



# Monaro Newsletter

Term 1 - Week 6

## Key Dates

### Term 1 Week 7

Thursday March 9 -  
Regional Swimming

### Term 1 Week 8

Tuesday March 14 - Zone  
Volleyball Bega

Wednesday March 15 -  
Tour of school upgrade for  
former staff

Wednesday March  
15-Tuesday March 21 -  
NAPLAN

### Term 1 Week 9

Wednesday March 22 -  
Tour of school upgrade  
for former students and  
community

## A message from the Monaro High School executive

### Mobile Phones:

Term 1, 2023 is in full swing at Monaro High School and we would like to thank parents and carers for supporting our school rule with no mobile phone use from the first bell of the school day to the last bell. Students are more focused in class and interact more in the playground compared to schools where mobile phones are in use all day.

Our new deputy principal has mentioned that out of all the schools she has worked at, Monaro High School is the best especially with regards to mobile phones.

### Supporting Learning:

Did you know that there is a positive link between increased education and improved health?

We would like to encourage parents and carers to engage with their child about their learning at school. Through the Sentral Parent Portal, you can view the assessment tasks for your child through Resources, and by then choosing the folder for their Year Group.

We also encourage you to have a look at their bookwork, what they are doing in all subjects and talk to them about what they are learning. If you are interested in their education, students will be more interested. If you would like to discuss your child's learning or wellbeing at school, please reach out to their Year Adviser:

Year 7 - Bianca Hines

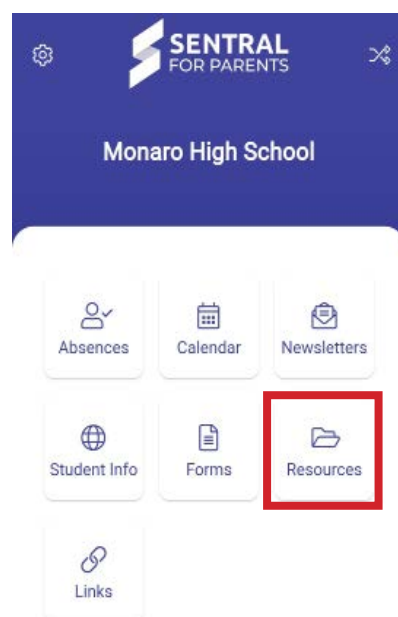
Year 10 - Virginia Vuong

Year 8 - Amanda Bickerdike

Year 11 - Kari Ingram

Year 9 - Emily Caldwell

Year 12 - Denae Shelton



## Take a Tour of Monaro High School's Completed Upgrade

### TOUR 1 - FORMER STAFF

Wednesday  
15 March 2023  
2pm



RSVPs are essential - 6453 1500

For more details check our Website or Facebook

### TOUR 2 - COMMUNITY

Wednesday  
22 March 2023  
5.30pm

RSVPs are essential

monaro-hschool@det.nsw.edu.au

## Wellbeing Week

Week 6 was Student Wellbeing Week for Monaro High School with students and staff participating in organised activities held during breaks. Student wellbeing is very important to Monaro High School, with staff always striving to create teaching and learning environments that enable students to be healthy, happy, engaged and successful.

Activities students participated in during the week included handball, knitting and crocheting, chess, rock painting, a teacher vs student basketball game and a sausage sizzle.

Thank you to all the staff and students who helped out for Student Wellbeing Week. A special thank you to the teachers who played in the basketball game against the students (we will win next time) and a very special thank you to Debbie Thomas our SSO for help with the organisation.



## Welcome BBQ for new families

Monaro High School held a welcome barbecue for new students and their families on Tuesday February 28.

Mostly Year 7 students, families and many teachers all came together for a sausage sizzle, which also included BBQ mushrooms and plant-based sausages. It was a lovely opportunity for the students and families to ask questions and get to know each other and the staff a little better.

A great time was had by all. Thank you to everyone who attended.



## Movie Makeup Workshop

On Friday February 24, the Year 9/10 Drama class participated in a workshop run by Diana Cheetham from Fancy Like. The students learnt some of the tricks of the trade for working on set and making amazing real-life effects that are used in the movies including lacerations, bruises and bullet holes.

Many thanks to Mrs Roberts for assisting with the workshop and Sharon Locker-Lloyd (Regional Industry Education Partnerships) who provided this awesome opportunity for our students.





## MHS welcomes new staff



### Lara Batkin

My partner got a job in Jindabyne last year and after loving it so much I decided to move at the end of last year after teaching in Wagga Wagga for 4 years.

I was born in Wollongong and completed my university degree there. I am actually a PE teacher but have joined the Supported Education faculty and have been loving it so far. I ended up coming to Monaro High School when I found out Mr Armitage was the principal as he was my PE teacher when I was in year 7.

In my spare time you can find me either riding my bike, playing AFL or snowboarding during winter. I have a Border Collie called Max who is very cheeky and loves to play with the garden hose when I am watering my plants.

### Montana O'Neill

Montana's family has been visiting the region since the 1950s to ski and explore the Snowy Hydro Scheme. Montana grew up in Sydney and travelled to Jindabyne every winter to ski and compete with the Perisher Winter Sports Club.

Having completed high school as a winter student at Jindabyne Central School, Montana always felt as if Jindabyne was a second home. In 2018 she decided to make the move permanent and never looked back. Life in Jindabyne offers her the mental and physical space she needed to be creative and live an active lifestyle.

Her hobbies include hiking, skiing, music, art, sewing and reading. This is Montana's first teaching position and she is still completing her master's degree.



### Celine Depczynski

I was born and raised in Moree, right at the top of New South Wales, and never imagined myself down in the cold country, but here I am - and loving it! It's so great to be in another rural community, but this time being so close to the beach AND the snow.

I finished my training as a Science and Ag teacher last year, but I do have a huge interest in languages, so will be completing a TeachEnglish as a Second Language course in Spain during Term 2.

I am very excited to commence my teaching career here at MHS, and I hope to continue forming positive relationships with students so that I may help them realise their talents, passions and post-school goals.

## Debbie Thomas turns 60

Morning tea was held for Debbie's 60th birthday on February 23. Debbie is a much-loved Student Support Officer at Monaro High School.

Student Support Officers (SSOs) work in schools to enhance the wellbeing and learning outcomes of students. I bet you can't guess what her favourite colour is?



## NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the 4 areas of: reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

This year NAPLAN is being held from March 15 - 21 and it is entirely online. Students are requested to bring headphones or ear buds if they own them.

An information sheet can be found at the back of the newsletter and information can also be found on this web site <https://nap.edu.au/about>.

# Say 'cheese'

School Photo Day is coming.

**Tuesday May 9.**

Further details will be provided closer to the date.





## Year 12 SLR Camp

The camp run by the Bournda Environmental Education Centre at Hobart Beach was marked by two very different days.

Bikes and orienteering were a challenge in the torrential rain but the students managed to successfully complete it. However the ropes and kayaking in beautiful sunshine the next day was much more pleasant. The campsite was a tad muddy, but was managed by a very competent group of student campers.

Congratulations to all the students and especially to Will Dodd who impressed the staff at the Bournda Environmental Education Centre. Thank you to Mr Ingram and Miss Hines on an enjoyable excursion.



## Congratulations, Michael Pevere

Congratulations to MHS Year 11 student, Michael Pevere who was named Sports Person of the year at the Australia Day Awards in Cooma 2023 for his excellence in Bocce.



## UOW Discovery Day

On Monday February 13, a group of enthusiastic Year 12 students headed to the coast to participate in the University of Wollongong's Discovery Day. The Discovery Day gives Year 12 students the opportunity to experience firsthand what a day at University is like.

After checking in to the Surf Leisure Resort and checking out the rough surf conditions with a walk on the beach, the group headed off to ten pin bowling. There was a variety of skill levels on show but everyone had a great time. Back at the accommodation the students cooked up a group dinner to celebrate Amelia and Nild's birthdays while making friends with the Cowra High kids who were there with Mrs Williams (ex-Monaro teacher) and Mr Mugridge (ex-Monaro student).

Tuesday was Valentine's Day and the group headed to campus for breakfast and a welcome to the UOW. All of our students had signed up to classes that they may be interested in. From Careers in Fitness, Creative Writing, Law - You be the Judge, Design, Biomolecular Physics to Teaching as a profession. All of the students came away from the day with something to talk about.

Many thanks to Ms Pollard and Mrs Ingram for a successful excursion.





## MHS Girls Basketball team named the Eurobodalla Zone Champs

### Open Boys and Girls Basketball Merimbula

Our Open Basketball teams travelled to Merimbula to contest the Eurobodalla Zone Championships last week. Our boys team defeated Bombala in match number one and were narrowly defeated by Moruya before placing second in their pool. They came up against Zone and eventual Regional Champions Bateman's Bay in the Semi finals, losing the match despite holding them to six points in the first half. The boys played superbly as a team and can be commended for their sportsmanship and conduct on the day.

Our Girls team took on Bombala High School in Game 1 and were victorious after a close tussle with some excellent work in the paint from the Adams girls and Bryanna Wittig. In Game 2 our newer players Hayley, Caitlyn and Willow stepped up to help the veterans and defeated Eden progressing to the grand final. After another hard fought match and showing much improvement throughout the day, the girls won the final and were named Eurobodalla Zone Champions. Sam Pevere accompanied the teams and provided expert refereeing for many of the Zone matches. Big thanks also to Skye and Michael who stepped up to assist with officiating.

### Regional Basketball

Open Girls were successful in gaining entry to the Regional Basketball Championships in Goulburn representing Eurobodalla zone in the final eight for the region. A stellar effort by all girls involved! Congratulations to Brianna Wittig, Skye Adams, Leanne Adams, Caitlin Clode, Willow Joyce and Hayley Plummer for putting in 100% effort and representing MHS proudly. Both games played were lost narrowly to well experienced south coast teams. Thank you to Samuel Pevere who travelled to Goulburn with the Open Girls and assisted with coaching and refereeing duties.



## MHS Swimming results

MHS Swimming Carnival results are in with Gordon taking out first place on 935 points. Gordon is lead by captains Leanne Adams, Rhys Cleverly, Amelia Bradley and Addison Cornwell. Lawson placed second on 809 points, lead by captains Eloise Kanowski, Talon Kelly, Tiana Hansen and Cameron Filtness. Kendall came in third with 624 points, lead by captains Anneka Miners, Louie Mould, Grace Maxwell and Tom King. Paterson placed fourth with 520 points, with 2023 captains Felicity Tame, Jordan Williams, Erin Trevanion and Josh Smith.



*Gordon Captains*



*Kendall Captains*



*Paterson Captains*



*Lawson Captains*

Congratulations to Swimming Age Champions for 2023:

Age 12 - Jack Stewart (Paterson) and Nataleigha Moore (Lawson)

Age 13 - Ethan Adams (Gordon) and Harriet Perea (Paterson)

Age 14 - Nate Stokes (Paterson) and Nevaeh Moore (Lawson)

Age 15 - Charlie Dowton (Kendall) and Skye Adams (Gordon)

Age 16 - Alexi Alcock (Gordon) and Sophie Caldwell (Gordon)

Age 17+ - Charlie Paul (Lawson) and Leanne Adams (Gordon)

On Thursday February 16, an enthusiastic and committed team of swimmers headed to Narooma to represent Monaro High School at the Eurobodalla Zone Swimming Carnival. All students swam very well with 15 of the 19 swimmers qualifying for the South Coast Regional Swimming Carnival by placing in the top 3 of their event. Thank you to Mr Ingram and Mr Harrison for marshalling, managing the team and driving the bus.

Congratulations to the following students and we wish them all the best for Dapto on March 9, 2023:

Ethan Adams, Piper Fallins, Ashton Jamieson, Tyler Lee, Nataleigha Moore, Oliver Paul, Harriet Perea, Declan Filtness, Eli Hammann, Isabella Peisley, Esther Perea, Nate Stokes, Luke Totten, Charlie Dowton and Nevaeh Moore.

# NAPLAN

## Information for parents and carers

# 2023

### Why do students do NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it's important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards and over time.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It doesn't replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' educational progress.

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

### Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Schools have transitioned from paper-based to computer-based assessments. All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are more engaging for students. One of the main benefits is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test presents questions which may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

### What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit [nsp.edu.au](https://nsp.edu.au).

### Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for everyone. ACARA supports inclusive testing so all students have the opportunity to participate in the national assessment program.

Adjustments are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), or our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

## What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

## What if my school is closed on NAPLAN days?

Schools with compelling reasons may be given permission to schedule tests after the 9-day test window.

## What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some familiarisation and explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at [nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site](http://nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site).

## NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 15 March and finishes on Monday 27 March 2023. Schools are advised to schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

## How is my child's performance reported?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. This scale indicates whether the student is meeting expectations for the literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

## How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at [myschool.edu.au](http://myschool.edu.au).

## Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at [nap.edu.au/TAA](http://nap.edu.au/TAA)
- visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au)

To learn how ACARA handles personal information for NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy](http://nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy).

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 2 students do the writing test on paper (on day 1 only)</li><li>• Years 3, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2 only, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations)</li></ul>	Year 2: 40 min Year 3: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (sometimes called a 'prompt' – an idea or topic) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing)
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be completed after the writing test</li><li>• To be completed before the conventions of language test</li></ul>	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be completed after the reading test</li></ul>	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be completed after the conventions of language test</li></ul>	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability