Literacy Report on Testing at SHC.
By Jacquie Lawless and Craig Deayton

There are three types of major testing currently being completed by students as both campuses. There are also many other minor testing that is completed also.

Other Assessments.
Early Years – Running records, Picture vocabulary test, Letter sound tests, magic words, unit test.
Primary Years – Running records, Spelling tests, Unit test
Secondary – Unit tests, Assignments, Exams, Criteria based assessments.

Why do schools test, for many reasons including, nationally it is compulsory, teachers are able to identify if students need help in a particular area, how the classes sits in teaching their syllabus, how the schools sits in relation to others and also it prepares them early to become familiar with exam situations. To sit quietly for a period, concentrate, have their items to complete exams and to not be so stressed in these situations. The more students are tested the less stressful it becomes.

TORC 3 tests identify students who need help in improving reading proficiency. It documents student progress in remedial programs. The subtests include Relational Vocabulary, Sentence Completion, Paragraph Construction, Text Comprehension and Contextual Fluency.

The TORC 3 test is out of 128 and will be sat by students this Wednesday. It was last sat in November 2009. It is exactly the same test as last year. Raw data is available with a comparison.

PAT (Progressive Achievement Test) is given to monitor the progress in reading comprehension, vocabulary and spelling and to provide teachers with diagnostic information to inform teaching. It provides teachers with objective information for setting realistic goals and planning effective programs.

NAPLAN testing began in Australian schools in 2008. Every year, all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are assessed on the same days using national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. The National Minimum Stands describe some of the skills and understanding which students, who are placed in the minimum standard band at their year level, can generally demonstrate.
NAPLAN is completed every year, but of course the same students a comparison can only be made every two years. It gives schools the chance to intervene if there is a problem. Reading Comprehension effects every area of learning, every subject.

There are 3 things that may influence the results in a NAPLAN test.
- Physical or mental disability
- Chronic absence
- Not teaching the subject correctly

These things are the only reason to be not reading at an appropriate level

Students do better in tests if it is explained in detail what they are doing and why. Giving them feedback is important for them to be keen and doing well.

Sacred Heart College Primary assessment program

Kinder – PIPS test
Grade 1 – PAT, Morrison & McCall Spelling, NAPLAN
Grade 2 – PAT, Morrison & McCall Spelling
Grade 3 – PAT, NAPLAN
Grade 4 – PAT

“The Curve” aims to be the average, at either the lower and higher ends, these are the students that need alternative programmes set.

If any students are identified with having a learning problem, parents are called. Students may be given a Torch Test which takes approximately 40 minutes. The school Psychologist may be called also to find if there are any other reasons for the lower than normal result.

If you have any queries and any time of the year, at a Primary level you can contact your Class Teacher. For those in Secondary School your Literacy Teacher or Jacquie Lawless can be contacted.

If was also discussed that rhyming is critical for speech development. Culture is changing as Nursery Rhymes are now not learnt by our generation. Students need strong encouragement with written text especially now our lives are filled with Computers and keyboards.

Jacquie mentioned the process of testing is getting better and we have had a marked improvement from last year. Classes at SHC are streamed from 2-6 at Newtown Campus and 1-6 and Lenah Valley to allow students that need help in a
particular area to concentrate and improve on this. PIP’s testing identify at risk students very early on that need additional help.

1. Prayer : All

2. Attendance: Craig Deayton, Frances Harris, Della Stevens, Jane Capp, Michael Hangan, Anna Holland, Cheryl Sutton, Susan McLeod, Pauline Howatson, Andy Witt-Morrisby, Michelle Stolp, Michelle Williams, John McNamara, Sarah Male, Jacque Lawless, Rob Direen, Jo Fitzpatrick

3. Apologies: Marcus Donnelly

4. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting 11th October 2010.

   Moved: Jane Capp
   Seconded: Frances Harris

5. Business Arising from previous meeting:
   - 4 term feedback – Michael Hangan said there was not much feedback given. 4 Terms will mean 10 weeks of teaching for each term.
   - Laptop purchased for Grades 9 and 10 for next year will be the brand Lenovo and will approximately $500 each to purchase. The school bag will be redesigned for added padding to protect Laptops.
   - NAPLAN results were pleasing and the gap between top and bottom students has been closed. Now focusing on improving overall results.
   - Prices for uniforms will be added to the Website, Jo Fitzpatrick to follow this up.

6. Correspondence:
   - Letter from Adam Mills thanking the P&F for the money to purchase more sporting clothing.
   - Letter from President of Catholic P&F Federation. Discussing the Federation as a whole, networking websites and issues, bullying and parenting styles, workshop for tween daughters and gifted and talented students.
7. **General Business:** Please see above notes from our discussion on Literacy Testing

8. **Meeting closed at 8.25pm. Next meeting Monday 22\textsuperscript{nd} November 7.00pm in the Secondary Library an extra one set for the sole discussion of allocation of funds for P&F and Auxiliary before the end of the school year.**