



Have a safe and happy holiday – we look forward to seeing you back in Term 2!

Congratulations Mount Hutton Public School

Below is the article that appeared in the Newcastle Herald on Wednesday April 10, 2019. Follow the link to read online:
<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/6007678/hunter-students-grab-above-average-gains-in-naplan-results/>

theherald.com.au

Wednesday April 10, 2019 NEWCASTLE HERALD 3

NEWS

Students grab gains with NAPLAN results

BY HELEN GREGORY

HUNTER schools have attributed their "above average gain" in NAPLAN results to initiatives including reducing class sizes, employing extra staff and strengthening existing programs.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) will update the My School website on Wednesday to reflect each school's performance in the tests last May.

ACARA has identified seven Hunter schools as demonstrating "substantially above average gain" in achievement compared to the national average; other schools with similar socio-educational backgrounds; and students with the same starting score.

Mount Hutton Public School principal Kirstie Yeo's year five students from 2018 made above average gains in numeracy compared to when they were in year three.

Ms Yeo said her school had "worked really hard" and she had "expected significant improvements across the board". "We do service a diverse community and our students and families are very much engaged in education," Ms Yeo said.

"We took a multifaceted approach. We reduced class sizes across the school. From years three to six the standard class size is 30 but we work at 20 to 23 so we can offer more personalised learning and more one-on-one support."

Ms Yeo said many schools were allocated funding for learning support officers. She chose to use the school's flexible funding - to use how



STARS: Year six students Jasmin Hooton, Kayden Nean and Eliza Shultz with their year five teacher, Hannah Bullivant. Principal Kirstie Yeo said NAPLAN was important and she valued the information it provided. Students sit NAPLAN in years three, five, seven and nine. Picture: Simone De Peak

it sees fit - for additional officers and she now has three.

She also used flexible funding to employ an additional assistant principal to work as an instructional leader with year three to six, to complement the instructional leader already funded for kindergarten to year two.

"There are 25 hours in the school week and each class gets ten-plus hours with two or three people in the room to help improve their learning."

Ms Yeo said part of NAPLAN's value lay in the fact almost every student in the country sat the test. "But it is just one set of results, we don't use them on their own, we use a combination of results." She said the school

told students what the test would look like and may embed questions from past papers in classroom activities, but the students didn't sit practice papers. "The way our school looks at it is great teaching is the best preparation for learning," she said.

"What we do all day every day is the best preparation for the test. We talk to the kids about it but don't want to make a big deal of it. We don't want them to be anxious about it, we want them to see it as another day to show us how great they are."

Ms Yeo said the school used NAPLAN results to "consolidate what we're already doing and what we already know".

"It validates what we are already doing to improve student outcomes," she said. "Additional support is provided for any student who are not meeting the minimum requirements. If there is a set of questions most kids got incorrect we ask why. We look at those sorts of patterns."

Elmore Vale Public, Charlestown South Public, St Columban's at Mayfield and Maitland Christian School achieved above average gains in reading from years three to five. Charlton Christian College and All Saints College (St Peter's Campus) achieved above average gains in numeracy from years seven to nine.

Elmore Vale principal

Cassie Bate-Barnier said she was also "not surprised" about her students' results.

They completed the test online last year. "It's all down to the hard work we've put in with our students over the past few years," she said. "We've made some significant changes in the ways we work together to ensure all students are successful. We have built on what we were already doing here and developed more consistent approaches to programs being run across the whole school."

Ms Bate-Barnier said this included carrying elements of the kindergarten to year two Language, Learning and Literacy (L3) program through to older grades.

"Learning to read is not applicable to older grades, but we look at reading to learn so students can better understand what they are reading. We also look at comprehension and vocabulary development."

She said she had also prioritised providing extra resources through new reading texts, new computer programs linked to literacy, professional development for teachers and access to expert coaches. "I've put in some coaching and mentoring roles in the school," she said. "Sometimes having an extra pair of eyes observing how you work can be really beneficial and help you improve your bag of tricks."

A decorative border of blue roses and green leaves frames the central text. The roses are in various stages of bloom, with some showing deep blue centers and others lighter blue petals. The leaves are dark green and pointed.

You are invited to our
Mother's Day Morning Tea

Friday 10 May, 2019

9—11am—Classroom visits

11—11:30am—Morning Tea (Hall)

To assist with catering, please
RSVP via the link in this
newsletter or via Facebook

Morning Tea is provided for a gold
coin donation

We look forward to sharing a
morning tea with you!

RSVP at <https://forms.gle/XdE3oaBHZCZTMw4P9>



Cross Country

Our whole school Cross Country is on the first Thursday back next term – **Thursday May 2**. Students will participate in Cross Country in place of school sport for this week, starting from 9am on Thursday. Families are more than welcome to come and watch the Cross Country.

Attendance

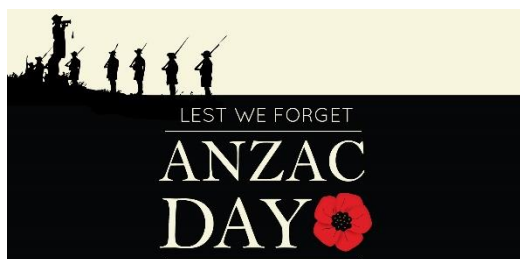
It's hard to believe that we have already had 11 weeks of learning so far this year! And as our holidays are approaching, this is a timely opportunity to be mindful of the importance of regular school attendance. Here are some interesting facts to consider...

They're only missing...	But that equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...	Which is equal to finishing...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years	Year 11
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years	Year 10
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years	Year 7

They're only missing...	But over a week that equals...	Which is...	Over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year of school missed
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly a year of school missed
30 minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and ½ years of school missed

Opportunity Class 2020

Any student who is in Year 4 this year has the opportunity to apply for a position in an Opportunity Class in 2020. Please follow the links below for further information. All applications must be completed online. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require assistance to complete an application. Applications for placement in a Year 5 opportunity class in 2020 open on **Tuesday 30 April 2019** and close on **Friday 17 May 2019** and parents must apply online at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>



School ANZAC service

Our school ANZAC service will be held in the hall on **Thursday, 2 May, 2019** from 2pm. It would be wonderful if our families could please kindly send in some flowers to allow classes and students to make wreaths for our school Anzac service.

Kirstie Yeo
Principal

Our PBL Focus is on being '**LEARNERS**'. We always have **High Expectations**.
We are Learners because we have **High Expectations** of ourselves and others.
Dunkley says, 'I am safe. I am respectful. I am a learner.'
Everyone, Everywhere, Every time



School Calendar

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Apr 29	Apr 30	May 1	May 2	May 3
	Staff Development Day	Students return for Term 2		School Cross Country 9am School ANZAC service 2pm	Senior Boys Knights Knockout
2	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10
			HSHS TSP Application Due Date	Mother's Day Stall Assembly – Athletics Ribbons	Mother's Day morning tea & open classrooms 9am – 11:30am
3	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17
		NAPLAN online	NAPLAN online	NAPLAN online	NAPLAN online
4	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24
	NAPLAN online	NAPLAN online	NAPLAN online National Simultaneous Story time – Alpacas with Maracas	NAPLAN online GRIP Leadership Assembly – Year 5	NAPLAN online
5	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31
	Year 3-6 Start Smart Workshop			Junior Kookaburras commences Library 9 -11am	Hunter PSSA Cross Country
6	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6	June 7
			Stay tuned for K-4 Excursion Day!	Junior Kookaburras Assembly – Year 6	
7	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14
				Junior Kookaburras	
8	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21
				Junior Kookaburras Assembly – Year 2	
9	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28
				Junior Kookaburras Awabakal EEC Whole School NAIDOC Excursion	

Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to all the students from Mount Hutton Public school who participated in the annual School Athletics Carnival at Fearnley Dawes Athletics Track in Newcastle. It was a fantastic day where students from K-6 were able to demonstrate their athleticism and sportsmanship.

The weather on the day was fantastic as were the colours worn by students. Throughout the carnival the competition was strong and fierce with so many students participating. The carnival was a great success with so many families turning out to watch students compete.

There were a number of students who met qualifying times, heights and distances to move onto the Zone Athletics Carnival later this year. This information will be announced and sent home early next term. The carnival also had the highest level of participation in recent years. The winning house and race and event winners will be announced at the Term 2, Week 2 Assembly.

The day wouldn't have been as successful as it was if it wasn't for our parents and carers who volunteered on the day. A huge thank you goes out to all of you. Your school community involvement and support is greatly appreciated by all staff and students.

Samuel Crawley
Sports Coordinator







MOUNT HUTTON Public School

Safe, Respectful Learners



Junior Kookaburras

Our Junior Kookaburra School Readiness Program aims to support:

- the oral language development of your child through a focus on speaking, listening and communication skills
- your child's social and emotional development through a focus on interaction with adults and peers
- your child in the acquisition of early literacy and numeracy behaviours
- a smooth and effective transition to "Big School"

Is your child starting school in 2020?

Our free Junior Kookaburra Program runs every Thursday in the school library from 9am - 11am starting May 30 until November 14 inclusive. Register your interest now by contacting the school office or registering online through Facebook.



Find us on:

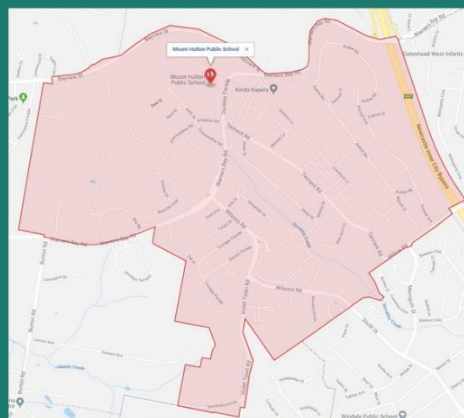


12 Dunkley Pde,
Mount Hutton

Ph: 49488085

Email: mthutton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Mount Hutton PS Zoned Area



Click to register now! <https://forms.gle/y27yN1BxB8mTyVgS7>

Our Current Positive Behaviour for Learning Focus



High Expectations

We are:	This is what it looks like:
Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We use resources and equipment safely• We demonstrate self-control• We expect others to make positive choices
Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We speak with a calm, respectful tone• We expect respect from others• We take pride in ourselves and our school
Learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We always seek success in learning• We approach learning with enthusiasm• We value opportunities to improve



Name: Kasey Chaff, Canteen Coordinator

- ❖ What class are your kids in? Jacob is in Year 4 and Lucas is in Year 2
- ❖ Why did you join the P&C Association? To help raise funds for the school and to see those funds used to benefit all children within the school
- ❖ How many years have you been a part of the P&C? 4 years
- ❖ What is the best part of working in the P&C? Giving something back to the school community and setting a good example to my children about helping others. I also enjoy getting to know all the kids and parents within the school.
- ❖ Favourite thing about MHPS? The lifelong friends both my children and I have made within the school community.

Name: Sarah Graham, Canteen Coordinator

- ❖ What class are your kids in? Lilly is in Year 4 and Jackson is in Kindergarten
- ❖ Why did you join the P&C Association? To help out where I can and work with teachers, parents and the Principal to better our school.
- ❖ How many years have you been a part of the P&C? 4 years
- ❖ What is the best part of working in the P&C? Helping out where I can when I'm not at work and seeing the kids' faces light up when they see what has been purchased with the fundraising money we have raised over the year.
- ❖ Favourite thing about MHPS? The friendships my children and I have made and the open door type policy of the Principal and Teachers; they are always approachable and happy to listen to any concerns etc.

Welcome from the P&C Association for 2019

We are happy to announce that all positions have now been filled and are excited to be embarking on our journey with a fresh new team.

The Mount Hutton P&C Association consists of parents, teachers and community members interested in promoting and supporting our school and the educational, sporting and social outcomes of our students.

We volunteer our time and contribute to our school community through fundraising activities; active engagement and speaking up for our students and families; and participation in all aspects of school life.

Our members for 2019 include:

President:	Fiona Lacey	Canteen Coordinators:	Kasey Chaff & Sarah Graham
Vice President:	Tegan Betts	Canteen Treasurer:	Rhian Nathan-Marsh
Secretary:	Cath Carruthers	Uniform Coordinator:	Casey Allen
Treasurer:	Vanessa Shultz	Uniform Treasurer:	Marissa Brunton

The association is representative of our school community and we appreciate any suggestions from our families. We meet every month in the library and always welcome any parents or carers from our school community to come along. Alternatively if you want to contact us and provide suggestions you can:

- ❖ chat to our members at school
- ❖ call the school front office on 4948 8085 and leave a message for the P&C
- ❖ drop a note in the suggestion box at the office

Through our fundraising streams, including the uniform shop and school canteen, we make financial contributions to school activities and resources that support our children.

We have already been busy planning our activities this year and looking at what some of our key priority areas will be including new playground equipment and new ways we can support the school.

Our next fundraising opportunity will be at the Federal Election BBQ scheduled for Saturday 18 May. More information on that event will be coming out soon but we are looking for volunteers to help us run this fantastic community engagement and fundraising opportunity, so why not drop us a line, any time you can spare will be greatly appreciated.