literacy and numeracy skills. As we delve into the importance of NAPLAN, it becomes clear that its impact extends far beyond test scores, shaping educational excellence in multifaceted ways.

First and foremost, NAPLAN serves as a vital diagnostic tool for educators, providing them with a comprehensive overview of student's strengths and weaknesses in key areas such as reading, writing, language conventions, and numeracy. Armed with this data, teachers can tailor their instructional approaches to address individual learning needs, thereby fostering a supportive learning environment where every student can thrive.



### 2024 Term Dates

29th January - 28th March

15th April - 28th June

15th July - 20th September

7th October - 20th December

## NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL .....

Moreover, NAPLAN plays a crucial role in promoting accountability and transparency within the education system. By benchmarking student performance against national standards, NAPLAN assessments enable educators, policymakers, and parents to monitor progress and identify areas of improvement at both the individual and systemic levels. This fosters a culture of continuous improvement, driving schools and educational authorities to implement targeted interventions to support student learning and enhance overall educational outcomes. Furthermore, NAPLAN assessments equip students with essential skills that are vital for success in both academic and real-world settings. Through the process of preparing for and undertaking the assessments, students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills, which are essential for navigating an increasingly complex and interconnected world. By challenging students to apply their knowledge and skills in practical contexts, NAPLAN fosters a deeper understanding of concepts and prepares students for the demands of higher education and the workforce.

Importantly, NAPLAN serves as a catalyst for educational equity and social justice by shining a spotlight on achievement gaps and inequities in educational outcomes. By identifying disparities in student performance across different demographic groups, NAPLAN highlights areas where targeted interventions are needed to ensure that all students, regardless of background or circumstance, have access to high-quality education and equitable opportunities for success.



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## IMPORTANT DATES

### March 2024

- 11th Labour Day Holiday
- 13th NAPLAN begins
- 14th Regional Swimming @ Sale
- 16th Farmers Market Stall
- 18th Raffle tickets/money due back please
- 21st Harmony Day
- 22nd Easter Raffle drawn at assembly
- 26th Junior Athletics at Foster Primary School - P & F Group will organise a special lunch order
- 27th Prom Coast Division Sport @ Foster Secondary College
- 28th Hot Cross Bun Day -P & F Group will organise a special food order
- 28th Last day of term - 2.30pm finish. Buses will run at this time.

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## NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL .....

So what is the impact on our children?

NAPLAN can be stressful on some children (and I'll talk about this later). However, we are promoting a culture of performance at our school. This means that each student who does any assessment at our school is expected to 'bring their best' at these important points. At Foster Primary School we believe that NAPLAN is just a snapshot of a student's abilities on one day, but, it is a vital snapshot just the same. Over the last few weeks students in grades 3 and 5 have been practicing test literacy and familiarising themselves with what the tests look like. Students have also been put through their paces at timed writing (which is hard for all ages) in order to prepare them for the testing.

With regard to those who are naturally anxious, this preparation will assist in reducing anxiety as they will understand what is expected of them. We will also have Jo on hand to help those who struggle on the day. Any students who are still not in the right frame of mind can be given another date for their test in the near future.

As always, we expect all of our students to give 'Our Best Always'

### **International Womens Day**

It has been really satisfying to see so many families support this day. It is an important day in our calendar to recognise the contribution to society that women make despite a large disparity in equality. It was fantastic to hear so many parents having conversations with their children about what today is about and our teachers followed this up in classrooms. This afternoon our assembly will celebrate women in our community and Australia.



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April 2024

7th Daylight Savings Ends  
Turn your clocks back  
One hour

15th Term 2 begins



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# Classroom News...

This week the Preps have attended school on Wednesdays for the first time. Congratulations to all of the Preps for their wonderful efforts in the Maths Online Interviews and English Online Interviews.

We have enjoyed Circle Time each Monday and Thursday morning. This allows us the opportunity to develop and strengthen positive relationships with our peers. In P/1C, we have enjoyed sharing our passions and connecting with people who either share the same passion as us, or who would like to learn more about our passion. P/1C also made a Tree of Kindness. This tree holds anonymous kind words addressed to a peer in the class.

School photos were a success. We had lots of fun showing-off our big smiles! Thank you to Bohnny's Cafe for providing really delicious lunch orders last week. We are really looking forward to more yummy food for our Friday lunches.

Highlights from a Prep:

Jaxon: I love playing on the big playground with all of my friends.

Ellie: I have loved learning to read.

Hattie: I loved doing the fitness track during our Brain Breaks.

Hadley: I really like doing Share Time in my class.



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# Classroom News...



Highlights from a Grade One:

Antonia: In Art, we have done painting. It is so fun. I painted some love hearts.

Max: This week I have loved doing Freeze Dance in our Brain Breaks.

Imogen: I have started to learn the monkey bars this week.

Aysha: I loved playing with my friends this week.



# Kitchen/Garden News

We have been have a fantastic start back in the kitchen this year. Our garden has been producing ALOT of zucchini's!! We have done lots of zucchini dishes ranging from chocolate zucchini cupcakes, pan fried zucchini salads and zucchini pasta bakes just to name a few!

As always, we welcome parent helpers in our kitchen class's so please get in touch with your child's classroom teacher if you would like to help!

Thanks, Katrina



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# Classroom News...

We have had another couple of great weeks in 2/3M and 3/4Y. Students were very excited to see their artwork and lego constructions in the Foster Show and even more excited to see that some prizes had been won. They had many wonderful comments about their creations from our community which was great.

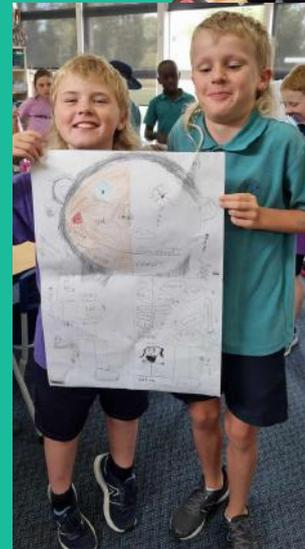
The Grade 3 students have been getting ready for their Naplan assessment which begins next week. They begin on Wednesday.

There is a free demo site that they can practise on at home if they would like. <https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/public-demonstration-site>

Please remind your students to ensure that they are bringing their drink bottle, reading diary and folder to school each day.

This term in Respectful Relationships we have been focusing on the topic of Emotional Literacy. Learning Tasks have strengthened students understanding to:-

- Describe the influences that people, situations and events have on their emotions.
- Investigate how emotional responses vary in depth and strength.
- Understand how to interact positively with others in different situations.
- Examine how success, challenge and failure strengthen personal identities.



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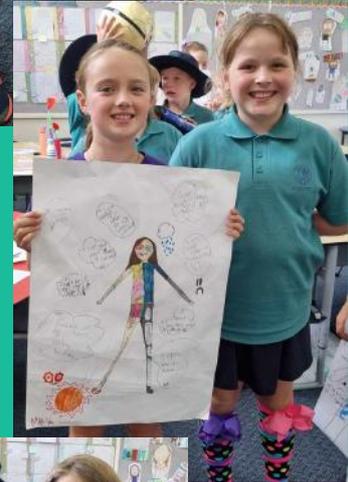
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# Classroom News...

The last couple of weeks, we have been naming a range of positive and negative emotions that we can experience during class and out in the playground. They were able to describe the influence that people, situations and events can have on their emotions and the emotions of others.

Students in 3/4Y created some fabulous posters about our negative and positive emotions during the school day. We are looking forward to sharing these at assembly this week.

Both classes have been learning about historical artefacts in relation to the European settlers and the First people of Australia. They have been designing and will create an artefact which represents themselves. Students are welcome to bring in an interesting artefact from their family, if you wish.



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## NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL .....

Congratulations to our 5/6 students who organised the Car Wash Fundraiser last Friday.

The school raised \$ 225 for the Gippsland Relief Fund. Well done to all involved.

Good luck to our students who have advanced to the Regional Swimming, to be held in Sale on Thursday March 14th.

Good luck to Hamish, Holly, Zoe, Aysha, Mylah and Harriet. Have lots of fun.

We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate our monthly KG Farmers Market Stall. Could this be you??

The stall runs every 3rd Saturday of the month from 8am-12pm. All the funds raised from the stall go towards staffing our KG program - it is very important for the delivery of this much-loved and valuable program! Full handover provided plus room to innovate and make the role your own :)

Please contact Alison at the office to express your interest. Ph: 5682 2370



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# Volunteers needed please...

## Farmers Market

Farmers Market Volunteers needed.....

2024 brings a new year and exciting outlook for the Foster Primary School stall at the monthly Foster Farmers Market!

We are always looking for volunteers to help run the market stall on the third Saturday of every month.

Duties include selling, cooking, and serving bacon and egg rolls and sausages in bread, plus managing the famous chocolate brownie, dhal, and other goodies the garden and kitchen program can rustle up!

The BBQ and equipment will all be on site ready for the volunteers to step in for the fun stuff.

Typically, the market runs from 8am to 12pm, and it's a great opportunity and environment for your kids to come and help and get some experience chatting with customers and handling money.

Not to mention there's always a few minutes to step out and check out what the other awesome stalls have available.

The dates of the market days are as follows:

Saturday March 16th

Saturday April 20th

Saturday May 18th

Saturday June 15th

Saturday July 20th

Saturday August 17th

Saturday September 21st

Saturday October 19th

Saturday November 16th

Saturday December 21st



The profits of this market all support our wonderful kitchen and garden program, which may not be possible without this extra contribution.

Please get in touch with Stephanie Matthews on 0410781771 with your availability!

We appreciate your support!



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# Parents & Friends Group

What a fantastic first P&F meeting we had a couple of weeks ago at Bohnnys Cafe. It was great to talk all things fundraising with 10 new and old faces.

Our next meeting is :  
Wednesday 24th April  
9am at Bohnnys Cafe - Foster

All welcome and we hope to see you there.

Here are the current fundraisers -

16th March - Farmers Market Stall - Volunteers needed please.

18th March - Raffle books and money due back.

22nd March - Raffle drawn at assembly.

26th March - Junior Athletics Day Lunch Order.

28th March - Hot Cross Bun Special Food Day

If you would like to be apart of the P&F Group please dont hesitate to contact the school.



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## Parents & Friends Events

March 2024

During March - Please help to sell the Easter Raffle tickets - we have all of the items to set up a stall in the Main street. Please give the school a call to organise collection.

26th Junior Athletics at Foster Primary School - P & F Group will organise a special lunch order. Order envelopes to be sent out.

28th Hot Cross Bun Day -P & F Group will organise a special food order. Order forms will be sent out.



**Join the FPS  
Parents & Friends  
Facebook Group to  
get involved and see  
what we are up to  
this year!**

**Please call the school  
or**

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/503984577353560>**

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# Upcoming Events...



## 2024 March

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
11 LABOUR DAY	12	13 NAPLAN	14 NAPLAN GIPPSLAND SWIMMING REGIONAL @ SALE	15 NAPLAN 2.30-ASSEMBLY	16 	17
18 NAPLAN	19 NAPLAN	20 NAPLAN	21 NAPLAN <u>HARMONY DAY</u> WEAR ORANGE OR "CULTURAL DRESS"	22 NAPLAN NEWSLETTER DAY 2.30-ASSEMBLY EASTER RAFFLE DRAWN 	23	24
25 NAPLAN	26 JUNIOR ATHLETICS PREP-2 @ SCHOOL  SPECIAL LUNCH FOR PREP-2 STUDENTS	27 "PROM COAST" ATHLETICS @ FOSTER SECONDARY COLLEGE GRADE 3-6	28 <u>HOT CROSS BUN DAY</u> LAST DAY OF TERM 1 BRIEF ASSEMBLY AT 2.15 PM  FINISH TIME-2.30 PM	29 GOOD FRIDAY	30	31 EASTER SUNDAY 

## 2024 April

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1 EASTER MONDAY 	2	3	4	5	6	7 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS 
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 TERM 2 STARTS	16 PTS CONFERENCES	17 PTS CONFERENCES	18 PTS CONFERENCES	19 2.30-ASSEMBLY	20 	21



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