Welcome to our final newsletter for this term. The past 10 weeks seem to have passed by so quickly. We no sooner said goodbye to the Christmas break and here we are waiting for the Easter bunny to arrive. I trust that your children have had a successful, happy and rewarding first term. If we are in luck the beautiful Queensland autumn weather that we are experiencing will continue during the holidays – that special time of the year where many celebrate Easter. And what better way to begin the Easter season than with the Ashmore Easter Hat Parade! Our Prep children and teachers displayed their...
creative headwear and Easter good cheer to the entire school this week bringing lots of fun and enjoyment to everyone present. Thank you to Miss Morris for teaching the Preps their Easter dance and songs and to Mrs Josey for coordinating and compering the parade. But there is a lot more to Easter than chocolate eggs and decorated hats. The Easter festival, the oldest and most important festival in the Christian calendar, culminates in the celebration that is Easter Sunday, which today is a time when many people share a meal with family and friends and - of course - eat lots of chocolate! Biblical history tells us that it was on this day that Jesus was said to come to life after being crucified, visiting his friends and followers once more. No matter what our religious belief is, the Easter story provides an interesting historical insight into what life was like some 2000 years ago.

Working Together

Thank you to our school community for your patience and understanding as we continue to move towards our ‘paperless’ school’. We are now in the process of organising ‘editable’ documents for your convenience so that you don’t have to download paperwork at home but rather complete such things as permission notes on – line. Please continue to check your emails, twitter and text messages and child’s Ed studio for notices and most importantly regularly access the school website where all documentation is uploaded. We will continue to provide paper information when it is deemed necessary in terms of timelines.

Protecting our School

During and since Christmas our school has experienced significant vandalism. The damage caused is not only costly and taking away from money we would otherwise spend on resources for our students but it is heartbreaking. One has to wonder why individuals obtain pleasure from destroying others property. The manner in which the vandals leave their mark sends a message to the community that they lack intelligence and ethics and sadly lack understanding of appropriate social behaviour. I have notified police of names that have been provided to me from witnesses of those on the school grounds at the time. I have also employed the services of 24 hour security guards. I have also installed security cameras. We are proud of our school facilities and ask everyone in our community to keep a watchful eye for anyone who attempts to destroy what we work so hard to achieve. If you see anyone suspicious on our grounds please notify School Watch on 131788.

Learning Together

On a brighter note, Parent Education Tuesday (PET) for term 2 is now organised. These sessions are designed to enable parents and carers to gain insight into how you can help your children at home to achieve their goals. PET Days are displayed on your child’s classroom door and advertised on the school website and through Twitter. So come along, meet other parents and join with us in the education of your children.

We Have Twins!

Yes, we have Ashmore twins on the way thanks to Mrs Carla Loughnane, our Guidance Officer and her husband Peter. Mrs Loughnane has been a part of the Ashmore team for six years, guiding students through challenging times, assisting families and providing support to staff. Her work at this school is immeasurable and although we will miss her terribly, I know that the entire Ashmore community is delighted for her and her husband as they look
forward to becoming parents in a very big way! You will make great parents Carla and Peter and we look forward to meeting the Loughnane bubs in the not too distant future.

**Welcome to Our Team**

Ms Michelle Davies will join us in Term 2 as our Guidance Officer. Michelle has broad experience in this field and she will bring expertise and understanding to the role. Please call in and make yourself known to Michelle. The Guidance Officer is located in the ‘Harmony’ block.

We also welcome Ms Vivien Szeto who will be co-teaching with Mrs Nerida McKenzie in Yr. 2. Vivien is not only a trained teacher but she is also skilled in Asian languages, an attribute that will contribute strongly to our International Schools Program.

In closing I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and I look forward to a rewarding Term 2.

**Thought for the fortnight:** “Happiness is not something ready-made. It comes from your own actions.” Dalai Lama

**MARGARET JAMES**

---

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- LEIGH JOSEY**

**Australia-wide Testing for Years 3, 5 & 7 (NAPLAN)**

On **Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th May**, all students in state and non-state schools in Years 3, 5 and 7 will be participating in Australia-wide testing to assess their skills in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. NAPLAN assesses the skills that students develop over time through the school curriculum, and provides additional feedback for parents, carers and teachers on how students are progressing in the key curriculum areas.

An individual NAPLAN report will be sent home for every child in these year levels later this year.

Further information is available on the ACARA website: [www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au)

**Further Essential Information re NAPLAN**

It is important that students are present by 8.50 a.m. on these days, ready for a punctual start. Please ensure children get a good night’s sleep and good nutrition for breakfast to maintain brain function and energy across the three days of testing.

Please also ensure students have the following materials at school on these days:-

- 2B or HB pencils – **do not** bring “Pacers” or mechanical pencils as they write too lightly
- Eraser
• Sharpener

• Calculator (Year 7 only)

**Note:** Students may be withdrawn from the NAPLAN testing program by their parents/carers. This is a matter for consideration by individual parents in consultation with the principal. Withdrawals are intended to address individual concerns including religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing. Parents/carers wishing to withdraw students from the NAPLAN testing program must complete and submit a **Notice of Parent Withdrawal** form (obtained from the office) as soon as possible. It must be completed and returned to Leigh Josey in the Office by Friday 9th May. The text that appears on the individual report will read “Your child was withdrawn from this test”.

Please see Leigh Josey if you have any questions (or phone – 56561333)

### Nationally Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

Dear Parents/Carers,

Collecting data on school students with disability helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as students without disability.

All Australian Governments have agreed to work together on the annual collection of data on school students with disability.

In 2013, 10% of Queensland state schools participated in the first year of implementation. In 2014, two thirds of Queensland schools will participate and all schools will be collect data from 2015. **Our school will be involved in the nationally consistent collection of data from this year.**

Please be reassured that the Department will not provide on to another organisation any data that can identify an individual student. The only data being collected at the school level to be reported nationally is the:

- number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability;
- level of adjustments we provide for those students; and
- broad category of disability.

Consultation with parents is important not only for the data collection but also to ensure you aware of the adjustments being provided to support your child. We will therefore continue to consult with you.

While only data that cannot identify your child will be submitted outside of the Department, **if you do not wish for your child’s details to be included, please send a note/phone/see me.**

Information and fact sheets are available to help you make a decision from the:


Alternatively, if you have any queries about the collection or use of this data I encourage you to contact me.

Leigh Josey (Deputy Principal)

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- AMANDA FRY

Wakakirri

Wakakirri is rapidly taking shape with students beginning to learn dance routines, stage movements and crew responsibilities. Ms Dart, Ms Wells, Ms Campbell and I attended a Wakakirri Master Class at the Logan Entertainment Centre last Thursday night and gained insights into what the judges will be looking for on the night. We also had a tour of the facility and learned what staging will look like. Mrs Campbell and I have sorted through existing costumes here at school and due to our past history of great performing arts events, there will be very little we will need to create or borrow. Thank you to those students who bought in white feathers, empty drink bottle and artificial flowers. We now have enough of those items and will start a new collection of different items in the future.

Our story this year is titled “Equilibrium” and involves the battle between the natural elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water battling to prove they are the best and causing natural disasters in the process. Mother Nature and her assistants get them back on an even keel and “Equilibrium” reigns once again across the planet.

Our performance night will be sometime between 29 July and August 1. Our rehearsal time and performance date is yet to be announced. Thanks already to those staff members who are giving up the lunch times to rehearse dance numbers and on-stage and back-stage movements. The media release form is available for all students on our website and should be returned as soon as possible.

School Rules

It seems timely to remind all families of some of the school rules which may have become forgotten over time or have ‘morphed’ into something else. Sometimes urban myths become entrenched and are very difficult to rectify. I have listed below those rules which at the moment seem to be the most problematic-

• Toys are not permitted at school (they can be lost, broken or taken).
• Collector cards and trading cards are not permitted at school (they cause disagreements and can be lost, damaged or taken)
• Jewellery is limited to plain, all-metal sleepers or studs, signet ring, wrist watch and medical alert jewellery. Items of a cultural or religious significance are allowed after written permission is gained from the Principal
• All hats must be sun-safe. This means a minimum 6 cm brim all the way round or legionaire style. Baseball type peaked caps are not permitted.
If hair is long enough to be tied up then it must be tied up (this includes ‘rat tails’). This applies to all students - male and female. All hair accessories must be in the school colours of navy blue and yellow. Hair must be its own natural colour.

- School shoes are all black, closed in shoes.
- Students who are unaccompanied by their own parent/carer must report to the School Hall from 8.15am. Students are then given the opportunity to attend the Resource Centre, Computer Club or Gardening. Students involved in Fitter, Faster, Stronger do not report to the hall.

PLEASE NOTE THAT AS OUR ANZAC CEREMONY IS BEING HELD ON 24TH APRIL, THERE WILL BE NO SENIOR ASSEMBLY ON THIS DATE (WEEK 1, TERM 2)

BUSINESS SERVICE MANAGER- MRS PETA DONOGHUE

FINANCE

Student Resource Scheme

Don’t forget to hand in your Student Resource Scheme forms to the office.

Excursion Payments

Just a reminder that every excursion or school event that requires a payment to be made will have a set ‘DUE DATE’ that must be adhered to. If you have difficulties prior to the ‘DUE DATE’ making a payment, please do not hesitate to come and see me or someone in Admin to make other arrangements. We DO NOT accept any late payments after ‘DUE DATES’. If you pay over the internet please ensure that you make the payment 3 days prior to the due date to ensure that it clears in the schools bank account by the due date. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Hiring

We are taking bookings for 2014 for hiring of the Hall, Carmichael Centre (includes dance room, seminar room, conference room and life skill rooms), oval and netball courts. If you are interested or know of anyone that is looking for hire facilities please pass on this information. You can contact me or Kate Grevett on P:56561333

Messages for your children

As stated in previous newsletters, it can be extremely difficult to give students personal messages from parents during the school day, so to alleviate this issue we have implemented a cut off time of 2pm each day. If you require a message to be given to your child you will need to ensure that you phone the office prior to this time. Could you please advise your child of after school pick up times and locations prior to dropping them off at school as these seem to be the most common messages. If you contact the office after this time we will not be able to assist unless it is an emergency.

Have you changed your contact details – please advise Admin of your changes
Many Thanks,

Pete

Business Services Manager

BANKING DETAILS

You may wish to print these details for easy reference throughout 2014.

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW

GUIDANCE OFFICER- CARLA LOUGHNANE

This is my final newsletter entry before I begin my maternity leave. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the teachers, parents and students who I have had the pleasure of working with over the last 5 years (and 1 term). I have loved working at Ashmore State School and very much appreciated the care and concern that our Ashmore teachers and parents have for their children. I feel very fortunate to have been able to work in such a wonderful school for this length of time. Often Guidance Officers are moved from school to school each year but our Administration Team at Ashmore SS have always fought hard to keep continuity, for which I am extremely grateful. I will definitely miss the beautiful smiling faces of our Ashmore students and the amazing dedication, care, support and kindness of their teachers. My replacement will begin at the beginning of next term and I know she looks forward to meeting you all.

Kind regards and best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 2014.

Carla Loughnane

Guidance Officer

Happy Easter
RESOURCES CENTRE

Reading

The first Book Club for 2014 was recently delivered and the response was brilliant. Our school benefits from all of your purchases as we are able to claim Scholastic rewards to obtain more books and resources for our Resource Centre. The benefits of reading enriches our lives through mental stimulation, reducing stress, expanding knowledge, vocabulary expansion, improving memory, improving analytical skills, concentration and writing skills. More importantly, it is calming and a great source of inexpensive entertainment. Also, if you want to encourage your child to pick up a book and read for the love of reading consider this…..When was the last time you sat down with a good book or discussed a book that influenced the way you think or how it entertained you? As role models, children need to see us read for enjoyment!

During 2013 Ashmore State School was presented with a certificate from Scholastic, equating our purchases to a staggering 351,349 minutes of independent reading (Based on the Reading Minutes Formula and the number of books purchased through our school).

If you would like to read a book about reading, we highly recommend a book by Mem Fox, titled “Reading Magic”. The book is available online or any good book store. Mem Fox is known internationally as the author of many books for children including Possum Magic, Wombat Divine, Wilfrid Gordon MacDonald Partridge, Koala Lou and Time for Bed. She is a full-time writer and a highly regarded international literacy consultant.

Mem Fox is known internationally as the author of many books for children including Possum Magic, Wombat Divine, Wilfrid Gordon MacDonald Partridge, Koala Lou and Time for Bed. She is a full-time writer and a highly regarded international literacy consultant.

Mem Fox’s Ten Read Aloud Commandments

1. Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes every single day reading aloud.

2. Read at least three stories a day: it may be the same story three times. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they can begin to learn to read.

3. Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don’t be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.

4. Read with joy and enjoyment: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.

5. Read the stories that the kids love, over and over and over again, and always read in the same ‘tune’ for each book: i.e., with the same intonations on each page, each time.
6. Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly about the pictures, or anything else connected to the book; sing any old song that you can remember; say nursery rhymes in a bouncy way; or be noisy together doing clapping games.

7. Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are really short.

8. Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as letting kids finish rhymes, finding the letters that start your child’s name and yours—remembering that it’s never work, it’s always a fabulous game.

9. Never ever teach reading or get tense around books.

10. Please read aloud every day, mums and dads, because you just love being with your child, not because it’s the right thing to do.

HAPPY READING EVERYONE

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

Ks4Kids is a fundraising walk that will be held on Saturday 24th May to raise funds for Gold Coast Chaplaincy Programmes. The positions are funded by a Federal Government grant, but there is a shortfall between the grant and actual costs.

We hope to have a team to do the 3.5km walk, leaving Bilinga from midday to Coolangatta. A carpool will be organized closer to the event. Super earlybird registration before April 4th for students is $5. This fee covers a Tshirt, refreshments and free transport back to the starting point. I am willing to pay $5 towards the cost of each registration.

Visit [www.ks4kids.org.au](http://www.ks4kids.org.au) for all details. To register, click ‘Register to walk for a team,’ complete details, and register to walk with Ashmore State School. Alternatively, your child can collect a permission form from my office and return the completed form to me with the registration fee. Once registered, participants are asked to seek sponsors/donations. A receipt book for collecting donations can be collected from my office, or sponsors can donate to you online at the K’s4Kids website.

This event is not an Education Queensland event. Parents are invited and encouraged to participate as well.

On a final note, please enjoy the two weeks with your families and have a blessed Easter

Marg Potter  Chaplain

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
NEWS FROM THE SPORTS DESK...April

**Interschool Sport** – Ashmore State School is participating in the Gold Coast North District Interschool Sports Gala Days. Currently, students have chosen a sport or alternate activity. Last year, the cost was $43 per student to cover transportation and entry fees. The first day of trials took place on Monday and will continue each Monday until Interschool sports commences. Consent forms will be sent home during the last week of this term. These Monday competitions are scheduled to be held on 19 May, 26 May, 2 June and 16 June.

**Ashmore Cross Country Carnival** – This will occur on 30th April. The senior grades 4-7 will start at 9:00 and the junior grades P-3 will start at 11:30. This is a House event so please wear you House shirt and have a hat, water, and sunscreen.
Gold Coast North District Trials – Students who wish to be selected to Gold Coast North representative sporting teams must be nominated by our school. Students must display a high level of skill and game play for their chosen sport. Gold Coast North Trial Dates are listed on the window between the Year 4 class rooms (G Block) and information will also be given via student announcements each morning. School trials take place one week before the regional trial dates listed below. Contact Mr. Ellis if you have any questions regarding the trials.

CONGRATULATIONS –

The following students have attained great results.

Zac B and Noah C have made the shortlist for the Gold Coast North U/12 Soccer representative team.

Max P and Christopher G have made the shortlist for the Gold Coast North U/12 AFL representative team.

Alyssandra S and Mackenna B have made the shortlist for the Gold Coast North U/11 Netball representative team.

Fitter, Faster, Stronger – AKA Running Club goes from 8:00am to 8:30am. Students from all grades and parents are welcome to attend. New participants are always welcome. Bring a change of clothes for the wetter days. Thank you to all parent and teacher volunteers. Your help is greatly appreciated.


Auskick – Next Term the students of Ashmore have the opportunity to participate in Auskick on Thursday afternoons. This is a great opportunity to be active whilst having fun and developing some great skills. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Please contact Mr Mallyon (PE/Sport Teacher) if you have any questions.
P & C NEWS

P&C MEETING: The next P&C meeting of this year will be held on Monday April 28 at 1.30pm in the Conference Room at the Carmichael Centre. We welcome all parents who want to get involved in the school community so if you have any ideas or thoughts that you want to put forward then please come along, your input will be much appreciated.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL: will be held on May 7 and May 8, classes will visit the stall so the children can purchase their gifts. Jodi McLeod and Linda Sealey have done a great job of purchasing wonderful gifts – available from .50c to $8, so there will be something for everyone.

CADBURY CHOCOLATE DRIVE: Ashmore State School P&C Association is holding a Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser this year with all proceeds raised going towards the renovation of our Junior School Playground. We know this is a massive task but with your help we hope to raise enough money so that the area can be re-laid with synthetic turf to provide a comfortable environment for our
youngest children to play on. At present the area is well worn and in need of attention and on very dry days some students and staff suffer when the dust from the existing site blows up into the air. This is our major project for the year so we would like to encourage all students to participate. We are asking for your support by selling one box of chocolates per family. Please let us know in writing before Monday 12th May if you would prefer not to participate. You can just make a donation to the fundraiser if that is preferable.

In return for selling the chocolates Cadbury’s have offered us some great prizes to give to the bestselling students. We’ll send home one Chocolate Box per family by **Friday 16th May**.

The cost of the chocolates ($50) will need to be returned to the tuckshop by **Friday 13th June**. (Please ensure that the Student’s name and class are on the envelope). More boxes are available in the tuckshop, please return monies from first box before asking for the next.

**ASHMORE SS CAR BOOT SALE!** The P&C is going to be running Car Boot Sales this year in our carpark. Our next one will be on:

**Saturday 26 April**

**6.00am – 12.00pm**

We’re only charging $10 for you to come along and sell your wares from your Car Boot. Come along on the day and see Ivan Russell, our P&C’s Qld Representative, he is contactable on 0401813149. The P&C will be running a Sausage Sizzle. Come along and get a bargain!!

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION** – Do you want to help the P&C but don’t have the time spare to volunteer for our events? You can make a voluntary contribution at your leisure via [Flexischools](http://flexischools.com.au). Just login into your account and start a new order then select the ‘Donations’ tab to make your contribution. All monies raised this way are going to the renovation of our prep playground area and we will be very pleased of your assistance.

_Ashmore P&C_

[pandc@ashmoress.eq.edu.au](mailto:pandc@ashmoress.eq.edu.au)
KARATE

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW

THEME PARK TICKETS
Our Sponsors

Please click on any advertisement to email the affiliated business or view further details such as company brochures, flyers or promotions.