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28<sup>th</sup> February, 2017

**2017 International Competitions And Assessments For Schools - The University Of New South Wales**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are very pleased to announce that our school is once again providing our students with the opportunity to experience the ICAS (University of New South Wales) Assessment Program. The assessment tests are organised by the University of New South Wales in the curriculum areas of Science, English, Mathematics and Spelling for years 2 – 6 and in years 3 - 6 the children have the opportunity to complete additional assessment tasks in Digital Technologies and Writing.

YRS	SUBJECT	SITTING DATE		COST
3-6	Digital Technologies	Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	\$ 8.00
2-6	Science	Tuesday	30 <sup>th</sup> May	\$ 8.00
3-6	Writing	Mon-Friday	12 <sup>th</sup> –16 <sup>th</sup> June	\$17.00
2-6	Spelling	Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup> June	\$11.00
2-6	English	Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup> August	\$ 8.00
2-6	Mathematics	Tuesday	15 <sup>th</sup> August	\$ 8.00
				(\$60.00)

If you would like your child to undertake any of these external assessment tasks please pay for each individual assessment through the school Qkr Accounting system by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - no late entries can be accepted.** If you have any questions about this program please do not hesitate to see your child's classroom teacher, Ms Coleman, Mrs Gough or Mr Catalano.

Kind Regards,  
 Erica Coleman and Jenny Bednarz  
 ICAS Coordinators

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In our rapidly changing world, it is becoming more and more important for our children to develop strong skills as they progress through their education. While our curriculum-based assessments test a student's ability to recall what they have learned in a variety of subject areas, we think it's important to do more than that, particularly in the foundation years of schooling.

Therefore, Glen Waverley Primary School will be offering ICAS, a comprehensive skills-based program that assesses higher order thinking and problem-solving skills. We believe ICAS will give us deep insight into our students' true capabilities and help us plan more effectively for their future years at school.

### **HOW ICAS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER ASSESSMENTS YOUR CHILD WILL TAKE:**

1. ICAS can tell us whether students really understand what they are being taught.
2. ICAS can help us discover student talents and student weaknesses that don't always get picked up by the curriculum testing framework.
3. ICAS will not add extra workload to a student's study or homework regime because ICAS is an assessment they can't study for. It evaluates thinking and problem-solving ability, not memory.
4. ICAS's diagnostic reports will give all of us (teachers and parents) far more insight into your child's strengths and weaknesses. At school, we can act on that by tailoring our teaching and learning programs; at home, you will know where to direct more encouragement.
5. ICAS will also give us an external benchmark we can rely on to ensure our school is keeping pace with national and international standards—ICAS is the most comprehensive international assessment program, with schools in over 20 countries participating every year.

### **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

If you would like your child to participate, please follow the instructions on the reverse of this letter and make payment on our Qkr App no later than 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. PLEASE NOTE LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

For further information you can visit the UNSW Global Australia Website :-

<https://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/student-portal>