

Fun side of test time



Genesis Christian College students Conor McStravick, Madelyn Goodwin, Thomas Warren and Gabriella Briggs will be doing the NAPLAN test. Picture: PETER CRONIN

Bernie Dowling

PARENTS and teachers have expressed concerns that NAPLAN tests can be stressful for the participating students of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9.

But Genesis Christian College students told us of a different side to sitting NAPLAN – it can be fun.

Year 9 student Madelyn

Goodwin said the test was an opportunity to learn.

"They have been a great experience as I have learnt multiple new skills over the four tests that I have completed and will complete," Madelyn said.

She said teachers were helpful in providing practice past papers for preparation.

Thomas Warren from Year 7 said he found the questions quite fun and sometimes easy.

Conor McStravick, in Year 5, said his class had been learning about persuasive writing to help prepare for the writing section.

"Some of my friends say they aren't looking forward

to it but I think it will be all right," Conor said.

Gabriella Briggs from Year 3 said she was a little nervous going into her first NAPLAN test.

"My teacher has been talking to us about not worrying about the test, just to do our best," she said.

Triple P Positive Parent-

ing Program director Carol Markie-Dodds advised parents not to overemphasise the importance of NAPLAN.

"Sometimes parents accidentally encourage their children to stress by putting words in their mouths, like 'you must be feeling nervous'," she said. Getting children to relax by using breathing techniques, music or reading could help them prepare, she said.

TEACHERS ENCOURAGE ENJOYMENT OF NAPLAN