

### Mount Stuart NAPLAN Overview – September 2018

Recently Mount Stuart Primary received their NAPLAN data for their Grade 3 and 5 students who completed the tests in May of this year. As usual we had some students who performed at the very highest levels of achievements and we saw some very pleasing results as a general observation. We know that all of our data is trending up (improving over time) since 2016 and our data by and large follows Australian trends.

We take particular note of the mean score in all tests, although this can be misleading if it goes up or down dramatically as it is based on the specific cohort. We always use the “like” schools data and Australian data as our most common and holistic method of judging our own progress or performance.

Grade 3: The mean score on all Grade 3 tests was down against the previous year’s cohort, in part due to the larger than average number of students who were exempt or did not attempt or complete the test. In saying that our data showed consistency in Numeracy, Spelling and Reading to be at the like schools markers and above the Australian markers. Our Grammar and Punctuation and Writing were all down on the same markers, however the Writing results for Australia and every school that I spoke to have all dipped, which raises many questions about why and how this should be such a clearly evident feature.

Grade 5: Our Grade 5 data was steady at the similar levels as the past couple of years, barring our Writing which was our lowest performance in some time. The most pleasing data set of all the results was the Reading, where the high and medium value adding (impact of teaching since the Grade 3 test two years ago) showed significant improvement compared to previous results. This is really pleasing as our Grade 3/4/5/6 teachers have worked hard this year to improve reading and comprehension strategies and these seem to be having a positive effect.

With the probably move to NAPLAN online in the next couple of years it will give greater scope to see how our teaching pedagogy is impacting upon our students as the online test will “stream” students according to their performance in each set of questions, allowing them to show deeper understanding or attempt less challenging questions according to their individual needs. This should allow a greater diversity of results and more individualised data.

We also look at the percentage of students in the top two bands of each test to see how our school supports high achieving students and this data is again steady, which is pleasing and promising for the future.

Overall I am incredibly proud of our students and teachers and effort and affect that they have on our culture of high expectations and improving student learning outcomes. You should be proud of your children and confident that they are receiving a rich and engaging education with high levels of performance.

I am happy to discuss any aspect of NAPLAN results with you if you would like to meet at a convenient time.

Yours Sincerely

Charles White

Principal