



International Competitions and Assessments for Schools 2010

Dear Parents

The International Competitions and Assessments for School (ICAS) are standardised tests conducted by The University of New South Wales. In the past we have offered students in Year 4 to 6 the opportunity to participate in all of these tests.

At Victoria Avenue School we use a wide range of standardised assessment tools to monitor student achievement and progress, diagnose areas for further development and design teaching programmes to meet student needs. These include:

- Progress and Achievement Tests (PAT) in Reading Comprehension, Reading Vocabulary and Mathematics
- Assessment Tools for Teaching and Learning (asTTLe) in Reading, Writing and Mathematics
- SspA test for spelling which has been introduced this year
- Individual assessment in reading and numeracy

The purpose of assessment is to inform teaching and learning and for this reason we have decided to limit the number of ICAS tests available for students to include only those tests teachers can most effectively use for this purpose:

This year ICAS tests are available in the following subjects for students in Years 4 to 6:

Subject	Date of Test
English	Tuesday 3 August
Mathematics	Tuesday 17 August

Participation in these tests is optional. As not all students at Victoria Avenue School will be sitting each ICAS test we are unable to use the tests to report valid school-wide data, however we do recognise the value of these tests to individuals. Completion of the tests will not only provide your child with experience in sitting an external test, the results will allow your child to monitor their progress from year to year and identify areas for further focus.

Every student entering ICAS receives a University of NSW certificate acknowledging their participation. University of NSW Medals and High Distinction, Distinction and Credit Certificates acknowledge exceptional achievement. In addition to a certificate of achievement, all participating students receive a detailed results letter indicating which questions they answered correctly, identifying the skill tested in each question and indicating the number of students across New Zealand who answered each question correctly. Careful analysis of the results letter, in conjunction with the test booklet, will provide a valuable learning experience. We encourage you to review tests with your child once the results page is received.

For further information on the test visit www.eaa.unsw.edu.au. This site provides further background to the tests as well as some practice questions at each level and in each subject.

Attached is a registration form that itemises the available ICAS tests, dates of administration and cost. If you wish your child to sit any of the ICAS tests please complete the registration form and return to the school office with the full payment by **Monday 29 March**. Please note that this will be the final day for processing entries for all tests.

Regards

Anne Bridgman
Assistant Principal



International Competitions and Assessments for Schools Registration Form - 2010

Child's Name: _____

Year Level: _____

Room: _____

ICAS Test	Date of Test	Cost	Please tick
English	Tuesday 3 August	\$7.50	
Mathematics	Tuesday 17 August	\$7.50	
Total Cost (<i>Payment must be included</i>)			

Our preferred method of payment is Electronic Banking to:
ASB Bank A/C 12-3030- 0475799-00
Please indicate the Student Name in the reference field.

Alternatively, please make cheques payable to Victoria Avenue School

**NB – All registrations in the ICAS tests are required by
Monday 29 March.**