I recently read an article written by Suzanne Rice - Senior Lecturer, Education Policy and Leadership at University of Melbourne. Ms Rice received funding from the Whitlam Institute in 2012 to conduct research on the impacts of NAPLAN.

I found her article most interesting and thought I would share it with you as the 2015 NAPLAN results is currently making the news.

Results are out for NAPLAN, and already the discussions have started around the meaning of those results. The program remains controversial, with academics and the public debating its impact on students and schools. There are also questions as to whether, in the end, the benefits outweigh the negatives. What are the purposes of NAPLAN, and how able are the tests to fulfill these purposes?

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) develops and implements NAPLAN as part of the National Assessment Program. As outlined by ACARA, the NAPLAN program has two purposes. The first is to provide information that can be used to improve teaching and learning. The second is to increase the accountability of schools and teachers.

While these may be ACARA’s stated purposes for NAPLAN, in practice the results are used for many purposes by different groups and individuals. Key groups using NAPLAN include parents, teachers, principals, policymakers and the media. Sometimes these uses can be reasonable, but at other times they are much less so (as in the school I saw that used NAPLAN results to stream its students).

Inappropriate uses usually come from two very common misunderstandings about testing, as described by Harvard Professor Daniel Koretz:

That scores on a single test tell us all we need to know about student achievement, and that this information tells us all we need to know about school quality.

People using NAPLAN results need an understanding of the limitations of standardised tests and test scores. Some of the most important are:

- Due to time limits, tests can usually only test a small amount of the knowledge or skills in any given area. Test designers make choices about what to include, so the balance of items in a test may suit one student better than another. This can lead to a stronger result for the first student and a weaker result for the second;
- Individual students vary in how they perform on a test on any given day due...
• to different factors: how interested they are in doing the test, noise or distractions at the time of the test, or how well they slept;

• Tests work well for measuring some knowledge and skills, but are not as good for measuring other things we may see as important goals of schooling, such as enthusiasm for learning or social skills.

Achievement in high-stakes testing is based on many factors, including how the child was feeling on that particular day. Flickr/Melanie Cook, CC BY

So in terms of what NAPLAN results can and can’t tell us, the most important message would be that results should not be studied in isolation, they should be interpreted with lots of other information about students’ learning. When it comes to understanding how much an individual student has learnt, parents and teachers need to combine NAPLAN results with classroom observations, classwork and school-based assessments and reports.

For schools, NAPLAN results can help a school identify its strengths and areas for improvement. We know that principals can find the results useful for this. But when it comes to using NAPLAN results to decide how effective one school is compared to another, we are on shakier ground, as so many other factors can contribute to results.

As an example, two schools may have students from similar social backgrounds. But if the first school markets itself as very academic and attracts more academic students, while the other school welcomes all comers, the first school may well have better NAPLAN results, but this says nothing about the quality of teaching in either school.

For those in government departments deciding on policy for schools, the message would again be that, while NAPLAN results can provide a snapshot of what students achieve on the test on a given day, they need to be used together with other information about schools. Because so many factors influence student results, making assumptions about causes, such as “We put X policy in place and NAPLAN results improved, so the policy must be effective”, can’t be justified.

The way in which NAPLAN results are sometimes used as if they were a totally reliable way to judge students, schools and systems is worrying. It highlights a need for more knowledge amongst parents, schools, the media and policymakers about the strengths but also the very real limitations of this type of reporting.

Please note that I will share our school’s NAPLAN results as soon as I am able to access and analyse them. As always, I’m sure they will be important.

Hope you’re having a wonderful week.

Lena Clark
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
<th>Sun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunchtime: Jnr Chef Group 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>12 Lunchtime: Jnr Chef Group 4</td>
<td>13 2.15-3.15: Level 3/4 Gymnastics Program All day: Level 5/6 Hoop time</td>
<td>14 After school: Senior Choir Rehearsal in Snr Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pizza Meal Deal Day</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Lunchtime: Jnr Chef Group 5</td>
<td>19 Lunchtime: Jnr Chef Group 5</td>
<td>20 Lunchtime: Jnr Chef Group 5</td>
<td>21 Lunchtime: Jnr Chef Group 5</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pizza Meal Deal Day</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Lunchtime: Jnr Chef Group 5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BOOK WEEK - &quot;Books light up our world&quot;</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Lunchtime: Jnr Chef Group 5</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Lunchtime: Jnr Chef Group 5</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Whole School Production EUREKA! (The Spirit of Australia)**

Please keep the dates for our whole school production free – Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th September – which is the last week of term. We will be requiring all students to come to the technical rehearsal at the theatre on Monday 14th September. We will also have a full dress rehearsal and photographs taken here at school on Wednesday 9th September.

Rehearsals have commenced and casting continues for different roles, and we will be looking for parents to help in a number of ways, with costuming, props, scenery, choreography etc, so let you teacher know if you would like to volunteer. A notice will come home soon with costume and prop requirements for each child.

**Performance Details**

7.30pm Tuesday 15th September & Wednesday 16th September.
George Wood Performing Arts Centre, Yarra Valley Grammar School, Gate A, Kalinda Rd, Ringwood North.
Ticket order forms went home yesterday.

Thank you.

*Rick Gordon for*

The Production Committee
**General**

**Ivan’s Pies Fundraiser**

Just a reminder that the last day for Ivan’s Pie sales is next **Friday 21st August**. Please include cash or cheque made out to Donvale Primary School for the total amount in a sealed envelope with your child's name and class.

Let’s support our wonderful school by purchasing these quality cafe style pies.

Thank you.

*Lori Giannaris*

**Book Week**

Donvale Primary School likes to celebrate our love of books and reading by having special events to coincide with Book Week each year. This year the theme is ‘Books light up our world’ which reflects the importance and impact that books can have on our lives.

We have a visiting author and illustrator Kim Lardner providing three one hour literacy workshops on the 19th of August. Kim explains his sessions as follows - ‘It really is a special event when 100 children laugh for an hour and are really engaged. Memorable. That is what we are trying to do. Create an inspiring event that will motivate children to write which they will remember all their lives. I’ve had some teachers who recall seeing me when THEY were children. Now that is memorable.

*I demonstrate how our own, seemingly ordinary lives, can be the basis of a creative written work. We know it better than Dragons and Fairy Tales after all.*'

The cost of $7.00 for our visiting author was included in your bulk billing.

The following Tuesday, 25th of August all the children are invited to come to school dressed as a book character. Parents are welcome to join in the fun with their own costumes if they wish. There will be a parade (weather permitting) at 9.15 a.m. so we canadmire the creativity of each child and try to guess the character and book. The children will then participate in activities based on one of the short listed books for 2015. They will work in multi-age groups with two staff members. This day produces some wonderful displays for our Library, as well as exposing children to fabulous books and the opportunity of working in multi-aged cooperative groups.

If you have any queries feel free to catch me on any Thursday or Friday.

*Bev Wright.*

**SRC Update**

Recently, the S.R.C’s have had a suggestion to get some chess pieces for the chess board in the gazebo. So we decided to have an Onesie day to raise money for the chess pieces. The whole school raised $268 to towards buying the chess pieces. We are going to buy 2 chess sets and 1 checkers set. We are also buying 2 roll out mats so you can play chess and checkers. They will be spread out around the school. One will be for checkers and the other will be for chess. If you want to use these pieces, you need to borrow the whole set from the blue shed under your name. Make sure you use these pieces for playing chess and checkers only. The chess pieces are 30cm tall. Thank you.
Art Room News

I am so very excited to announce that Donvale Primary has been invited by The Pines Shopping centre to display some of our students art work.

I have just been informed that the work I submitted is up and on display near the mother’s room at the Coles end of the centre. As I’m sure you can imagine the selection process for art work to be displayed was a challenging process. I have been overwhelmed by the incredible art produced by the Donvale Primary students and although I couldn’t display everyone’s work. Our students should all be very proud of themselves and the creative works they are making.

Art work that has been selected is from the following students:

**Ink Blowing**
Cyrus S, Georgia E, Ashton B  F1HW

**Tropical Bird Collage**
Cooper R, Emily M, Dale L  1 /2SM

**Dot Portraits**
Daniel S, Imogen M  3 /4R
Hayden D, Ella M  3 /4E

**Plasticine and Monochrome Art**
Pavit K, Nadia S, Jasmine B  5 /6G
Mano P, Amanda H, Sandiv W,  5 /6W
Chloe G  5 /6C

The works will be on display for a number of weeks and will rotate as some of the pieces didn’t fit onto the display this first round. Please take some time if your up at The Pines and take a look.

Have a great week everyone and keep creating!

Cheers

*Mrs Donaldson*

*Visual Arts*
Is my child too ill for school?

When your child is unwell, it can be hard deciding whether to keep them off school. These simple guidelines should help.

Not every illness needs to keep your child from school. If you keep your child away from school, be sure to inform the school on the first day of their absence.

Use common sense when deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school. Ask yourself the following questions.

- Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home.
- Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home.
- Would I take a day off work if I had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

Common conditions

If your child is ill, it's likely to be due to one of a few minor health conditions.

Whether you send your child to school will depend on how severe you think the illness is. Use this guidance to help you make that judgment.

- Cough and cold. A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by a raised temperature, shivers or drowsiness, the child should stay off school, visit the GP and return to school 24 hours after they start to feel better. If your child has a more severe and long-lasting cough, consult your GP. They can give guidance on whether your child should stay off school.
- Raised temperature. If your child has a raised temperature, they shouldn't attend school. They can return 24 hours after they start to feel better.
- Rash. Skin rashes can be the first sign of many infectious illnesses, such as chickenpox and measles. Children with these conditions shouldn't attend school. If your child has a rash, check with your GP before sending them to school.
- Headache. A child with a minor headache doesn't usually need to be kept off school. If the headache is more severe or is accompanied by other symptoms, such as raised temperature or drowsiness, then keep the child off school and consult your GP.
- Vomiting and diarrhoea. Children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting should definitely be kept off school until at least 48 hours after their symptoms have gone.
- Sore throat. A sore throat alone doesn't have to keep a child from school. But if it's accompanied by a raised temperature, your child should stay at home.
- Chickenpox. If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all their spots have crusted over.
Some of the proud owners of home made instruments: Level 1 and 2 Performing Arts students (See the remainder on display in the middle building corridor)
This week again showed that the little chefs are very talented. They never give up, even if it means they have to repeat wrapping their wontons again. They chose soy sauce for their fried rice, seems like soy sauce is the most popular style of fried rice.
The senior children stayed behind to help us out with the cleaning up. Well done boys and girls.

Thank you to the Younger and Erwin families for their donations. Also thank you to Marina Younger, Laura Emozione, Kym Wolff, Nat Tsui, Aya Chan, Ms E and Martin for helping with the program.

Ingredients we need for next week are: spring onion.

Good news for children on the waiting list or the ones who missed out on this year's program. One of our team helpers Laura Emozione has agreed to running a ONE OFF Italian cooking lesson.

The session will be on Thursday 27th August at lunch time. The menu is Tortellini ricotta and spinach. The children will be learning how to make pasta from scratch using only eggs and flour.

This is a ONE OFF only opportunity so if your child wants to join Laura, please send $4.00 with your child's name and class to the office and we will send a form home for you. There are strictly only 15 spots available and I know they will fill up very quickly.

We don't cook, we create food.
*Liang Dimitroff*

FROM THE ORIENTAL KITCHEN:
- Hayden D 34E: The wontons are beautifully cooked.
- Alex B 34M: Delicious, I would like some more.
- Amy L 12W: Delicious because it was tangy in the pickled veggies.
- Cooper C FGH: I liked it, very hard though.
- Issac L FGH: I liked everything, the wontons are the best.
- Brody I FGH: I liked everything too except for the peas.
- Max T FB: I loved it all, I loved the onion the best.
- Stephanie B FB: It is very hard to do but I'll try again at home.
- William L 56W: It is very yummy.
- Michael W 56W: It's colourful and tasty.
- Georgia G FB: I like all the food and I ate them all.
- Aeryn K FB: It was yummy.
- Ava H 34M: Everything looks nice and tasty too.
- Mira C 34M: I loved the wontons best.
- Robbi S 34E: It's ok.
- Connor R 34E: It's a nice sweet flavour.
- Eddy S 34M: It's very nice and so crunchy.
- Madison H 56C: It was really delicious.
- Leah B 56C: It was very good.
- Yuting W 34M: It was good, the wontons were delicious.
Dear families,

This week the children have enjoyed various crafts including making abstract foil creations. Basketball has also been very popular as many children prepared for the Hoop Time Contest.

Next week, Joyce will be joining the program as coordinator for the remainder of the term whilst I am on teaching placement. Joyce has been working in the industry for ten years and so we are very lucky to someone with such a wealth of experience working with us. I look forward to hearing about all the fun activities she has in store for you when I return in term four.

Thanks,
Kate

Remember bookings can be made right until 12pm the night before, or you can book on the day by calling or leaving the text message but there will be an extra charge of $3.00 for bookings within 24 hours. If you’re ever stuck and would like your child to attend OSH After School Care you can call me or leave a message on 0402 362 443 and I will get back to you. For some reason if you need to cancel the child from attending the after school care session you can cancel online if it is before 24 hours or leave a text message on the program phone (0402362443/98422261) if it is on the day.

Please remember to update the contact details (Especially the phone numbers and address) on the enrolment form if there is any change. You can do so online.
Over 180 kids enjoyed Pizza Meal Deal!!

Grazie to all the bella mamma’s for serving up the slices & making everyone happy.

Ivan’s Pies, great range, fresh & tasty

Order Forms due Friday 21 August 2015

Be a Cookie Monster at Recess on Friday
$1.00 choc chip cookies & other scrumptious treats!
Sold from the Canteen window.

The 5 cent challenge. Keep ‘em coming!
Challenge closes Wed 16 September –

Get creative..... Don’t forget to hand in your Design!
The 5 cent Design Challenge - Entries due today Thursday 13 August.
One winner in each year level announced at assembly on Friday.

Get ready to go amazing places when you see the great range at the Scholastic Book Fair.
Thursday 20 & Friday 21 August – Before & After school sales

If you can help please contact Karin Moule 0419 583 990
Donvale Primary School
Accessory Fundraiser Order Form

Wear our school colours in your hair and raise some money for our school!

Forms are due back at school by Friday the 21st of August

Please complete the payment form on the next page and return to your child’s teacher or the office. Orders will arrive mid-September.

Samples on display at the office

Birthday Wishes To

Sandiv W

Who are celebrating birthdays from 14th to 20th August
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Korker Set – Clip &amp; Ponytail</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ribbon Pony</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower Headband</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bow Hairband</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clip</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Bow Clip</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Bow Clip</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4pk of Plain Hairbands</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair Elastics</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bow Pony</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL

---

**Donvale Primary School**

**Accessory Fundraiser Order Form**

Forms are due back at school by Friday the 21st of August

Accessories will be sent home with students in mid-September

Student Name: ___________________________ Grade: _______

Please select how you would like to make payment:

☐ Payment by cheque – (made payable to Donvale Primary School)
☐ Payment by Cash – (Enclosed in a sealed and labelled envelope)
☐ Payment by EFTPOS at the office
☐ Payment by Credit Card (MasterCard, Visa using the slip below)

---

**Credit Card Payment Slip - Donvale Primary School**

Family Name: ___________________________ Total payment $___________

Payment for: ______________________________________________________

CARD HOLDER’S NAME: ______________________________________________

EXPIRY DATE: ___/_______ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐

CREDIT CARD NO: _________________________________________________

Security 3-digit Number (back of card): ___  ___  ___

SIGNATURE: __________________________________________ DATE: ___/___/____

---