



# Monaro Newsletter

Term 1 - Week 6

## Key Dates

### Term 1 Week 7

Thursday 17 March 9/10 PASS  
Biathlon Pd5 & 6

### Term 1 Week 7

Wednesday 23 March 9/10 PASS  
Biathlon Pds 5 & 6 (Back Up Day  
Only)

Friday 25 March HSC Chemistry  
Depth Study Prac Day

### Term 1 Week 8

Naplan Online Practice Day  
(Yr 7 & 9)

### Term 1 Week 9

Monday 28 March - Meet & Greet  
Yr 7 & all new families to MHS

Monday 28 - 29 March - SLR Camp

### Term 1 Week 10

Monday 4 April Yr12 Textiles Study  
Day

Monday 4 April Yr9/10 Philosophy  
Excursion

Wednesday 6 April - Sunday 10 April  
Yr11 & 12 Hospitality Excursion  
Royal Easter Show

## MONARO HIGH WELCOMES NEW STAFF

### Ms Virginia Vuong

Ms Vuong joined Monaro High School at the end of last year as part of the Maths/Science faculty.

Ms Vuong was born and raised in Melbourne and never saw herself moving away from the city life. Three months into living in Cooma and she doesn't think she will ever move back to the city! Her husband started with Snowy at the start of 2021 but she wasn't ready to make the move to Cooma then, so stayed in Melbourne and took her time to mentally prepare for the inevitable move.

Then in November Ms Vuong started at Monaro High School with only four weeks left of term. It was very tiring but she quickly fell in love with the school community and what Cooma life has to offer.



### Mr Nathan Schubert

Monaro High School would like to welcome Mr Schubert to the school as the Head of Supported Learning.

He has been teaching Special Education for 15 years, It wasn't what he trained in at University but more that he fell into it in his first year of teaching. He quickly realised that it was the teaching area for him.

When the Head Teacher Supported Education position was advertised, Mr Schubert believed it would be a great opportunity to do what he loved, have a shorter commute and contribute to his local community.

He and his wife moved to Bredbo in 2009. A rural lifestyle with proximity to snow was appealing to both of them.

When he is not at work he can usually be found at the snow, on his bike or in his workshop woodturning.



### Mr Peter Grant

Mr Grant arrived in Cooma from Bathurst. He was a teacher librarian at Denison College - Bathurst High Campus for a long time.

He has a daughter living in Jindabyne and another living in Cooma. When he saw the job at Monaro High School advertised he thought how great it would be to work here and experience the region and see family a bit more often.

Since being here he has been on a hike with his daughter to Porcupine Rocks, the view was almost 360 degrees including Kosciuszko and Lake Jindabyne.

It is exciting to all the new building, he had a friend who came here when her father worked on the Snowy Hydro... she wouldn't recognise the school now.

The new DEAR program has brought a lot of students to the library to borrow books and Mr Grant believes it will be a fun challenge to keep providing books they will enjoy reading.



## YEAR 10 NEWS

### MINIMUM STANDARD PRACTICE & TESTING

Students need reading, writing and numeracy for everyday life after school. This is why students in NSW are being supported to meet a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the HSC. To show they meet the HSC minimum standard, students need to achieve level 3 or 4 in short online reading, writing and numeracy tests of skills for everyday life. Students are given multiple opportunities and support to complete the tests if required. Monaro High School Year 10 students will begin with practice tests in Week 7 this term and the first test will take place early next term.

For further information, refer to: [educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/HSCinimumstandard](http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/HSCinimumstandard)

### IMMUNISATION

Yr 10 students are scheduled to receive their Meningococcal vaccination.

Friday 13 May in the MHS Hall.

Students have been given an information note and a permission card. If needed, a copy can be collected from Mrs Ingram.

REMINDER: The completed card must be returned to the school office by Friday 18 March.

### YR10 CAMP 2022

Year 10 students will be offered the opportunity to participate in our postponed Recreation Camp to Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation, Narrabeen. The camp is scheduled for Week 6 Term 4 and once details are finalised information and permission note will be sent home before the end of term. Many families made payments last year and those who did not request refunds have been given credit which can be transferred towards the cost of this year's camp or any other school program at the request of parents.

### GOOD NEWS

Congratulations to our Yr 10 students who have been working hard during Term 1! Many have also been involved in the special activities that help make Monaro High School great! Well done to our Swimmers, Basketballers, Soccer Players and Food Tech students.

Kari Ingram

Yr 10 Adviser



## HOSPITALITY NEWS

Year 12 Hospitality class skillfully put together a 4-course tapas menu, catering for 20 staff members. Liam Stewart, Leah Irwin, Tyla Marshall, Daniel Betros, Marcus Riley and Liam McGuinness did a fantastic job preparing, cooking and serving four delicious meals on time.

This class has improved profoundly from the start of Year 11, and they should be extremely proud of themselves.



Year 11 Hospitality have started their Certificate II in Kitchen Operations making berry smoothies.

Students decorated the rim of their cup with sprinkles, very creative. Throughout Term 1 students will build their experience and confidence in the kitchen, to then cater for events in the near future.



## FOOD TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Year 9/10 Food Technology put on a fantastic display for their 'Bush Tucker Assignment'. Students were to incorporate an Aboriginal ingredient into a meal and present it in the cafe to be taste tested by staff.

Below is what our talented year 9/10 students made:

- Hannah and Ava: Lemon Myrtle Pasta
- Mia, Molly, Imogen, and Dakota: Lemon Myrtle Cake
- Aziah and Bailey: Tiramisu topped with Aniseed Myrtle, pork cutlets topped with garlic prawns with sweet potato fries, and wattle seed damper.
- Colin and Belle: Kangaroo Burger
- Josh and Riley: Kangaroo platter (Kangaroo, sweet potato, corn and broccolini)
- Elka, Ellen and Ellie: Strawberry Gum cheesecake

Well done to all students. All meals were delicious and creatively incorporated Aboriginal ingredients into modern day meals.



Year 7 Food Technology are diving into their cooking lessons. Students have already made chocolate spiders, rice paper rolls, and now chicken burgers.

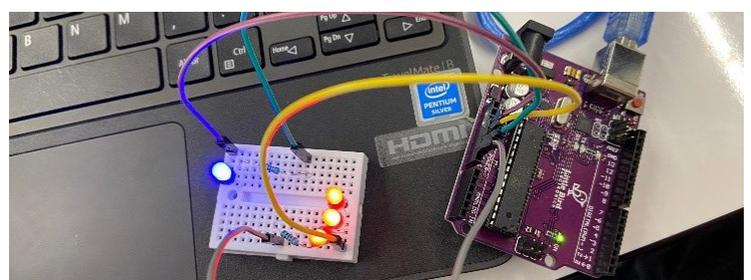
Students have been very good at cleaning up properly, and during this lesson learnt how to make sure chicken is cooked correctly.

Well done Year 7!



## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Year 8 Digital Technology have been learning about electrical circuits and coding. Students have been experimenting and problem solving with LED's (light emitting devices), piezo buzzers, resistors and microcontrollers. Students are working their way towards building an alarm, which includes a light sensor. Well done to all Year 8 digital technology students.



# NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program - Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills. Students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All NSW schools will sit NAPLAN.

Our school will be participating in NAPLAN between 10 and 20 May 2022.

In preparation for NAPLAN, our school will also be participating in practice tests between **Tuesday 22 March and Thursday 31 March 2022**. The practice test is a trial run and key preparation activity for NAPLAN in May. It is not an assessment of student ability and the tests will not be marked.

Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not recommended. Students can use the public demonstration site (<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>) to familiarise themselves with the types of questions and tools available in NAPLAN.

If you have any questions about NAPLAN, please contact your child's teacher.

## What if my child was absent on the day of a scheduled NAPLAN test?

Where possible, schools may arrange catch-up tests for individual students who were absent on the day of a scheduled NAPLAN test.

All Year 3 writing catch-up tests must be completed by Friday 13 May 2022. All other catch-up tests must be completed by Friday 20 May 2022.

## COVID-19 advice

Parents should keep students at home if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Your child's school will be required to conduct NAPLAN testing in accordance with the latest NSW Government COVID-19 advice.

## Year 3 writing test

The Year 3 writing test is conducted on paper. All other Year 3 NAPLAN tests will be online tests.

## Students' digital skills

The digital skills required to complete NAPLAN are skills that students use in everyday classroom activities.

Students do not need to be able to touch type to complete the test. The online test is not about keyboard skills (just as the paper test was not about handwriting skills).

## Withdrawals and exemptions

You can withdraw your child from NAPLAN tests.

A student may be granted a formal exemption if they have:

- significant intellectual disability and/or students with significant comorbidity that severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests, or
- a language background other than English, arrived from overseas and have been attending school in Australia for less than a year before the test.

Contact your child's school for further information and to complete the parent/carer consent form.

## Privacy

NESA is responsible for the collection of personal information from NSW schools to be used during NAPLAN testing and reporting.

All data collection for NAPLAN is managed in accordance with NSW and Federal privacy legislation described in NESA's privacy management plan, which can be found on the NESA website:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/who-we-are/privacy/naplan-privacy>

## Results

Parents receive two reports showing their child's achievements in NAPLAN: the individual student report (ISR) and additional student report (ASR). The ISR and ASR should always be interpreted with care. Teachers will have the best insight into a child's educational progress.

Reports are usually dispatched to schools towards the end of Term 3. Schools then distribute the reports to parents.

## Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.



NSW Education Standards Authority  
NAPLAN team

Phone: 1300 119 556 or 02 9367 8362

Email: [naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au](mailto:naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au)

## Information for parents and carers NAPLAN 2022

### What is NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses the literacy and numeracy skills of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Students participate in NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN provides an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. The tests are just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process – it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools and education authorities with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

### NAPLAN online

All NSW schools will sit NAPLAN online in 2022. The move to NAPLAN online brings new benefits for teachers and students.

### What are the benefits of NAPLAN online?

**More precise results with an adaptive design:** Tailored tests adapt to a student's performance and ask questions that match the student's achievement levels.

**Better engagement:** Research into online assessment indicates that students engage well with online tests as the questions are tailored to their achievement levels.

### Tailored testing

Tailored testing provides a more precise assessment of a student's performance. Students at each year level start with a similar set of questions. Depending on the number of questions they answered correctly, the next set of questions may be more, or less, difficult.

A student's NAPLAN result is based on both the number and difficulty of questions the student answers correctly. A student who completes a more difficult set of questions is more likely to achieve a higher score.

Watch a video (3:06 length) to learn more about tailored testing: <https://youtu.be/oGFseJAM3Ew>

### Supporting your child

The best approach for preparing your child for NAPLAN is to encourage your child to do the best they can on the day.

Excessive preparation or the use of coaching providers is not recommended.

Students can use the public demonstration site to familiarise themselves with the tools and type of questions they will experience in NAPLAN: <https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

### NAPLAN 2022 test window

**NAPLAN test window:** 10 to 20 May 2022

The 9-day test window accommodates schools with fewer devices that require flexibility in scheduling.

### Practice tests

NSW schools will participate in practice tests towards the end of Term 1.

The practice test is a trial run and key preparation activity for NAPLAN in May. It is not an assessment of student ability.

Participation in the practice tests is highly beneficial as it allows schools and students to become familiar with the online assessment platform tools and processes.



## SAVE THE DATE

MEET & GREET  
YEAR 7 & NEW FAMILIES  
TO MHS

MONDAY 28 MARCH

From 5PM

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

## OPEN BOYS SOCCER

Congratulations to our Open Boys Soccer team who defeated Karabar High School on Tuesday 8 March at Lambert Park. It was a challenging match in wet conditions, however, the boys worked well as a team with excellent defence throughout the match. The final score was 2-0 ensuring the Monaro team will progress to Round 2 of the CHS knockout later on this term. Thank you to Miss Marshall for coaching the team.



## OPEN BASKETBALL

Our Basketball teams made another big trip down the coast to contest the Eurobodalla Zone Basketball competition for 2022. The girls crew came away with a convincing win vs Eden H.S and narrow loses to both Bateman's Bay and Bombala. Being a young team we are looking forward to following their progress over the next few years. Well done to all the girls for representing our school with great enthusiasm and fair play. Congratulations to Sky Adams, Leanne Adams, Bryanna Wittig and Kyra Reading who were selected in the Zone team and given the option to attend South Coast Trials. Big thanks to Sam Pevere for assisting with referring and coaching.

The Open Boys Basketball Team travelled to Moruya to play in the Eurobodalla Zone competition. In their first match they took on Bega and after the bus trip were slow to start. Despite Reuben Hooper's defense and Rhys Cleverley's work at both ends of the court, Bega gained momentum and the shortened games led to a loss. Straight after this game with only a 5-minute break the team took on Eden. It was a tight match and Zane Usher-Rodahl stood up with three 3-pointers and being defensively strong was fouled off with 2 minutes to go. In the end Monaro triumphed by 2 points.

In their final game for the day against Bombala, in offense Nathan Brown and Ben Ingram were strong with Aaron Mauri defending well. This result meant they only lost one game. Tom Carton was the MVP for the day with his all-court work throughout the 3 games. Congratulations to all of the boys on their behaviour and play which was outstanding, receiving compliments from their opposing coaches.

Thank you to Mrs Ingram for driving the bus down.



## ZONE SWIMMING

On Thursday 17th February a bus load of our best swimmers travelled to Narooma to participate in the Zone Swimming carnival. The students had a stellar day in the pool swimming their best and supporting each other throughout the competition. Thank you to Ms Marshall for officiating, Mr Armitage for driving the bus and Ms Walsh for managing the team.

Particular congratulations to the students below and relay teams who qualified for Regional Swimming in Dapto. Due to difficult weather conditions Regional Swimming dates were changed and despite best attempts from students, parents and staff not all of our students will be able to attend. Please see next newsletter for Regional results.

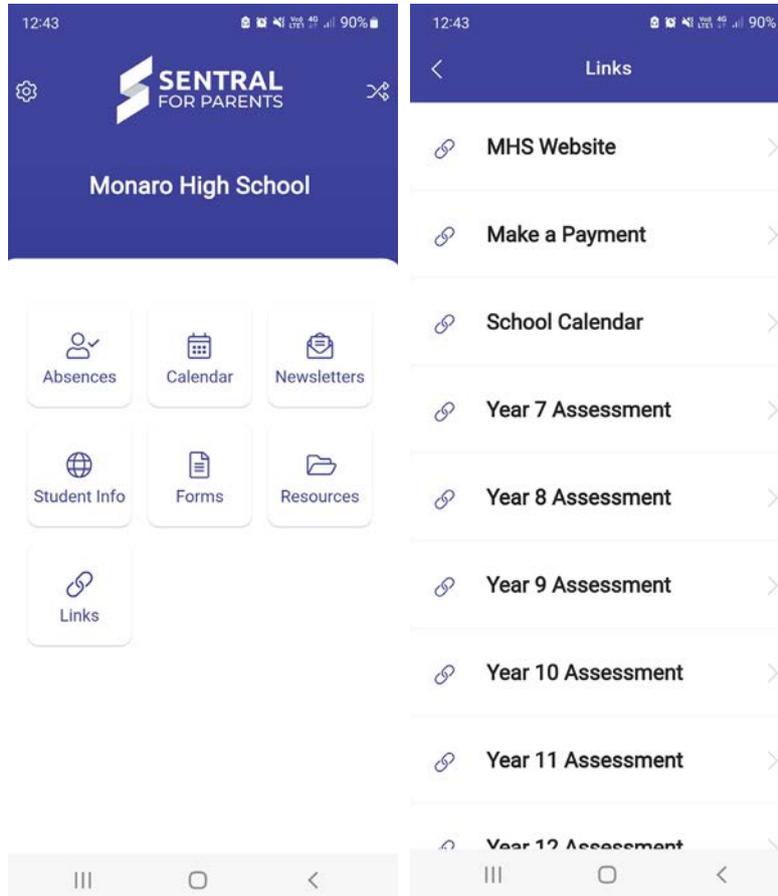
Nevaeh Moore, Kyra Reading, Leanne Adams, Layne Armitage, Abigail Downton, Kai Pietrass-Wong, 12-19yrs Medley Relay team, 14yrs Girls 200m Freestyle Relay team, 12yrs Girls 200m Freestyle Relay Team & 16yrs Girls 200m Freestyle Relay team.



## PARENT PORTAL

Monaro High School has moved to the Sentral Parent Portal as its main platform of communication for families. If you do not have an Access Key please call the office on 6452 4611.

Once on the Parent Portal you will receive newsletters, newsfeeds of what is going on within the school community, you are able to give permission for excursions and can now 'Make a Payment' through the 'Links' tab on the home page as shown below.



Please don't forget to send a note with you child if they are leaving early.

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used by students between first and last bell!

9.00am - 3.20pm

Students are to report to Sickbay if they are unwell and are NOT to phone/text parents themselves.

## STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### *At Monaro High School*

A number of changes in relation to programs and staffing has meant that Monaro High School is now better equipped to provide for the Mental Health and Wellbeing of its students than at any time in the past. The school's Wellbeing, Learning and Support teams, lead by Head Teachers Mrs Lee Riley and Mr Nathan Schubert are supported by the following Mental Health and Wellbeing staff:

### *School Counsellors*

School counsellors contribute to student wellbeing in NSW public schools by providing specialised psychological assessment, counselling and intervention services. While every student at a NSW Department of Education school, from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12, has access to a school counsellor or school psychologist, an increased allocation to Monaro HS has resulted in a school counsellor being onsite five days per week. Our School Counsellors (Chris Simpson - Mon/Tues and Tash Bryceson - Wed/Thu/Fri) have teaching and post-graduate qualifications in Psychology and hold registration as a Psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia (AHPRA). Chris and Tash are part of a team led by Senior Psychologist Education Ros Bailetti covering part of Queanbeyan and most of the Snowy Monaro LGA. This team, as well as other school counselling staff across the state, can provide additional resources to Monaro HS at any time should the need arise.

## REFERRING TO OUR SERVICES

Referrals to each of our Learning, Wellbeing and Support services can be made by both parents/carers and students. We look forward to working with you.

### *Parents/Carers*

Phone the school office and request a referral to the SSO, Wellbeing Nurse, School Counsellor or speak with your child's Year Adviser, Mrs Riley or Mr Schubert.

### *Students*

Speak directly with the SSO, WHIN or School Counsellors in person to make a self-referral or speak with your Year Adviser or other member of staff.



### *Wellbeing Nurse*

The WHIN Program is a partnership between NSWHealth and the NSW Department of Education. Monaro HS was part of only three schools in the original pilot for the WHIN program which has now been expanded to over 100 positions across the state and ensured the continuation of the Wellbeing Nurse at Monaro HS. Nikki Rabbitte, is employed by NSW Health but is onsite at MHS each Mon and Fri (or at other times when required). She works closely with the school's wellbeing and



learning support teams as well as local health and social services in order to support students and their families on a wide range of health and wellbeing issues. Issues may include physical health, mental health, social and behavioural support and family or peer relationships.

### *School Support Officer (SSO)*

Student Support Officers (SSOs) work in schools to enhance the wellbeing and learning outcomes of students. They come from a diverse range of backgrounds and may have a diploma or high qualification in social work, youth work or other related discipline. They all have experience working with young people to improve their wellbeing and mental health. SSO's support the implementation of the school's "whole of school" approach to wellbeing and as such work closely with the School Counsellors, Wellbeing Nurse and the school's Wellbeing Team. Our SSO, Debbie Thomas, is very well known to our school community, particularly in her role in running the Links to Learning Program.