This Friday we celebrate the important work that our teacher aides do at our school. These very special people ensure that our students receive additional learning opportunities whilst also developing and constructing teaching resources that are engaging and appealing and which light up our classrooms. Their busy days also include supervision of students in the playground, organizing equipment for lessons and assisting with the hosting of international school visits. There are times when our teacher aides help out in the office and provide first aide when required. I know you join with me in thanking our teacher aides for their dedication, hard work and commitment to Ashmore State School. We are very lucky to have such a great team of ladies and gentleman in our company. So make sure you wish them a very Happy Teacher Aide day!

**Getting smarter every day!**
During the next two weeks students will be developing their Personal Improvement Plans (PIPS) in consultation with their teachers. The PIPS are informed by recent PAT R (Reading), PAT M (Maths), PAT S (Science) tests and classroom assessments. They consist of student goals and the strategies the children plan to use to enhance their academic outcomes and sometimes, social outcomes. The strategies the students select often require not only teacher and teacher aide assistance but also parent assistance. So, at the end of this term ask your child to share their PIP with you. It will provide you with insight into how they are taking responsibility for their learning and the manner in which you might be able to help them reach their goals.

**Celebrating our Dads and Special Friends**

This Sunday many families will celebrate Father’s Day – that one-day of the year on our calendars marked as that special time to thank fathers and father figures for their love and support within their particular families. Our society is one where the design of the family unit is demonstrated in a variety of ways – each one special and unique. Whichever way you celebrate Father’s Day, I trust that it is a day of love and caring.

Thought for the fortnight: “Have a big enough heart to love unconditionally, and a broad enough mind to embrace the differences that make each of us unique.”

D.B Harrop : American Author

Warm Regards

MARGARET JAMES

Principal

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**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- LEIGH JOSEY**

**STARS (School Thanks and Recognition of Staff)**

Let’s celebrate and recognize:

**Mr Adam Dart**

Adam commenced at Ashmore State School mid 2012. Mr Dart has been our school’s ICT (Information Communication Technology) Specialist Teacher since that time.

Adam’s base is the Computer Room in our two storey building named “The Horizon”. He teaches every year level according to a weekly timetable, with one focus area being the development of each student’s digital portfolio.

Adam has taught at a number of other schools before joining us at Ashmore. These include Broadbeach, Crestmead and Logan Village State Schools.
As well as being our ICT Specialist Teacher, Adam initiated the “Computer Club and Workshop” that runs every morning from 8:15 am in his room. This same club operates every lunch hour following eating time. At this club and workshop, students can work on the computers with Mathletics, Reading Eggs, Reading Eggspress, homework tasks, assignments and their digital portfolios. With the workshop, students have built go-carts, motors and soon it will be bicycles.

When asked what he enjoys doing at school, Adam explains that he loves working with the students; and also doing hands-on building.

Mr Dart has one boy nearly two years old; and a second baby due in December. Other exciting news is that Adam has bought his first home just this week. He has also just finished writing a thirty thousand word Diabetes exercise, health and fitness book, to help make a positive difference for all those people with Diabetes.

We wish to thank Adam for his wonderful contribution to the teaching and learning of ICT at Ashmore State School. We also wish to thank Adam for his great initiative – “The Computer Club and Workshop”. It is very beneficial and highly valued by fellow staff, parents and students.

Ms Leisa Wells

Leisa commenced at Ashmore State School in October 2012. Ms Wells has been a Classroom Teacher at Ashmore since that time. The year levels she has taught include Years Four and Five. Last year Leisa taught Year Four and she looped for this year, teaching the same children, as they entered Year Five in 2014. Her Class is 5A. Prior to this, Leisa worked at Southern Cross School (K to 12) in Ballina.

Leisa is enjoying teaching the same class of students for the two years. She says they are like a big, happy family; and she will be very sad to say goodbye to them at the end of the year, as they move on to Year Six.

As well as being teacher of 5A, Ms Wells organizes and runs the school’s Drama Club. She also has contributed greatly to this year’s Wakakirri performance.

When asked what she enjoys doing at school, Leisa replies that she loves photography – capturing the expressions on the face of the children e.g. at the Athletics Carnival, during dancing and while involved in classroom activities.

Ms Wells has one son, Jaxon, who is in Year Eight at a nearby high school. She also has a very cute puppy named Elvis. You may not know that Leisa lived in the United States, working in theatre. Looking towards the next holidays, Leisa is very excited to be heading for Hamilton Island, for a well-deserved break.

We wish to thank Leisa for her wonderful contribution to the teaching and learning of the Year 5A students in her care at Ashmore State School. We thank her also for her great contribution by way of the schools’ Drama Club, her assistance with Wakakirri and her memorable photography.

Lets Combat Head Lice
If a note goes home with your child to say that there has been a case of head lice in the classroom, we really need everyone to help. Every parent/carer needs to thoroughly check their child's hair, that afternoon. If any evidence is found of head lice or eggs, treatment needs to take place immediately. Pharmacy staff can offer you advice as to suggest treatment. Follow ups are necessary, as per instructions on the treatment bottle and from the pharmacy staff. One treatment is never enough. If follow-up treatment does not take place, the cycle of infestation with your child, and then others in the class, will continue. And so it will go on...

Please play your part, to assist in putting a stop to head lice.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- AMANDA FRY

Our reputation as a Performing Arts School of Excellence was certainly deserved during the last 4 weeks of Eisteddfod performances. We had 11 different groups involved at the Eisteddfod and each can be truly proud of their effort. All our groups were outstanding in their behaviour in public and in the audience, as well as backstage and were frequently complimented by Arts Centre backstage crew and Eisteddfod organisers. Below is a list of results.

- Mezzo Choir: Highly Commended
- Senior Choir: Highly Commended
- Senior Band: Second Place
- Junior Band: Second Place
- Sonata Strings: Highly Commended
- Vivace Strings: Very Highly Commended
- Mini Mozarts: Highly Commended
- Junior Dance: Highly Commended
- Senior Dance: Highly Commended

Congratulations to Junior Choir and Mini Maestros on their performances.

WAKAKIRRI

Our final 'Certificate of Recognition' came through this week from the Wakakirri judge and reads –

**Category Awards:**

- Highly Commended for-
  - Dance Production
Show Awards:

- Best School in Public
- Teamwork

Best Environmental Story

Our fabulous Cast and Crew compete again on Monday 8 September for the title – ‘Best Story Dance’. These 89 students have been hard at work raising money for their bus transports as well as a truck to transport our props to and from the Logan Entertainment Centre. If you know anyone with a truck big enough to safely transport our props, it would be greatly appreciated because at this stage it is ME driving a Hire Truck. The only stipulation is that the props arrive before our rehearsal time and must be removed from Logan Entertainment Centre following the production and cannot remain there overnight.

For this performance we will be leaving school at 1:00 p.m. The cast and crew will have lunch before they leave. They will need to bring an afternoon snack as well as something for their dinner. The time schedule for the finals event does not allow for us to purchase dinner as we did last time. All students will travel to the venue by bus and those who do not have family in the audience will be on our bus by 10:15 and back at school by 10:45. Students travelling back to school by bus will be permitted to have a mobile phone in order to contact their parents should these times be altered.

All ordered tickets were sent home with students on Tuesday 2 Sept. I believe more tickets are available through the Logan Entertainment Centre directly.

Doors open at 6:45 and the show begins at 7:15.

We wish all the students the best of luck. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many many people involved in bringing this production to fruition – especially Terri Campbell - Director and Leisa Wells – Stage Manager. These two staff members were right there at the inception of ‘Equilibrium’ and saw it through to the end often stepping out of the traditional roles to take on extra jobs as well. Thanks also to the staff who helped with props, dance, choreography, make-up and costuming. Thanks to the staff members who took additional students into their class rooms each rehearsal. Thanks to the Office Staff who assisted with ticketing and dozens of phone calls. Thanks to the parents who made sure their children were fully equipped and prepared for the events. And finally – thanks to the students for their hard work, for not quitting, for repeating and repeating and repeating sections in order to get them right without moaning, and most importantly for being great ambassadors for this great school. Regardless of the result on Monday night – the whole experience has been truly wonderful.
FINANCE

Student Resource Scheme Fees are due and payable now. Please make payment either by EFT, Cash or Direct Deposit as soon as possible. Payment days are Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.

NO MORE BPAY OPTION

We have had to remove the BPAY option from finance as there is only 1 BPAY reference attached to a family which makes it difficult when you have more than 1 child.

If you are paying any monies over the internet please use your child’s first & second name along with what you are paying for eg: petadonoghueswim.

Our preferred payment method is Direct Deposit over the internet as then we have a tracking system and you or your child doesn’t have to wait in line to make a payment at the window.

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE BPAY OPTION IN FUTURE

Permission Slips

To return permission slips, you are able to print it off at home, sign it and email it back to the office if this is easier. The email address to send it to is admin@ashmoress.eq.edu.au

Excursion Payments

Just a reminder, 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 cooperation in this matter.

GENERAL

UPDATE STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS – Some of you would have received a bright green slip attached to an invoice recently requesting an updated email address. Thank you to the parents who have returned this slip.

As we do not seem to have current emergency contract details for some families(eg: phone numbers, addresses) it is necessary for the office ladies to send our forms to request this information.

Next week we will be sending out a Student Information Card requesting you to update all current details including phone numbers, addresses, emergency contacts etc. Could you please ensure that you complete
these forms and return to the office as soon as possible. This will ensure that if we need to get you in an emergency we have the correct details.

**Picking up children early** - If you are intending to pick your child up early please do not call the office to get your child down to the office prior to you getting here. You need to come to the office to sign your child out and then we are able to get your child sent down.

**Absent/Sick Students** - If your child is going to be away on a particular day could you please ensure that you call the **Absent Line on (07) 5656 1360.** This will save you time as you can just leave a message and don’t have to talk to the office ladies or wait if the office is busy.

**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.

Many Thanks,

**Pete**

Business Services Manager

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**BANKING DETAILS**

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

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

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**GUIDANCE OFFICER - MICHELLE DAVIES**

**Encourage Perseverance and Follow Through.**

Our children often need our help to develop their skills of perseverance.

Have you spoken to your child recently about the fact that success doesn’t come without great effort?

We know that in the game of life, it is not necessarily the most talented person who achieves the most. More often it is the person who has learnt to stay with something in the
face of adversity. The more we are able to stick with it and show our tenacity, the more likely we are to build success in our own lives.

Even our enjoyable personal goals may require considerable focus and persistence. All too often people give up in the face of setbacks and difficulties. Then they can fail to achieve their personal dreams.

We need to teach our children the importance of persevering even in the face of setbacks and difficulties. By consciously teaching our children the importance of staying with something and following through, we are able to open up their own chances of achieving success in their later lives.

Talk to your child regularly about the connection between hard work and achievement of outcomes. Give your child positive feedback whenever you see them putting in some extra effort to accomplish something.

The following children’s books could all be useful as an introduction to discussing how important perseverance can be in our lives. You might like to look them up or talk to your local librarian about how you can get a copy.

“The Gigantic Little Hero” – Matt Whitlock

“Luke goes to Bat” – by Rachel Isadora

“Jackson’s Plan” – by Linda Talley & Andra Chase

“Mia Ham, Winners Never Quit” – by Carol Thompson

“Sally Jean, The Bicycle Queen” – by Cari Best and Christine Davenier

We all know that the child who learns to persevere will have a much better chance of achieving their own personal dreams even if things start to get a little tough along the way. Try to help your child to develop this perseverance and grit while they are still young.

KIDS MATTER

National education goals and curriculum frameworks now recognise the fact that there are strong links between social/emotional wellbeing and the achievement of positive academic outcomes for our students.

Let's explore this link a little further....

Research has shown that student learning can be influenced by a wide variety of social/emotional factors.

The recent research base indicates that progress at school can be directly affected by things such as:
• How confident the student is in their own abilities
• How effectively the student is able to manage their own behaviour and emotions
• How well they can concentrate and organise themselves and their own belongings
• How effectively they can solve problems and conflict with others
• How positive they can be in getting along with school staff and peers
• How effectively they can consider the needs of those around them
• How well they are able to understand, accept and persevere with personal responsibilities

KidsMatter Primary emphasises the teaching of social and emotional learning, thereby promoting student well-being. It provides a solid framework for analysing and introducing the most important practical skills that all students will need in order to cope with everyday situations.

Learning skills such as relationship building, self-awareness, responsibility, effective communication and conflict resolution can all prevent the development of mental health difficulties in children who might otherwise be vulnerable. The teaching of social and emotional skills can help to promote personal responsibility, resilience and a capacity to cope and stay healthy even when things become difficult. Mentally healthy kids also tend to achieve better at school.

Children learn social and emotional skills most effectively when they are reinforced at home. You can help to support your own child’s social/emotional well-being and thereby positively impact their academic learning at home by:

• Keeping communication channels open and staying in touch with both the school and your child
• Talking with your child about their own feelings and emotions associated with school work
• Helping your child to look for positives instead of negatives
• Encouraging your children to build happy and healthy relationships with others including their teachers and peers
• Helping your child to understand their personal responsibilities and their need to time manage projects and complete school-related activities such as homework
• Encouraging your child to become more mindful, focused, organised and engaged in their own personal progress
• Promoting their self-esteem and their belief in self
• Building their perseverance and resilience in situations they may currently perceive as being difficult
• Acknowledging and praising their positive effort

Always try to tune in to what your child is doing well and then praise them for it. By tuning into the behaviours you like to see in your child and by acknowledging them for these behaviours, you are encouraging them to exhibit even more positive behaviour. After all, it’s no secret that our children usually tend to do more of anything that they receive attention for, so remember to praise, praise, praise whenever they do something well!
Book Fair and Book Week

Our Book Fair was an outstanding success due to the wonderful support from our school community. We received reward points to the value of $3500 worth of resources available to us to spend for the next 12 months. All the back orders have now been delivered to classrooms.

On the Wednesday of Book Fair and Book Week, students and staff dressed up as their favourite book character. We had an array of superheroes, princesses, villains, icons and any other category you could possibly imagine.

If you're thinking about future purchases we only have issues 7 and 8 to see us to the end of the year. With this in mind you might like to start thinking about Christmas purchases or fill Christmas stockings with some great buys. If you want to surprise your child while ordering please add this to your order form with your phone number and we will contact you when the books arrive.

One of the ugly stepsisters from Cinderella was seen around our school OKA Mr Mallyon.

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS DESK...September

Fitter, Faster, Stronger (a.k.a. Running Club) - 8:00am to 8:30am.

Students from all grades and their parents are welcome to attend. New participants are always welcome. Bring a change of clothes if you wish.

Monday – Fitter, Tuesday – Faster, 
Wednesday – Stronger, Thursday – Fitter, 
Friday – Faster.

GIFTED AND TALENTED
On Sunday the 24th of August, three Ashmore groups competed in the Opti-MINDS challenge. The Opti-MINDS Creative Sustainability Challenge is an inclusive team challenge which empowers participants to think, create and communicate. The Opti-MINDS Challenge is an opportunity for all students with a passion for learning and problem solving to showcase their skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant and public way.

The three teams were required to work together on a Long Term Challenge for six weeks without assistance from anyone outside the team. Our three teams competed in the Science Engineering Challenge and were required to develop a creative and original solution to this problem—create a structure that could carry three 90 gram objects a distance of 2.5 metres and to a height of 1.5 metres. As part of the challenge students had to work within predefined parameters such as limited materials, complex challenge criteria and the deadline of the challenge day. Students presented the product of their idea to a panel of judges and to an audience on the challenge day. The teams also participated in an unseen Spontaneous Challenge on the Opti-MINDS Day. This challenge required students to rapidly interchange ideas in order to think effectively and creatively to generate a well-developed answer, whilst demonstrating excellent group cooperation skills. The group’s responses were graded in the Long Term and Spontaneous categories to reach a grand total score. Congratulations to Ashmore Team 2 who received Honours at this event and congratulations to all the teams on a job well done!

On the 21st of August, six Ashmore students participated in Southport High School’s vertically aligned Gifted and Talented day. These 6 students worked with G&T students from Southport High and other surrounding primary schools. This day was designed to provide students with an intellectually and socially stimulating learning environment. The whole day workshop provided like-minded students the opportunity to interact and build relationships across year levels and schools.

The first session was an introduction to debating where Southport High School teachers facilitated the learning while year eleven senior leaders coached individual teams comprised of four students from various year levels. In total, six debates were conducted, with different students acting as chair persons and adjudicators. With debate topics such as ‘we should always swim with the stream’, students were challenged to define the parameters of their arguments. In the second session, students were presented with six topics, from which they were required to select one and address in a creative piece. A huge array of artistic resources were presented to the students and they were required to work in small teams to produce the creative piece, with a rationale, in fifty minutes. The third and final session of the day was a traditional outdoor education program with emphasis on teamwork to achieve a common goal.
Watch this space for more news on the exciting ways Ashmore State Schools Gifted and Talented students are extended.

Tegan Nixon
G&T Coordinator

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

Once again, our musical sections are to be congratulated for their amazing efforts at the Eisteddford. Well done to our musical staff too, and for our committed parents for encouraging students to practice. We are very proud of you all.

I really want to wish all the fathers and grandfathers all the best for Father’s Day. Enjoy your breakfast in bed and whatever your family has planned for you on your day.

This week is Legacy Week where the wonderful work of Legacy is remembered and honoured, in a special year that commemorates the commencement of World War One. Legacy looks after Australian families who suffer financially and socially from the incapacitation or death of a spouse or parent during or after service in our defence force. Currently, they help approximately 90,000 widows and 1900 children in Australia. You may come across members of Legacy selling their merchandise in shopping centres – wristbands, badges, pens and bears.

Marg Potter - Chaplain

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

[Image of Twitter page]
P & C NEWS

**P&Cs Qld State Conference** - Ashmore State School has been chosen as the host school for the upcoming P&Cs QLD Annual State Conference which will be held at the Mercure Hotel, Carrara from Friday 12th – 13th Sept. Our P&C will be hosting a BBQ for Conference Delegates on Thursday 11th September with selected performances from our school band and choir on the evening. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase our school to other P&Cs from all over Queensland.

**End of Term Sausage Sizzle – Sept 19:** Tuckshop is closed for cleaning on the last day of the term so there are no food orders taken on this day – so the P&C runs a Sausage Sizzle to celebrate the End of Term. This year you can order your Sausage Sizzle online at Flexischools.com.au. There are some paper order forms in the tuckshop if you cannot access a computer. Orders must be in by Tuesday Sept 16.

We’ll need loads of helpers, so if you can spare some time to help then please sign-up here at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0848AEAA22A4FB6-3rdterm

Thank you!!

**Fitter, Faster, Stronger** continues to address the fitness needs of students at Ashmore State School. As part of our program we’d like to provide students with the opportunity to purchase a training shirt. This training shirt has been endorsed by the school P&C for training use. This means students can wear the shirt during training sessions, but must still change into school uniform for daily attendance at school. The shirts are not mandatory and it is anticipated that they will be offered for purchase once per semester.

They will cost $35 and must be paid for at the tuckshop. Sample shirt sizes are also available at the tuckshop. These shirts will be only available for pre order and purchase until 15 September.

**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. 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.

**P&C Meeting:** The next P&C meeting of this year will be held on Monday 15th September at 1.30pm in the Conference Room at the Carmichael Centre. We welcome any 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.

Ashmore P&C
THEME PARK TICKETS

ThemeParks.com.au
Our School Ticket Sale

Village Roadshow Theme Parks is offering our school community a limited time ticket offer. Simply visit ThemeParks.com.au/promocode and enter our promocode “CPC014” to gain access to these tickets offers.

*Terms & conditions apply, offer valid until Friday 4th April 2014

DOJO LESSONS

Congratulations Kensoikai Dojo!
The club [which is based at Ashmore State School] entered 6 competitors in the prestigious 2014 JKA/WF Queensland Championships held in Brisbane last Sunday, and came away with

11 Queensland Championship Titles!

This result is a great example of the extremely high standard of training available at Kenseikai....the best Dojo on the Gold Coast!

If your child is thinking of taking up karate, come and check us out.....

Train with champions and be taught by a master of traditional Shotokan karate, Sensei Takeharu Kawamoto...!

For further information please phone Barry on 0425 661245.

*Open Tuesday & Thursday 4.00pm – 5.30pm & Saturday 2.30pm – 4.00pm*

Kenseikai Shotokan Dojo

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**ARUNDEL PARK**

**ARUNDEL PARK Riding for Disabled Inc**

**OPEN DAY**

"HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!"
SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER
10AM - 2PM
387 BRISBANE ROAD
COOMBAH QLD 4214
AUNDelparkrda.com.au

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