Dear Parents, Carers and community members,

**NAPLAN**
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an everyday part of the school calendar since 2008. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. NAPLAN tests provide very valuable information, but there are no consequences for individual students for poor or good performance. At the classroom level it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress.

In 2014, NAPLAN tests will be held on 13-15 May. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas (or ‘domains’) of:

- Reading (Wednesday 14th May)
- Writing (Tuesday 13th May)
- Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) (Tuesday 13th May)
- Numeracy (Thursday 15th May)

**Participation in NAPLAN**
All students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 are expected to participate in NAPLAN tests, and schools cannot exert influence on parents to withdraw their child from the tests. NAPLAN tests give you information on how your child is progressing against national standards. This information allows for additional intervention if necessary to ensure your child progresses at a rate where they can fully participate in all aspects of the curriculum.

Parents or carers may withdraw their child from the tests to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing. It is recommended that withdrawal be considered in consultation with your child’s school. States and territories have different ways of managing student withdrawals, but formal notification must be received by the school principal prior to testing (9th May).

Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week.

To ensure that the children are adequately nourished for the days’ tests, the P&C has decided to provide breakfast, free of charge, for students in Years 3, 5 & 7, each NAPLAN morning. The P&C representatives will prepare freshly cooked meals for the students.

- Day 1 - Bacon & Egg Pie, dinner roll, juice and fruit platter.
- Day 2 - Breakie Pie, Juice and fruit platter.
- Day 3 - Pancake with berries on top, yoghurt, juice and fruit platter.

If you do not wish your child to participate in the NAPLAN breakfast, please contact the school.
School Improvement (AIP)

Reading
Students now have their first set of 5 week reading goals. These goals are set with teaching strategies for success, to intervene and improve reading.

Classroom News
All students have now engaged in a whole school direct instruction spelling program. Students were given a placement test that places them in a levelled group. On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday all students from years 1-7 will be completing lessons from the Spelling Mastery program, from 12:45 – 1:15pm and from 10:30 – 11:00am on a Thursday. Prep students will be focussing on phonics during this time.

Spelling has not been a strength at WSS and data has shown no student improvement for some time, hence the implementation of this program. As a result of this program, I am confident we will see results not only improve in spelling knowledge; but across all English strands (writing, reading, grammar/punctuation).

Student Council News

Kook Card Fun Day
In the student council meetings the student representatives, sport and school captions have decided that the focus is:

    Be Responsible – follow directions straight away.

All students who are able to follow the school expectations will be invited to participate. Unfortunately students who choose inappropriate behavioural choices (1 major behaviour or 3 minor behaviours choices) will be unable to attend the ‘Kook Card’ fun afternoon.
The day will include free dress, pizza at second break and fun activities from 2-3pm.

By Bella Wellsteed and Ana Marsh - Hart 5/6/7 class

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)
The SWPBS Team has started meeting monthly, just before the P&C Meeting and all parents are welcome to come and see what we are doing.

The SWPBS Team is seeing huge gains in the number of Kook Cards being issued to students who meet school Behaviour expectations. With so many names in the draw the Kook Card Prize is hard to win these days. In contrast to this there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of Major and Minor breaches of behaviour expectations.

At the last meeting it was decided that the student council, plus Miss Sherwood, would be in charge of creating lessons for teaching the focus behaviour. Students are currently working toward creating lessons, discussions and role-plays.

Kook Card Draw
and the winner was...

Ryder Huth .............................Congratulations! Enjoy your free tuckshop...

NO MAN LEFT BEHIND
I would like to say a big thank-you to the Rhodes and Kelly families, and also my family for supporting me at the Zone Cross Country. The officials might have forgotten about me but the Wartburg guys didn’t. They came and helped me and ran the rest of the course to the finish line with me. Wartburg School should be proud to have such students that show great sportsmanship and the saying no man left behind can truly be said.
Thanks heaps guys.
Kylie Fleming
Dylan E
Brayden
Alivia
Anna
Dakota
Blake

who are celebrating their birthdays in May.

WARTBURG SS P&C

NEXT P&C MEETING – THURSDAY 15th MAY @ 3:15PM
Please come along and join the meeting. New members are always welcome.

On behalf of all the students and staff at Wartburg SS we would like to thank our dedicated P&C for providing our school with a quality SLR camera and underwater camera. The P&C have also donated $1500 towards classroom resources and paid for our recent visiting author – Phil Kettle. Thank you!

MUSIC LESSONS
Guitar and keyboard lessons will continue next Tuesday, from 11:30-1:15pm for those students who completed the expression of interest. Due to the small number of students currently participating, the cost per lesson is $15 for 30mins. Please ensure students bring their instruments every Tuesday. Parents have the option to pay $15/lesson or be invoiced for the lessons on a term by term basis.

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<th>Dates to Remember</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13th May</td>
<td>Naplan - Yrs 357</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14th May</td>
<td>Naplan - Yrs 357</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 15th May</td>
<td>Naplan - Yrs 357</td>
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<td>Thursday 15th May</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting @ 3:15pm</td>
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<td>Friday 23rd May</td>
<td>Walk Safely to School Day</td>
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<td>Thursday 29th May</td>
<td>Bundaberg Show Holiday</td>
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<td>Monday 9th June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday</td>
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<td>Thursday 26th June</td>
<td>WSS Athletics Carnival</td>
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At Wartburg State School children learn Sight Words in the early years. As Prep students become familiar with the alphabet and sounds, they will progressively begin to learn Sight Words. These words are the most common words used in reading and speech. Automatic recall of common words helps fluency, expression and comprehension in reading.

Students are taught and tested these words on a regular basis at school and these words are also sent home to be practiced as part of homework. When tested at school, children are given about 5 seconds to say the word in order to be successful. Remember that these are not words to be sounded out each time they are seen [although this may be a way to first learn the word].

Education QLD has developed a great free app called Out and About that can be accessed from the iTunes site. The apps image appears below. Parents/carers of Prep students [or those in other classes learning Sight Words] may like to add this app to their device to increase the enjoyment of learning Sight Words.
It has been great to see a number of families coming along and joining in on the fun at playgroup for the last two weeks. Playgroup is open for children from birth – school age every Tuesday from 9am – 11am at Wartburg State School. Bring along a snack and enjoy the company for the morning.