



# Erskine Park High School

Swallow Drive, Erskine Park NSW 2759

Telephone: (02) 9834 3536

Fax: (02) 9834 3864

[www.erskinparkhs.com.au](http://www.erskinparkhs.com.au)

## NAP TESTS (12/5/09 - 14/5/09) – LETTER OF EXPLANATION

Dear Year 7 and 9 Parents/ Guardians/ Carers,

In 2009 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will again take place after being introduced in 2008 for all students in Years 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. This program, which has the support of all State and territory Education Ministers, will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools. In New South Wales, the NAPLAN tests replace the old Basic Skills Test (BST), English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) and Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP).

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against agreed national benchmarks of student achievement.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of this national assessment program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia on the same days for all students as follows:

- Tuesday 12 May** – Language Conventions Test (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and a separate Writing Test  
**Wednesday 13 May** – Reading Test  
**Thursday 14 May** – Numeracy Test (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and space). ***This will have a calculator and non-calculator section.***

**All students require TWO 2B pencils, a pencil sharpener, an eraser and a calculator.**

In the Numeracy tests, students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers and protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there are two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not used. **All students MUST bring a calculator. Where required, your child may have already received a letter explaining this.**

Students may be granted exemption from the tests if they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or if they have significant intellectual delay. Eligible students already identified will receive Special Provisions reflecting their normal level of classroom support. **Parents and/ or carers have the right to withdraw their child from tests and must sign a parent or carer consent form if you wish to do so. SEE OVER THE PAGE.**

As already provided to Year 7 and 9, there are sample paper questions which we would like parents and students to consider in preparation for these national tests. The website – <http://www.naplan.edu.au> – will provide further information where required. Our combined efforts will ensure our students achieve success.

Yours Sincerely,

Tim McCallum (Principal)



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## PARENT-CARER CONSENT FOR EXEMPTION OR WITHDRAWAL

Dear Year 7 and 9 Parents/ Guardians/ Carers,

1. Consideration for exemption can be given to students:

- ✓ Newly arrived in Australia (less than a year before the test) and with a language background other than English
- ✓ Within our Support Unit

Exemptions can be discussed with the school Principal OR the Head Teacher of Support, Mrs Nan Brown

2. Students may also be withdrawn from the test at the request of the parent/ carer.

The consent form (below) must be completed for all students who are withdrawn or exempt from any part of the National Assessment Program (NAP). This form must be lodged with the school by the end of Term 1.

Consideration should also be given to the withdrawal of students on a Life Skills programme.

### PARENT-CARER CONSENT FOR EXEMPTION

I have discussed my child's participation in the National Assessment Program 2009 with the school and understand that

\_\_\_\_\_ (*full name of child*)

In Year \_\_\_\_\_ will be exempt (*cross out the one which does not apply*) from the following parts of the National Assessment Program:

**Tuesday 12 May – Language Conventions Test** \_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday 12 May – Writing Test** \_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_

**Wednesday 13 May – Reading Test** \_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday 14 May – Numeracy Test (Calculator and Non-Calculator)** \_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent/ carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Yours sincerely,

Tim McCallum (Principal)



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### PARENT-CARER CONSENT FOR EXEMPTION OR WITHDRAWAL

I have discussed my child's participation in the National Assessment Program 2009 with the school and understand that

\_\_\_\_\_ (*full name of child*)

In Year \_\_\_\_\_ will be exempt/ withdrawn (*cross out the one which does not apply*) from the following parts of the National Assessment Program:

(*Please tick*)

**Tuesday 12 May – Language Conventions Test** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday 12 May – Writing Test** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wednesday 13 May – Reading Test** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday 14 May – Numeracy Test (Calculator and Non-Calculator)** \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of parent/ carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Yours sincerely,

Tim McCallum (Principal)

## NAP EXEMPTION LETTER RETURNS

| <u>STUDENT</u>           | <u>YEAR</u> | <u>NOTES</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Borg, Chelsea            | 9           |              |
| Borg, Jayden             | 7           |              |
| <i>Castle, Skye</i>      | 7           |              |
| Davies, Luke             | 9           |              |
| Drole, David             | 9           |              |
| <i>Frankham, Monique</i> | 9           |              |
| Girgis, Sarah            | 9           |              |
| Rangi, Richard           | 9           |              |
| Taylor, Jordan           | 7           |              |
| Vella, Jason             | 7           |              |
| Williams, Michael        | 9           |              |
| <i>Willis, Chris</i>     | 9           |              |
|                          |             |              |
|                          |             |              |
|                          |             |              |

Dear Year 7 and 8 Parents/ Guardians/ Carers,

On the morning of **Tuesday March 6th (Year 7) or Wednesday March 7th (Year 8)**, your child will be participating in a New South Wales Department of Education and Training *English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) Test*. As a participating school in this state-wide test, your son or daughter will complete this test over four hours (including three breaks) on the above date.

The papers will be returned for central marking outside of the school and results will be made known to the school and to you later this year. In the event of your child (Year 7 only) being ill or absent on their day, arrangements may be made to test him/ her on Wednesday March 7th. Since completed papers must then be dispatched immediately, any student in Year 8 who does not sit the paper on Wednesday March 7th will not be able to do it.

If you have any concerns or your child has special needs that the school should know about, could you communicate this to the Erskine Park High School Principal, Mr McCallum, Ms Knoke (Year 7 Adviser) or Ms Wilson (Year 8 Adviser) as soon as possible.

**On the day your child will need: 1. A pencil sharpener. 2. An eraser. 3. A book to read if finished early. Note: A pencil will be provided. (All answers are to be written in pencil- no pens, rulers, textas or liquid paper)**

You can assist in your child's preparation for the test by:

- (a) asking them to try their best. **There is no pass/fail mark. Rather, the ELLA test is a way of finding out what they can and cannot do, so that future help can be given.**
- (b) reassuring them that they shouldn't rush (but still need to keep an eye on the clock).
- (c) reminding them that the teachers supervising can't help them with the paper but will help in every other way possible.
- (d) telling them that if they don't understand a word or expression they should re-read it and try to work it out from the other words around it.
- (e) telling them that they should move on from a difficult question and come back to it later.
- (f) telling them to give an answer for all questions and to select the 'best' or most likely answer if unsure.

We are confident that the test and its results will ultimately be of assistance to your child. If you have any enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact any of the staff listed below.

Yours faithfully,

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Tim McCallum  
Principal

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Anne Knoke  
Yr 7 Year Adviser

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Natalie Wilson  
Yr 8 Year Adviser



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## TRIAL ELLA TEST (FRI 2/3/07) – LETTER OF EXPLANATION

Dear Year 7 and Year 8 Parents/ Guardians/ Carers,

On the morning of Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007, your child will be participating in a **partial trial** New South Wales Department of Education and Training *Year 7 English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) Test*. Erskine Park High School has decided to help our students familiarise themselves with the test in advance of this year's official ELLA Test, rehearsing some of the skills required.

This will mean that your child will sit:

1. A trial test on **Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>** and
2. the official 2007 ELLA Test on **Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup> (Year 7) and Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup> (Year 8)**.

If you have any concerns or your child has special needs that the school should know about, could you communicate this to Ms Knoke (Year 7 Adviser) or Ms Wilson (Year 8 Adviser) as soon as possible.

Yours Faithfully,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim McCallum  
Principal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne Knoke  
Yr 7 Year Adviser

\_\_\_\_\_  
Natalie Wilson  
Yr 8 Year Adviser