



REMUERA
INTERMEDIATE
SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER- JUNE 2015

ASSESSMENT IN SCHOOLS: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Ever wondered what we are talking about when we mention asTTle, Learning Intentions, Running Records, NMSSA, STAR, ARB, PATs, ICAS? These are just some of the assessment tools used by teachers to gain information about student achievement and progress, and to keep parents informed.

The National Administration Guidelines set out schools' responsibilities for assessing the progress of students:

Each board, through the principal and staff, is required to, through a range of assessment practices, gather information that is sufficiently comprehensive to enable the progress and achievement of students to be evaluated.

The New Zealand Curriculum includes eight "essential learning areas": English, Learning Language, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Social Sciences, The Arts and Health and Physical Education. For each curriculum area there are eight levels of achievement. Five-year-olds usually work at Level 1, while students at senior secondary school work at level 7 or 8. In an intermediate school "the expected level" would be Level 3 or 4.

However, there are students who will be working at Level 5, and in exceptional circumstances, Level 6, and there will be some working at Level 2. There are achievement objectives for each level which describe what the students is expected to know or be able to do at each level. From these, teachers develop specific learning objectives that suit their students. Teachers use assessment to improve teaching and learning.



◆ Assessment information can be collected in many ways including

- teacher observation
- samples of work
- interviews and conferencing with student
- written tests or tasks

Below is a brief definition of some assessment tools used at RI.

- **AsTTle – Assessment Tools for Teaching and Learning**
AsTTle gives teachers and schools baseline data for setting targets and measuring student progress. It provides learning pathways for individual students. It identifies at which level the students should be working, and assists teachers in planning appropriate programmes in Maths and English.
- **Learning Intentions** – Teachers state the Learning Intention for lessons and the Success Criteria. This assists in guiding student learning and self assessment.
- **Running Records** – These are used mainly in junior classes, or at Yr 7 and 8 to identify barriers to reading progress.
- **NMSSA – National Monitoring Study of Student Achievement**
Each year about 3% of all Yr 4 and Yr 8 students in NZ are randomly selected to be involved in testing for a particular curriculum area. The results of NMSSA assessments are published and sent to school. Teachers use NMSSA test items to compare their students' achievement with the national results.
- **STAR – Supplementary Test of Achievement in Reading**
STAR was developed by the NZ Council for Educational Research. It identifies students' ability in reading, and helps teachers to group students for reading instructions. STAR is often used twice during the year to measure progress.
- **ARB – Assessment Resource Bank**
The Assessment Resource Bank is a large collection of on-line assessment tasks available to NZ teachers. The tasks are designed to assess learning objectives from Level 2-5 in science, maths and English, and are directly related to the NZ Curriculum.
- **PAT – Progressive Achievement Tests**
PATs are standardised tests developed by the NZ Council for Educational Research. Results provide teachers with information about student achievement compared to other NZ students of similar age and same class level. Schools can track progress from year to year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER

Not all newsletters reach home! In an attempt to ensure that parents/caregivers do receive the monthly newsletter, students are asked to return this slip to the school office by Wednesday 10 June 2015. There will be a 'Lucky Draw' from returned slips.

Parent's signature..... Student's Name Rm

- **ICAS – International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (formerly NSW Competitions)**

All of our students take part in tests in English and Maths (paid for by the school) to determine their achievement compared to others in NZ. Students are selected to sit ICAS Writing and Science and may opt to sit ICAS Computer Skills. Certificates of High Distinction, Distinction, Credit and Participation are awarded.

If you wish to find out more about assessment in NZ schools, the following websites may be useful:

www.ero.govt.nz

Google – asTTle

<http://nmssa.otago.edu.au>

www.eaa.unsw.edu.au

www.nzcer.org.nz

Senior Managers would be happy to discuss any areas of assessment with you – just give us a call.

The partnership between parents and school is an important one. Teachers value the interest parents take in student progress. The involvement of parents in what is happening at school contributes to the success of the students and the success of the school.

Janet Exon
Principal

TAHUNA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Recently students and staff from Tahuna Intermediate School in Dunedin visited Auckland. Remuera Intermediate School has a sister-school relationship with Tahuna. The aim is to develop understandings and experiences between the two schools.

Tahuna students visited and took part in activities in Auckland throughout the week, and were hosted by R.I. families. Thank you to those families who opened their homes to our Dunedin visitors. Later this year, students from R.I. will visit Dunedin.



YR 7 ENROLMENTS FOR 2016

Enrolment Forms for 2016 are at the school office now, for both In Zone and Out of Zone Siblings.

Please return them by **Thursday 23 July 2015**.

OLD UNWANTED OLD PHONES

Any unwanted old phones – bring them to the school office and donate them to the Starship Hospital Foundation.

“PYJAMAS IN JUNE



Middlemore Hospital’s big push for the winter is to send each child home with a pair of warm pyjamas. New preferably, but if secondhand they must be clean.

We have information at the office on this promotion.

REPORT AN ABSENCE

Parents/caregivers are encouraged to use the website to report an absence:

www.remint.school.nz

It is simple and can be done on computer or by phone.