



This week's stories from the media

- NAPLAN
- Teaching awards
- MySchool website
- Is 13 too young for Instagram or TikTok
- Explore a farm program
- Too many kids miss NAPLAN

Teaching Awards

Schools Plus is seeking nominations and applications for the 2023 Commonwealth Bank Teaching Awards.

Each year, national education non-profit Schools Plus, together with Commonwealth Bank, recognise 22 outstanding teachers who are making a transformative impact on their students & school communities.

Twelve outstanding teachers or school leaders will receive a prestigious \$40,000 award including funding for a strategic school project and participation in a unique 12-month Teaching Fellowship program.

Ten early career teachers with the passion and potential to make an increasing impact in education will receive \$10,000 for professional development and an exclusive professional learning program supported by Salesforce.

Nominate an outstanding teacher or apply yourself before 7 May 2023.

NAPLAN

Education experts have called to push NAPLAN testing towards the end of the year to better assess students' progress and overhaul the writing test to make it more meaningful.

From today until 27 March, 1.3 million Australian students across 9800 schools and campuses will take the NAPLAN test.

This year, students nationwide will enter the test early after the testing window was moved from May to March.

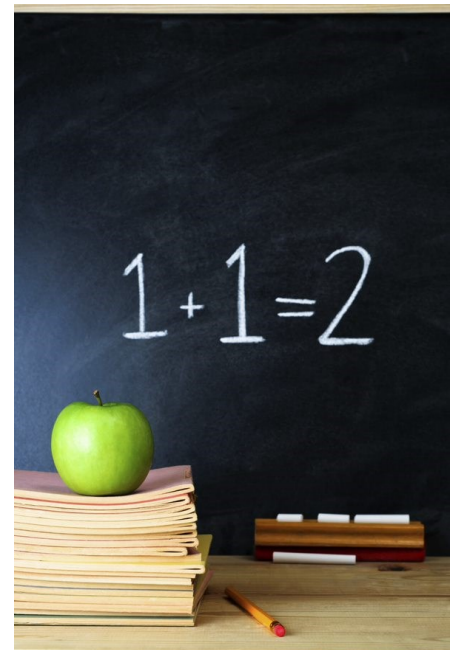
Monash University education lecturer Dr Venesser Fernandes said while the new window avoids "teaching to the test", it raises issues around students' confidence and knowledge capabilities.

Dr Fernandes said that having the test results in July instead of August/ September is better but doesn't "optimise" benefits in supporting student development.

She suggested pushing back the test towards the end of the year instead, allowing students to show what they learned in their grades.

"The results will then correlate with reports being prepared by their teachers on students' progress over the year and provide their next year level teachers with enough data to work on tailoring their learning programs for the start of the next school year," she said.

[More](#)



“....1.3 million Australian students across 9800 schools and campuses will take the NAPLAN test”.

MySchool Website

The My School website has just been updated for 2023. This is the site launched in 2010 by then education minister, Julia Gillard, which allows you to search information about individual schools.

If you are looking up My School data about your child's school, what should you keep in mind? How do you know whether your school is a “good” one?

My School is updated each year with information about every school in Australia. According to the site, this is to help parents and the community understand “the performance of schools over time”.

My School includes information about enrolment numbers, attendance, the socioeconomic background of students and NAPLAN results since 2014.

The site also provides information about schools' finances, funding sources and the “post-school destinations” of students, which includes information about further education and training or employment six months after completing Year 12.

[More](#)

Is 13 Too Young For Instagram & TikTok

The US surgeon general, Vivek Murthy, has warned 13 is too young to join social media.

He said it poses a risk to young people's “self-worth and their relationships”, adding: I, personally, based on the data I've seen, believe that 13 is too early the skewed and often distorted environment of social media often does a disservice to many of those children.

Major social media platforms, including Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and TikTok, require users to be at least 13. This includes those in Australia.

This minimum age stems from US legislation which bans collection of children's data without parental consent.

For many parents, schools and cybersafety experts, this minimum age has become something of a benchmark.

Many assume it comes with the implicit assurance social media platforms are appropriate and safe for children once they turn 13. Conversely, they also assume they are unsafe for children under 13.

But this is not necessarily the case.

[More](#)

Explore A Farm Program

Students from a Victorian primary school will be the first to take part in a new farm program to help children better understand how food is grown and harvested.

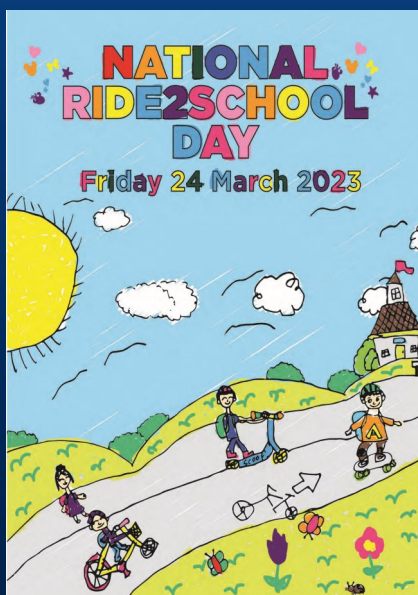
The Explore a Farm program, run by Coles and the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation, will run a trial starting March 23.

Coles plans to then expand the school-based program nationally to coincide with fruit and vegetables growing seasons around Australia.

The supermarket giant is also launching a new free ebook on Tuesday, called Grow It Cook It, with tips and information for school students to learn about seasonal produce, composting and sustainability.

[Full Story](#)

Ride To School Day March 24



Too Many Kids Miss NAPLAN

Over the next 9 days students will sit literacy and numeracy tests designed to measure their reading, writing, numeracy, grammar and spelling.

Education decision makers will be holding their breath about how many students turn up for NAPLAN.

Last year saw the steepest declines on record in secondary school student participation.

NAPLAN results inform parents, teachers, schools and education authorities about student learning and can influence decisions about policies, resources and additional supports for students.

Declining NAPLAN participation may result in decisions being based on incomplete data.

[Read more](#)