March 2015

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

In 2015 the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will again take place for all students in Years 3, 5, 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. Years 7 and 9 at Marcellin College will be involved in the NAPLAN testing.

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 the 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 according to the following timetable:

**Tuesday 12th May** – Language Convention test (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and a separate Writing test.

**Wednesday 13th May** - Reading test

**Thursday 14th May** - Numeracy test (Number, Algebra, function & pattern, Chance & data, Measurement & Space)

In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a **calculator is allowed** and one where calculators are not used. For the calculator test students should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

**Friday 15th May** - A make-up day is scheduled for students who missed a section of the test or were absent on a particular day.

Students may be considered for 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.

Students with confirmed disabilities or difficulties in learning are expected to participate in the tests. Special provisions which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom will be provided for students by the school. Large print, Braille and black and white versions of the test are available for students with vision impairment.

Access to special provisions and exemption from the tests must be discussed with your school’s learning support team and the school Principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from the tests. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent or carer consent form. Consent forms are available at your school.

Additional information for parents about the National Assessment Program can be found on this website:
http://www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the College.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Jenny Dove
Diverse Learning Coordinator