Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school for Term 2. This term we welcome two new students, Riley and Cameron to our school. We also welcome Karen Elliot and Dianne Shipard back to our staff team. Karen will teach in HB18 in the absence of Shauna Tanner who is on leave for seven weeks and Dianne will teach in HB22 while Mel Stals is on leave for the first two weeks.

We wish our new students and staff a happy and productive time at our school.

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Term 2 Week 1, 5th May 2016

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.

NAPLAN is a nationally developed program that provides schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

Tests are administered simultaneously across Australia and the content of the tests are aligned to the Australian Curriculum: English & Mathematics.

Although students have opportunities to become familiar with tests and the ways of showing their answers to questions before they do the tests, students do not need to learn specific skills outside of their normal school program for NAPLAN.

The best way parents can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that it is a routine part of their school program, and to urge them to do the best they can on the day. It is important also for children 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 ranges of achievement throughout Australia.

NAPLAN individual student reports are expected to be ready for distribution to parents in August/September.

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in NAPLAN testing. If you would like to discuss your child’s participation or withdraw your child for personal or philosophical reasons, please contact Wendy Moore or Barbie Rankin (Office).

More information is available on the NAPLAN website, www.nap.edu.au

A Timetable for NAPLAN can be found on the following page.

Kind regards, Wendy Moore
“Not my circus, not my monkeys” is an old Polish saying – have you heard it before? It’s a great way of reminding ourselves to focus on our own lives and not get caught up in any drama happening around us that really isn’t our problem. Sometimes the thoughts that whirl around in our heads need this reminder too. When those thoughts are mostly concerned with trying to control other people or fix problems that aren’t our own we can end up being a frazzled mess. If you’re feeling tired and stressed, it can help to take some time to think about the things that are bothering you. Begin by writing down your worries and then ask yourself this question: “Am I the only person responsible for this situation?” If the answer is no, then remind yourself that this is not your circus and you need to step back from trying to be the ringmaster for someone else. Chasing someone else’s monkeys is only going to exhaust you! Feeling empathy for others and the problems that they are facing is quite different to feeling that it’s your job to fix things up for them. It’s often those “what can I do to fix this?” worries that keep us awake at night and stop us from being relaxed and content. Recognise those thoughts for what they are and let them go.

If the worries that are bothering you are things that you are in control of (“That is my circus! Those are my monkeys!”) then you may need to explore what exactly is going wrong. Look at the problem from different angles, ask for help if needed and try to work out a solution. Then think about what things are going well – try to find the positives in your life and realize that sometimes it’s only our attitude that needs to change.

Kelly Johnston
Pastoral Support Worker
Birdwood Primary School proudly presents the 42nd annual Birdwood Farm Day

SUNDAY 15TH MAY 2016
10am – 4pm

Chalks campground, Mount Crawford Forest (on the Birdwood to Williamstown road).
Join us for a day of country fun in the forest

* Whip cracking demonstrations
* Sheep dog demonstrations
* Don’s Demo Dogs
* Magic Shows
* Pony & Camel rides
* Tractor rides
* Sheep shearing
* Animal nursery
* Live music
* Art displays


ENTRY
Adults $8
Children FREE
Max $15

Tuesday 10th May
Yr 3 & 5 (40mins)
Yr 7 (45 mins)
Language Conventions
Starting: 9.05am

Tuesday 10th May
Years 3, 5 & 7 (40 mins)
Writing
Starting 11.10am

Wednesday 11th May
Yr 3 (45 mins)
Yr 5 (50 mins)
Yr 7 (65 mins)
Reading
Starting 9.05am

Thursday 12th May
Yr 3 (45 mins)
Yr 5 (50 mins)
Numeracy
Starting 9.05am

Thursday 12th May
Yr 7 (40 mins)
Numeracy (calculator)
Starting 9.05am

Thursday 12th May
Yr 7 (40 mins)
Numeracy (non-calculator)
Starting 11.10am

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Thursday 12th May
Yr 7 (40 mins)
Numeracy (non-calculator)
Starting 11.10am
Golden Grove Primary School
Award Winners
This week’s awards were given for demonstrating all school values.

Congratulations!