

Saltia Times

Stirling North Primary School Fortnightly Newsletter

Respect - Responsibility - Resilience

A note from the Principal - Adam Wilson



Welcome Back

I hope that everyone has had a great holiday, spending time together over Easter and the ANZAC day celebrations. I was lucky enough to spend Easter at the Shacks which proved to be perfect boating, fishing and “relaxing” weather. We also planned on camping for the very first time but decided due to the large amount of rain we would just go back to the Shacks.....which didn't seem to be too bad.

It's times like these that bring families together, start conversations and create memories. Talking to your kids is one of the best things that you can do as a parent. I love technology, but with the introduction of various forms of technology we are finding that students are coming to school lacking basic oral language and conversational skills. It is up to us as parents to provide our kids with the skills to relate and communicate to people in a face to face environment.

Rebranding Public Education

Over the last 3 years we have been looking at the Stirling North Primary School “brand”. We have given the school a facelift, a new logo and now the front of school supports a professional image. We do this because the school is the hub of the town of Stirling North. It is the place where the community meet, and education occurs. Apart from the quality education that we deliver, I feel that this rebranding is one of the reasons why our numbers are at an all time high and that we have needed to implement an enrolment policy. Private schools look at advertising and creating an image to attract enrolments. I feel that we have that image, as we provide the culture and the education for all students at an extremely low cost. It is timely that the Department of Education has released a statement on what Public education is and what we provide. You can view this at <https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/department/about-department/public-education-statement> or this link [public education statement](#).

What is NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is a series of tests that year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students complete and it occurs every year. It is a way that politicians and education departments can see wide scale growth in student learning across schools, partnerships and states. It is a way that we are measured as a school to see if what we are doing is working and if our students are improving. It is also helps to guide us in future learning directions.

Is NAPLAN important? Yes it is important and we want students and parents to treat it seriously. But will it shape the future direction and career path for your child? Definitely not. I have never met anyone that has gained employment in their chosen field due to their NAPLAN results. Other skills such as effective communication strategies, team work, collaborating with people and showing initiative are not tested in NAPLAN and these are skills that will gain employment. It is vital that we treat NAPLAN seriously and hopefully continue to show the improvement growth in our results that we have over the past few years.

NAPLAN will occur in week 2 of this Term. If you do not want your child to sit the NAPLAN tests, or if you have any questions then please speak to me or someone from the front desk.

Term 2 Calendar of Events

On the back of this newsletter is a copy of the Term 2 Calendar for you to pin up on the fridge or notice board at home. It shows the important dates for camps, meetings , community breakfasts and the student free day.