Date Claimers

MAY
10—Lantern Parade
14—16 Naplan Testing
17—Walkathon
28—Chess Competition

JUNE
Vacation 24 June to 7 July

JULY
School Resumes 8 July 2013

Spotlight

ANNUAL MATHLETICS CONTRIBUTIONS
$20 PER STUDENT PAYABLE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE

MOTHERS DAY RAFFLE TICKETS
PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE P&C BOX IN THE OFFICE FOYER

EARN & LEARN
Please place completed sticker forms and place them in the box located in the office foyer.

Principal’s Report

SUCCESSES. Walkerston State School is still enjoying pleasing results in a number of areas. Our cross country team competed really well with our runners taking out 5 of the 8 events. Winners were Jack Thompson and Alice Pullen (10years), Ashton Scriba (11 years), Keeley Barbeler (12 years) and Cody Nicholas (13 years). In addition another 5 runners have made the P.V squad. Congratulations to all runners. Our rugby league team remains undefeated and we are fielding representatives in several other sports.

Congratulations to Christine Hall and Gareth Everett who have been awarded positions in the instrumental music camp.

HOMEWORK. We have been working on our Homework Policy and a draft has been placed in the newsletter for your perusal. Homework times are governed by Queensland guidelines and while we have no real homework issues please contact your teacher if problems do arise.

HEAD LICE. Some classes have started to have one or two children experience head lice. This is a state wide problem with many schools dealing with the problem. We have included information in the newsletter as a helpful guide.

ATHLETICS. After last year’s great success we have booked our athletics carnival for June 12 at Mirani S.H.S. It was a success because there was plenty of room for the athletes to perform on standard sized areas and parents had a great view. With this venue we can run the carnival in one day. Thanks in advance to the Tuckshop ladies who are inconvenienced by the venue but do a great job despite the difficulties.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT. All staff are now doing explicit teaching lessons and students are the big beneficiaries. We continue to focus on elaborating on ideas, persuasive writing, tables and finding the sum in simple and complex problems. I would like to thank all the parents who have been helping us with our improvement focus.

ANZAC DAY. We had over 100 students and many staff march at the ANZAC Day ceremonies. It certainly is a memorable experience that I hope we all cherish. I also acknowledge those students and families who attended Dawn Services and services in other locations.
Walkerston State School
Draft Homework Policy

Rationale:
Homework at Walkerston State School aims to be an educationally enhancing experience by revising and practicing common concepts of literacy and numeracy.

A reasonable amount of time for homework has been set so as not to create stress within already busy family routines.

Mathematics and English are the key learning areas covered as part of the homework program. A gradual increase in the time spent on homework has also been adopted to create more demand and challenge as the children move through the year levels.

Homework criteria is set for each year level. Activities are devised either to be completed daily or weekly. Reinforcement of common concepts is achieved through regular activities.

For each year level there is a suggested expectation for time to be spent on homework tasks, based on Education Queensland Homework Policy.

Homework Overview
No set time allocation for Prep year – regular reading and real life numeracy activities are advisable.

Teachers may also send home any class work that was incomplete during that day or project work that is current. Students will be required to complete this work as part of their homework routines.

Parents may request supplementary activities from their class teacher to complete with their children on a voluntary basis. Supplementary activities will not be corrected by the class teacher. Parents may be directed to appropriate commercial or web based resources to access supplementary activities.

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Preparatory generally is not set homework but some activities at home may be required. Year 1 could do up to 1 hour a week.

Suggested time 15 min/day

Years 2 & 3 could be up to an hour a week.

Suggested time 15 min/day

Years 4 & 5 could be between two to three hours per week

Suggested time 35 min/day

Years 6 & 7 could be between three to four hours a week

Suggested time 50 min/day
Walkerston State School

HOMEWORK POLICY

OBJECTIVES

At Walkerston State School, we aim to provide homework that

- Is purposeful and relevant to students needs and appropriate to the phase of learning (early and middle)
- Is appropriate to the capability of the student & develops the student's independence as a learner
- Is varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- Does not exceed the recommended levels
- Allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Principal:

- Develop a school homework policy, in consultation with their school community, particularly the Parents and Citizens’ Association.
- Distribute the school homework policy to staff, students, and parents and caregivers, particularly at the time of student enrolment.
- Ensure the homework policy is effectively implemented throughout the school.
- Include an up-to-date school homework policy as part of their annual school reporting.

Teachers:

- Set homework on a regular basis & clearly communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework.
- Check homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback.
- Explicitly teach strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these
- Give consideration to student’s other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) when setting homework
- Discuss with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child’s homework and suggest strategies to assist with their homework
- Establish and follow up with clearly articulated consequences for failure to complete set homework and contact parents as needed if homework is not regularly completed.

Students:

- Be aware of the school’s homework policy & discuss with parents or caregivers homework expectations
- Accept responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- Follow up on comments made by teachers & seek assistance when difficulties arise
- Organise time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment
- Complete detentions set by the teacher for failing to do homework set and catch up on work missed

Parents/ Guardians

- Read to them, talk with them and involve them in tasks that support homework and help them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- Encourage them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning
- Encourage them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- Help them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities
- Contact the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children’s approach to the homework.
- Support the school when detentions for failing to complete homework are set and no extenuating circumstances exist.
**NAPLAN**

"The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008. On Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 May, students will take the 2013 NAPLAN tests. NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australia children. It also provides valuable information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help all students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives.

All students are expected to participate in the tests. Students with disability may qualify for reasonable adjustments that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom. Some students with very specific circumstances may be exempted from participating in the tests. For information about participation in NAPLAN, you can go to: [http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html](http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html)

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)."

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**BREKKY CLUB**

Breakfast Club has been going well this term. Chappy Amie had work training to attend on Tuesday, but thankfully the Yr 7 student helpers were wonderfully flexible, and we had Breakfast Club on Wednesday instead. WOAH! We had our biggest morning yet, with over 40 kids having a feed - we even ran out of bowls for cereal and places to sit! Next week onwards, Breakfast Club will be back to its regular Tuesday/Thursday slots. Thanks for understanding.

Chappy Amie

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**Gargett State School P & C - CAR BOOT SALE**

Car Boot Sale on Saturday May 11th from 8 am to 2 pm at the school. You can help in a number of ways, come along and grab a bargain, book your own site ($10 fee) and sell your own items or donate your unwanted goods to the P & C stall. Food and drinks available. Market traders welcome. All proceeds to benefit the Gargett SS centenary celebrations in 2014.

Contact Roseen 49585137 or rlope11@eq.edu.au

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Chappy Amie

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**TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER**

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2013 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Spain will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au), email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!