



## *Moura Minor*

5<sup>th</sup> May, 2016

### **In this edition:**

- Improvement Data
- NAPLAN
- Student detail forms
- Persuasive writing samples

Dear Students, Parents/Caregivers and Friends

With only three days of school completed since the previous newsletter there is little to report this week. You can be assured that striving for great things with our learning has been on the agenda, especially in the areas of number facts, reading and writing.

The next couple of weeks will prove to be extra busy with Year 3/5 national testing, show holiday, school review (more about this in next week's newsletter), Biloela Eisteddfod, Under 8's Day. What a dull life we would have if it was not busy! Fundraising by various groups across the school will also keep the last few weeks of the term interesting. For example, Chappy Chloe will run a 'Guess the number of lollies in the jar' competition for Chaplaincy Week, along with the P&C hosting two State of Origin Calcutta nights and a Fun Run. Our Student Council is also getting busy with fundraising too – Biggest Morning Tea and a disco.

It is striving for great things in our learning that will remain our key focus!!

### IMPROVEMENT AGENDA

**Maths:** Check out the Maths corner for Rule of divisibility.

**Reading:** Attached is a sheet outlining some word solving strategies. You might find them useful when helping your happy readers at home.

**Writing:** Further in the newsletter you will find some examples of persuasive introductions written by students in Miss Bowkett's Writing Hour group. As you read them you will be able to understand what their opinion is about increasing homework. Hopefully they have hooked you with their sizzling start so that you want to read more of their text. Also keep an eye out for high modality words, rhetorical questions, other persuasive devices.

### YEAR 3/5 NAPLAN TESTING

Year 3/5 students across the nation will be completing national literacy and numeracy tests on 10/11/12 May (Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday). It is important that all our Year 3/5 students are in attendance on these days. There is an opportunity for absent students to complete the tests they missed due to absence on Monday 16 May.

Miss Skelly and the Year 6 students are organising breakfast for these students for testing days. A note about requirements for the breakfast will be

distributed to relevant families. A big thank you to our P & C Association for providing the NAPLAN breakfast foods.

### HATS

Just a reminder that broad brimmed hats are to be worn every day – NO HAT NO PLAY!! And for safety reasons, hats are not to have chords attached. If your child has a chord attached to it, please ensure it is cut off. Students love to chew these and they can also cause a choking hazard if hats are pulled.

### STUDENT DETAIL FORMS

Eldest in the family students received a form asking you to update student details – siblings, parent contact details, emergency contacts, medical information. The cover letter clearly explains the importance of having correct student details.

If you have a child with a medical condition, and you have not told us, please add it to the form or contact the office.

ERROR – The letter said to return the form to the office by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May can you please return to the office by **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May**.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

*When pain ends, gain ends too. – Robert Browning*

Yours in Education

Laurel

**Coming and Goings**  
**Enrolments total 252**



## MATHS CORNER

### Rules for Divisibility

2	If the last digit is an even number.
3	If the sum of the digits is divisible by 3, eg 321... $3+2+1=6$ $6\div3=2$ , therefore, 321 is divisible by 3.
4	If the last two digits are divisible by 4, eg 1992... $92\div4=23$ , therefore, 1992 is divisible by 4.
5	If the last digit is 0 or 5.
6	If it is even and the sum of its digits is divisible by 3, eg 936 is even and $9+3+6=18$ which is divisible by 3.
7	No rule.
8	If the last 3 digits are divisible by 8, eg 14248... $248\div8=31$ , therefore 14248 is divisible by 8.
9	If the sum of its digits is divisible by 9, eg 6354, $6+3+5+4=18$ $18\div9=2$ , therefore 6354 is divisible by 9.
10	If the last digit is 0.

### YEAR 3/5 NATIONAL TESTING

On **Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May**, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy, or NAPLAN, as it is commonly known.

Skills that will be tested include: reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

These tests are done here at school and are considered just another part of the curriculum.

It is important for you and your child to know that NAPLAN is not a pass/fail test. It simply looks at what level students are achieving in literacy and numeracy against National Standards and compared with student peers throughout Australia.

NAPLAN cannot be studied for and students are not expected to do so. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that it is just a routine part of their school program, and to urge them to do the best they can on the day.

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in NAPLAN testing.

Later in the year we will send you an individual student NAPLAN report that you can use to view and monitor how your child is progressing.

More information is available on the [NAP website](#).

If you have any concerns, please contact **Laurel Bowkett, PRINCIPAL**

#### PERSUASIVE WRITING SAMPLES

Could you imagine what life would be like if homework was increased! I definitely couldn't. You would have no time for family or to do extra activities like soccer or swimming. It's just too much plus it is stressful. If you are not convinced, here are three reasons why homework definitely cannot be increased.

By Megan Clark

Why should kids have to go to school for six hours and then come home and do more homework? Homework is bad enough as it is so increasing it would be the worst idea anyone has ever come up with. It is stressful on the parents when their child has homework, especially when they argue about doing it. Children may also have sporting events after school and only just squeeze in homework as it is. So homework must not be increased!

By Jared Clark

Do you think homework should be increased? Well, I certainly don't! If you are human, you no doubt try and spend every little bit of your free time trying not to think about school. Then we have this thing called 'homework' which just ruins your

afternoons or mornings. It just wrecks your whole life. When school is finished at three o'clock on Friday I say to myself 'freedom'. Now there is this thing that teachers are thinking about – increasing the amount of homework. That is an absolutely horrific thought!

By Fletcher Hicks

Homework must not be increased because we get less freedom. It is also monotonous. You do not get to talk to your friends either. Some kids like homework but most kids hate it. Would you make a kid do something they don't want to do?

By Jordan Edmestone

"Susan! You have to go to your music lesson now! SUSAN!" Mum yelled as she opened the car door.

"I have to do my homework, Mum!"

"Not now!"

This is exactly why homework should be decreased for Years 5 and 6.

By Andie Lang

"Noooooo!" Do you hear that word every time you get home in the afternoon? This is the start of children stressing over homework. Children who have homework lose FAMILY TIME and time to relax after a brain twisting day at school. It is vital that homework goes down!

By Alexis Cooke

Homework must be Stopped!

Homework is an emotional topic. Some students love it, think it's a challenge for the brain; however the majority of students attempt to avoid it like the black plague. Today is the day the minority

converts into the majority, as homework must be stopped!

To begin with, homework is NOT original. Everything on the sheet of homework is practically copied and pasted from what we did that day and it contains the words for our spelling test, which is encouraging students to cheat during spelling tests! Even this reason alone is enough to prove that homework must be stopped, but if you are not convinced, you may proceed to reason 2.

Oh, you're still here? Well prepare to have a change of mind about homework, because all it does is waste the time of 1000s of children, including time that could have been spent on talking to family or bonding with them, playing with pets, or worse, time that children need to exercise. If you are a teacher, tell me, would YOU like up to 5 hours a week wasted? No? Well then stop forcing your poor students to have to endure homework.

So to finish, we have the biggest reason yet. Homework can make students WORSE. Yes, worse, although it isn't that bad for younger grades such as grade Prep-4, but for the grades 5-8, they face up to 70% more stress because of the living nightmare of homework. Up to 20 minutes detention for not completing homework? That's just the tip of the iceberg, students have to fear up to weeks of detention for not completing tedious, repetitive work, and this is truly unacceptable.

To conclude, students are doing unoriginal copied work that can encourage cheating and they are being forced to lose precious time to the terrible homework book. Homework is also causing stress for the poor children who just want to have no detention. These are all great reasons to show that homework must be STOPPED!

By Shawn Hawkins

## DATES TO REMEMBER

May 10,11,12 <sup>th</sup>	NAPLAN Testing (Yr 3 and 5)
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Student Personal details forms due
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Biloela Show Holiday
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Under 8's Day
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	UNSW Science Test
June 13-17 <sup>th</sup>	UNSW Writing Test
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	UNSW Spelling Test
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Athletics Day
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Fun Run Last Day Term 2
August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	UNSW English Test
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	UNSW Mathematics Test

## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Prep F	Jake Berndsen
Prep/1S	Caleb Poppe
1/2F	Patrick McDonald
2M	Spencer Ballentine
3S	Cooper Berndsen
3/4K	Saige Bellert
4G	Harry Hepburn
4/5C	Tate Neumann
5/6D	Rian Hartwell
6S	Noah Saxby

## BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May



Lisbeth Ballentine, Griffin Bennett, Oliver Bennett, Brendan Kincaid, Seth Jackson, Will Hogarth, Charlie McLaughlan, Alexander Zimpel, Jack Hutchinson.

**BEE**  **AWARDS**

At our school, we want children to

- Be Learning
- Be Responsible
- Be Courteous
- Be Safe

**Bee Award recipients this week:** Harry Simmonds, Scout Dickson, Sean Ginez, Will Hogarth, Patricia Blyton, Dakota Ord, Billie Davidson, Jordan Austin, Nicola Hutchinson, Remi Oberle, Miah Powell, Janique Dales, Heidi Smith, Belle Fitzpatrick, Damon Lyons, Preston Coates.



**BRONZE CERTIFICATES**

Jackson James

**Library Lines: *Read More in May***

May is *National Family Reading Month*. This initiative is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year and is designed to get more kids reading with their families. Research shows us that family reading time is one of the BEST ways to grow a child's interest in the wonderful world of books. Scholastic is conducting a competition around *National Family Reading Month* and their website is well worth a visit. Reading experts recommend that students read with a family member for at least 15 minutes every day. We are lucky enough to be spoilt for choice with regard to excellent titles in our library, so please encourage your child to borrow each week.

Speaking of excellent titles, *Nibbles the Book Monster*, by Emma Yarlett, is a new picture book that has hit the library shelves. Nibbles is on the loose and he's chomping through all of your favourite fairytales! Containing fairytale books within the *actual* book, utterly appealing artwork and many nibbled holes, this charming title is an

entertaining read for both young and old. Thank you to Mrs Ballentine for discovering this delightful read!

Many new books means many rolls of contact! If you have a penchant for book covering, we'd really love to hear from you. Please contact Chris in the office or the friendly library staff if you are able to assist in this way.

Happy reading!

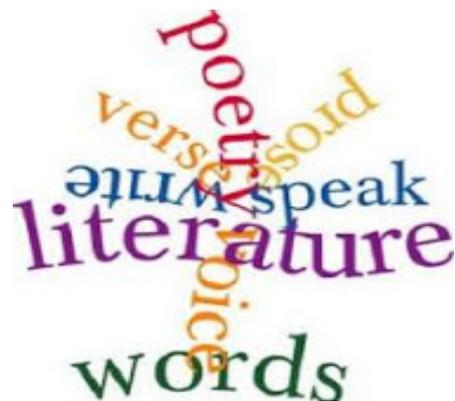
Teri Garner

Library teacher.



**EISTEDDFOD**

Reminder: Eisteddfod payments for set verse are due tomorrow, please.



**Unwanted uniforms.**

If you have school uniforms that you no longer require and taking up cupboard space, we would love to take them off your hands. Our supply of spare clothing is running low at present. Any donations of uniforms would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped at the office. Thank you.

### Following is some information from the You Can Do It Program about Getting Along:

Getting Along means working well with teachers and classmates, resolving disagreements peacefully, following the rules of the classroom and making positive contributions to school, home and the community including protecting the rights of others and looking after the environment.

Examples of getting along behaviour are being helpful when working in a group, listening and not interrupting when someone else is speaking, talking rather than fighting when someone acts unfairly, not breaking classroom rules, helping others in need, volunteering for a worthy causes and cleaning up the environment.

Positive Habits of the Mind that help develop Getting Along behaviour in a young person include:

- Being Tolerant of Others - accepting that everyone acts unfairly towards others some of the time, and not making overall judgments of people's character ("good person," "bad person") based on their differences or behaviour.
- Thinking First - thinking that when someone treats me badly I need to think about different ways I can react, the consequences of each, and the impact of my actions on the other person's feelings.
- Playing by the Rules - thinking that by following important school and home rules, I will live in a better world where everyone's rights are protected.
- Social Responsibility - thinking that it's important to be caring, to try hard to do my best, to be fair to others, to make sure that everyone has the freedom to say what they think and feel without fear, to be honest and tell the truth, to have integrity by making sure that I do what I say I am going to do, to respect others and have nice manners, to act responsibly by making good choices, sorting out problems without fighting, caring about nature and other living things, and to be understanding and including others who are different.

[www.youcandoiteducation.com.au](http://www.youcandoiteducation.com.au)

# Word Solving Strategies

## Ways to Take Action & Solve Words

**ALWAYS...**

- Make Sense
- Sound Right
- Look Right

### Stretchy Snake



Slowly stretch each letter sound to make the word.

ship = sh ii p

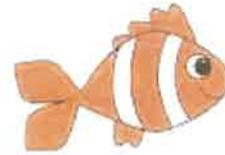
### Eagle Eye



Look at the picture.

Think "what is in the picture that starts with the beginning letter?"

### Lips the Fish



Get your mouth ready!

Say the beginning sound

### Stretchy Snake



Slowly stretch each letter sound to make the word.

ship = sh ii p

### Chunky Monkey



Break the word into chunks you already know

mat  
flat  
epl at ter

### Tryin' Lion



Try to re-read the sentence

Think "what makes sense?"

### Skippy Frog

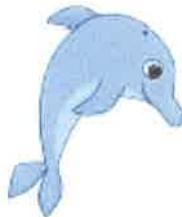


Skip the tricky word

Read to the end

Go back & try it again

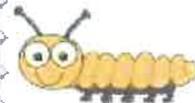
### Flippy Dolphin



Flip the vowel sound

Try the long & short sounds

### Careful Caterpillar



Carefully read the whole word

Think about all the word parts

Think about what makes sense



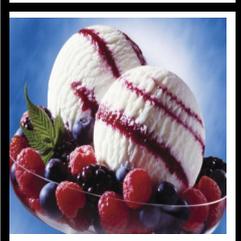
Study Think Ask Respond

## Fluent Reading is...

- ☉ phrased like talk
- ☉ full of meaningful expression
- ☉ paused at punctuation
- ☉ not too fast or too slow...pace is JUST RIGHT



# Be A Self-Monitor!



# RECIPES WANTED

**WE WOULD LOVE A RECIPE IN THE  
COOKBOOK FROM YOU!**

Moura State High School is creating a 40th Anniversary Cookbook. Anyone from the Moura community or past and present students and teachers of Moura State High School, are welcome to contribute recipes.

If you are in contact with any past families of Moura High School or the Moura community, please pass on the message!

Forward your favourite recipes to [mourahighcookbook@gmail.com](mailto:mourahighcookbook@gmail.com) with a photo if you like or post them to the address below.

Please personalise the title and write the method in your own words. This will avoid any copyright issues.

**All recipes need to be received by  
Friday July 15, 2016**

**MOURA STATE HIGH SCHOOL P&C**

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Email: [mourahighcookbook@gmail.com](mailto:mourahighcookbook@gmail.com)

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