

# Cowell Area School

42 Story Road, COWELL SA 5602 Ph: 8629 2150 Fax: 8629 2486

EMAIL: dl.0735\_info@schools.sa.edu.au Website: www.cowell.as.sa.edu.au

Term 3, Week 1

26th July 2023

## Newsletter



## Principal's News

Welcome back for Term 3! I hope everyone had an enjoyable break and managed to stay warm in this wintery weather.

Firstly, I am very excited and pleased to announce that I have won the Cowell Area School Principal position for the next 5 years. I look forward to continuing to work in Cowell and supporting the young people to be successful at whatever pathway they are working towards.

This term is extremely busy with a number of camps and excursions/incursions already organised. Next week the Year 3/4 class are going to Port Lincoln, with the Year 8-10 students leaving for Canberra on Saturday afternoon. A parent information evening is scheduled for next Tuesday night to answer any questions you may have.

### **NAPLAN**

On Friday, Individual Student Reports and the Individual Summary Reports will be sent home. Attached to this newsletter is fact sheet as the proficiency standards are new for 2023.

### **Lunch Orders**

We will be offering a limited menu, one day a week while the bakery is closed. This will commence on Monday, 31st July with order forms going home today with the eldest child in the family. **Orders need to be in by 9am on Monday.**

Kind regards, Stephenie Herbert, PRINCIPAL



### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### TERM 3

##### WEEK 1

28/7 - Op Flinders Catch Up

##### WEEK 2

2/8 - Yr 6 & 7 Fab Five

- CEP/WEP Basketball @ Wudinna

2-4/8 - Yr 3/4 Camp

##### WEEK 3

5-11/8 - Yr 8-10 Canberra Camp

8-11/8 - Yr 7 Camp

### **Cowell Area School**

# STUDENT FREE DAY

## Friday 25th August



### JULY

26/7—Marni Harradine

27/7—Molly Starr

29/7—Lucas Shultz

29/7—Sophie Loechel

30/7—Charlie Salter

30/7—Adon Andersen


### AUGUST

1/8—Brandon Schultz

3/8—Bodie Barrett

Cowell Area School

## Parent Information Evening



**IT'S ALMOST TIME!**

We will be hosting a parent information evening with everything you need to know about the upcoming Canberra Camp and to answer any questions parents may have.

When: Tuesday 1st August  
Where: Yr 8 Classroom  
Time: 5pm

*If you cannot make our meeting, please keep an eye out for our final letter with updated information this week, or message Ms Seanie Robst on ClassDojo.*

**"A positive & collaborative community of resilient learners, prepared for future challenges"**



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education



# School News

## Yr 8/9 Cuttlefish Excursion

On Thursday of the last week of last term, Year 8 and some year 9 students went on an excursion to Point Lowly and went swimming with the cuttlefish. The cuttlefish did not disappoint this year as the group reported that there were many to be seen. They migrate to this spot at the same time each year for breeding. Typically, they live up to 2 years of age and pass after this breeding event. Much thanks to the teachers Miss Claire and Miss Maguire, and also to our parents Angeline Schultz, Meagan Turner and Dylan Franklin who went along on the trip too, as well as Mr Scott Wehrmuller who was our bus driver for the day. Students had a recess break at the Wilson Park Playgroud and this is a park that we highly recommend for a visit because of all its facilities.



Respect

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Learning

Responsibility



# NAPLAN individual student report Information for parents and carers 2023

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment undertaken by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It is the only national assessment that all Australian children undertake. Literacy and numeracy skills are the critical foundation for all learning and for the ability to participate effectively in society. NAPLAN questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum in English and Mathematics.

NAPLAN tests are only one aspect of each school's assessment and reporting process. As they are held once every 2 years for each student, they cannot replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance. Your child's teacher will have the best insight into your child's educational progress. Along with other school assessment reports, NAPLAN individual student reports can be used to discuss your child's progress with their teacher.

## How does NAPLAN assess students?

NAPLAN tests are delivered online to schools across Australia. Online assessment presents questions tailored to an individual student's responses, delivering more precise results and an engaging test experience for students.

Questions in NAPLAN are based mostly on the literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills students have learnt from previous years of schooling. A few questions assess additional content from the year of testing and the following year. These questions have been designed so that they can be answered using strategies students have learnt in previous years. This ensures students of all abilities can show their capabilities.

Detailed information on the knowledge and skills being measured in NAPLAN is available at [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au).

## New proficiency standards

From 2023, new standards were introduced to NAPLAN reporting. This reporting replaces the previous numerical NAPLAN reporting bands and national minimum standards. Education ministers agreed 2023 was the right time to introduce this change alongside moving NAPLAN to March.

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.

There are 4 proficiency levels:

- **Exceeding:** The student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- **Strong:** The student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- **Developing:** The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- **Needs additional support:** The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

What NAPLAN assesses has not changed. Page 4 of the individual student report provides a more detailed summary about what students know and can do within each of the proficiency levels. Further information is available at [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au).

## How were the proficiency levels determined?

Panels of expert teachers identified the levels of proficiency against learning expectations for each assessment area and year level. Parent and carer input on student reports was also provided through focus groups and national parent organisations.



## Reading the NAPLAN report

The NAPLAN report shows a proficiency scale for each assessment area (numeracy, reading, writing, spelling and grammar and punctuation) with a student's result shown as a black dot on the scale.

The report continues to show each child's achievement against the national average for their year (shown as a black triangle) and the range of achievement for the middle 60% of students in their year level (shown as a light shaded rectangle).

NAPLAN is a valuable tool that can give useful insights into a student's performance, but individual reports should be interpreted with care as they reflect the student's performance on the day of testing.

## What if my child's report says they took their test on paper?

While NAPLAN is an online test, there are a small number of circumstances where students may complete tests on paper. These include when:

- schools use a recognised alternative curriculum
- students require paper tests for accessibility reasons
- issues during testing require paper tests to be used as a contingency measure.

Year 3 students always complete their writing test on paper.

## Can I compare my child's performance to previous NAPLAN reports?

Results from 2023 onwards cannot be directly compared with results from 2008 to 2022. This is because a new measurement scale that is more suited to the online tests has been introduced with the new standards.

Also, in 2023, the tests moved to Term 1 from Term 2. However, as in previous years, you can continue to see your child's achievement against the national average for the year.

## How does NAPLAN help my child?

NAPLAN allows parents and carers to see how their child has performed in literacy and numeracy against national standards. Your child's achievement can be compared to the national average of all students in the same year and against the proficiency levels.

Results can help parents, carers and students to discuss individual student progress with teachers.

## What impact will the results have on my child's future?

NAPLAN results provide important information about literacy and numeracy skills that your child is learning through their school curriculum. The results complement other assessments your child does at school, providing you and your child's teachers with an understanding of your child's achievements at the time of the tests. The information can be used to support your child to reach their full potential.

Some schools may ask for NAPLAN reports, in addition to school reports, as part of their admissions process. NAPLAN is not designed to be a school admission test; however, results may be useful for informing a new school of a student's learning needs.

## How does NAPLAN help my child's school?

NAPLAN is the only national assessment that all Australian children undertake. It helps:

- teachers to better identify students who need greater challenges or extra support
- schools to identify strengths and areas of need in teaching programs
- schools to set goals in literacy and numeracy
- school systems to review programs and support offered to schools.

NAPLAN also provides nationally comparable data to help governments evaluate how education programs are working and whether students are meeting important literacy and numeracy standards.

## Who else will see the results?

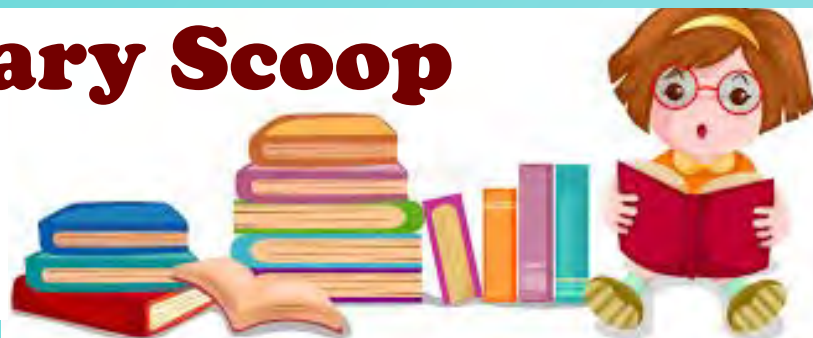
Each year, test administration authorities provide schools with results for all students who sit NAPLAN. Schools are encouraged to use the results to inform their planning for improvement across the school.

Individual student reports are confidential. No-one but your local test administration authority and staff at your child's school will see your child's report.

Average school results are publicly reported on My School at [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au). The website will be updated with each year's results towards the end of the year. Your child's individual results are not available on My School.



# The Library Scoop



P: 8629 2320 Web: [www.libraries.sa.gov.au/cowell](http://www.libraries.sa.gov.au/cowell) E: [cowell.library@libraries.sa.gov.au](mailto:cowell.library@libraries.sa.gov.au)

Are you ready for Book Week?



**When: 19th - 25th August**

**Theme: Read Grow Inspire**

**Dress-up Parade: Thursday 24th August**



## New Additions

### ADULT FICTION

*Her Buried Bones* by Fiona Tarr

*Make Me Clean* by Tina Baker

*Killing Moon* by Jo Nesbo

*Blackwater* by Jacqueline Ross

*True Believer* by Jack Carr

*Only the Dead* by Jack Carr

*Beware the Woman* by Megan Abbott

*One More Time* by Mandy Magro

*Emma of 83rd Street* by Audrey Bellezza

*No Trace* by Michael Trant

### LARGE PRINT FICTION

*Murder at the Dressmaker's Salon* by CJ Archer



### Storytime & Baby Bounce

Tuesday 1st August @ 9.15am

Tuesday 15th August @ 9.15am

Tuesday 5th September @ 9.15am

### Conversations

Tuesday 22nd August @ 2.00pm

### Book Club

Tuesday 8th August @ 2pm



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you to everyone that joined in our school holiday activities, whether it was Storytime, our craft morning or our photography competition. The winner of our photo collage competition is **IMOGEN JAESCHKE!** Imogen has won a \$40 Booktopia voucher to spend on her next great read.



Bread Bag Recycling has been extended until the 4th August!



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Jay 0429 966 179  
Richard 0427 516 566

## Vet in town



**Cowell Veterinary Clinic**  
34 Main Street Cowell  
Wednesday's 9am to 5pm  
Vet attends every Wednesday  
**Dog and cat grooming.**

Phone: 8629 2609 (Wednesdays) or 8645 9926 (Anytime)  
After hours emergencies: 0419 806 392

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## Cowell Volunteer Marine Rescue

**Communications Centre**  
North Terrace, COWELL  
0457 957 221

Learn Boat Handling,  
Radio Procedure, Navigation  
Training—Monday—1700-1900hrs

For more information contact:

**Commodore: Dale Bailey**  
0429 054 969

**Vice Commodore: Malcolm Brine**  
0488 292 567




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## Whyalla Dental Care

Whyalla Dental Care is working in Cowell from The Doctors Surgery located at South Terrace every Tuesday and Thursday.

- Whyalla Dental Care is a family practice offering all aspects of dentistry.
- If your child is eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Scheme (Medicare) their appointments will be bulk billed.
- Private Health Insurance cards for Hicaps Claims as well as Eftpos facilities are available.
- Accepting Pension and Health Care Card holders.

Please phone the Whyalla Practice on **8644 1111** for all appointments.

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