



**Dear Parents and Caregivers** 

## International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Once again Saint Kentigern College will be participating in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). For over 20 years ICAS has taken place each year in schools throughout Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, the Pacific region and South Africa. ICAS provides an opportunity for all students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation. It provides teachers, parents and students with comprehensive reporting of results in English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling, Writing and Computer Skills.

Entry in this competition is entirely optional. We encourage all our students to participate in these academic competitions and events. This opportunity allows our younger students to experience more formal assessments and receive specific feedback on their knowledge and skills in specific curriculum areas.

All students who participate receive a **certificate** and an **individual student report** indicating which questions they answered correctly, their total score, and their average compared with the rest of the students in New Zealand. The student report is also useful for highlighting student strengths and weaknesses in the skills and processes in the ICAS Assessment that they participate in.

High quality UNSW certificates are awarded for each year level in New Zealand as follows:

- High Distinction to the top 1% of entrants
- Distinction to the next 10% of entrants
- Credit to the next 20% of entrants
- Participation to all other participating students.

All students who achieve the highest score in New Zealand receive a UNSW medal. These medals may be presented at UNSW Medal Ceremonies or by arrangement at a school assembly.

ICAS assessments are once again online, which allows greater accessibility for students and faster delivery of results. There is a cost involved, however it must be emphasised that these tests are voluntary. The entry fee per student is (NZ \$27.03) Writing: 8 - 12 August and (NZ \$20.70 each) Digital Technologies: 8 - 12 August, English: 15 - 19 August, Science: 22 - 26 August, Spelling Bee: 22 - 26 August, Mathematics: 29 August - 2 September.

If you would like your child to participate in one or more of the ICAS Assessments please <u>click on this</u> <u>link for the electronic entry form</u>. Entries close 5 July at 4pm.

To assist your child to prepare for the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS), past ICAS booklets will be available in class. These booklets provide a good indication of the types of questions used and their difficulty and give children experience in the ICAS format. Sample practice questions can also be downloaded from the EAA website. For more information please visit the EAA website at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au or email info@eaa.unsw.edu.au

Yours sincerely,

Wanda Wright ICAS COMPETITION COORDINATOR

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