



*St Brendan's Catholic School*

Carters Road,  
PO Box 6202  
LAKE MUNMORAH 2259

Telephone: (02) 4358 1501  
Fax: (02) 4358 1799

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Dear Parents/Caregivers

We recently received our school's NAPLAN results for 2016. NAPLAN is an annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It tests student's skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

*We are pleased to report that our school's average results were within the same bands as the national average across most assessment areas. **We are particularly excited about the growth** our students have made from Year 3 to Year 5 in Spelling and Reading. Our average student growth in reading (93.8%) and spelling (99.1%) significantly exceeded the State and NSW CEC average.*

We are also pleased to report for the past three years on **average** student results have been either equal to or above our local State Schools. For Year 5, we have **achieved higher average** student results in **Spelling, Writing and Reading** and similar results in Numeracy. For Year 3, we have **achieved higher average** student results in **Reading and Writing** and similar results in Spelling and Numeracy. Please note; this comparative information is from 2013-2015 as we do not yet have access to all 2016 NAPLAN results. Reflecting on student growth is most important when analysing NAPLAN data, as simply comparing schools to one another does not give a true indication of student growth.

In reflecting on our school's NAPLAN results, we are pleased to report that the strategic focus we have had on Spelling and Reading for the last two years has been successful. This is evident within the significant growth our students have made in these areas which, according to NAPLAN results, has exceeded the State's and CEC NSW's average growth.

In planning ahead, we will focus on the areas where there has been less growth and continue to increase our overall student results so that we are performing at or above the national average.

We are also excited to share with you a snapshot of **St Brigid's** NAPLAN results. Sixteen Year 9 students were placed in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for Reading and 9 Year 9 students were placed at or above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile in Numeracy. There was also substantial growth in the Year 7 cohort and Mrs Terry and her staff are available to discuss these results with you. This is a clear indicator that the learning style and strategies at St Brigid's are resulting in significant learning gains.

NAPLAN is just one measure of a student's growth over a period of two years and is not an overall indicator of a student's total capabilities. These results must be considered alongside other measures to provide a holistic picture of a student's progress. Briefly, some other measures used at St Brendan's include: Running Records, Writing samples, Maths assessments, Visual Arts capabilities, sporting success and social and emotional growth.

As our students grow into teenagers and then into young adults, it is unlikely that they will be tested using exam types like NAPLAN to indicate their suitability for a profession. They will indeed need to be able to demonstrate: technological expertise, empathy, exemplary relationship skills, problem solving strategies, strong resilience characteristics etc. Unashamedly, we are a Catholic School and are deeply committed to ensuring that all students are immersed in quality spiritual experiences. The curriculum at St Brendan's is designed to cater to all aspects of a child's development.

If you have any further questions, comments or concerns about our NAPLAN results we encourage you to make an appointment with Luanna Fletcher and/or Kellie Prendergast.

Kind regards  
St Brendan's Leadership Team