6th February 2015

**From the Principal's Desk**

Deputy Principal- Leigh Josey

Deputy Principal- Amanda Fry

Deputy Principal- Karen Gravendyk

Guidance Officer

Resource Centre

LOTE

BSB Burb

**Chaplain's Chat**

Twitter

Piano & Vocal Tuition

P & C

PEACH

Total Football Academy

Parent/Carer Information

Evening

Welcome Back!
FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It is my privilege to once again welcome all members of our community to the 2015 school year. I trust that everyone enjoyed a relaxing Christmas break spending good times with family and friends. I further extend a welcoming hand to our new families. We have experienced unprecedented enrolment numbers in the Prep year and I thank parents for placing trust in us to educate and care for your children. Selecting a school that suits the needs of your child one of the most important decisions that a parent will ever make and I am honoured that you have chosen Ashmore State School.

As we embark upon Term 1 we also welcome new staff members. Mr. Matthew Armstrong and Mr. Petros Styliano join our Performing Arts department, teaching instrumental music and strings whilst Mr. Steve Newman and Ms. Simone Fitzgerald have been appointed as our Health and PE teachers. Mrs. Karen Davis has accepted the role of Guidance Officer and Ms. Carmel Weaver will teach our students who have English as their second language. Mrs. Rebecca Verheijen, Mr. Simon Wood and Ms. Marguerite Toth join us classroom teachers and we welcome back Mrs. Sarah Cook and Mrs. Tammy Telford who have been on leave raising beautiful babies.

Many of you would have noticed the remarkable improvements in our Prep playground that occurred during the school holidays. The project commenced prior to Christmas when significant amounts of new drainage and retaining walls were installed. This was followed by the installation of synthetic grass as a measure to save water, reduce maintenance costs and above all, provide an inviting, safe play area for our children. The area will be further enhanced to create an authentic outdoor learning centre when funds become available. I am grateful to the workers who persevered with the inclement weather conditions and gave their time above and beyond our expectations, to deliver this project on time for the new school year.

Continuing our explicit improvement agenda

Our explicit plan for continued student improvement in 2015 is similar to that of the past four years. We will continue to focus on building student knowledge and skills in Oral Language, Numeracy, Literacy, and Science. Our unique and very successful Link It! Intervention and extension program will continue to support our explicit improvement agenda with each and every student receiving focused individual attention to meet their learning needs. Our success in continual improvement of student outcomes is proof that the course we set in 2011 was the right course for the long term and hence, as educators at Ashmore State School, we will continue to follow that course.

Further information regarding our explicit improvement agenda and in particular, the teaching and learning opportunities that are available to your child this year, can be gained at our forthcoming Information evening. This year we warmly invite parents and carers from Yr 1 - Yr 6 to visit your child’s classroom on Thursday 19 February from 5.30p.m-6.00p.m and then join us socially in the Carmichael Centre for refreshments and further conversation with teachers and other members of our school community. (Prep information sessions have already occurred).
In addition to the information evening we will continue to conduct Parent Education Tuesday (PET). These sessions are conducted every Tuesday afternoon at 2.15p.m in the Carmichael Centre. These sessions are designed to provide parents and carers with strategies to assist their child in their learning including reading, math and information technology. Further details can be obtained by visiting our school website at www.ashmoress.eq.edu.au

The PET Day schedule is also displayed in your child's classroom.

Our school staff looks forward to working with you as partners in your child’s education. We are very proud of Ashmore State School, an Independent Public School, and we value your input into how we can continue to offer the highest standard of education for our children in an inclusive and welcoming community-minded environment.

**Thought for the fortnight:**

“Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.” Marcel Proust- Novelist

MARGARET JAMES

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**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- LEIGH JOSEY**

**Our Youngest Enrollees**

We had a very wet Orientation Day on the 23rd January; however, there was great excitement in the air for our newest and youngest students joining us at Ashmore.

2015 has seen a record number of enrolments for Prep; and it was great to see so many happy, enthusiastic young faces as they went about experiencing their first week in Prep.

Thanks to parents and carers for ensuring your children are dressed so beautifully in their school uniforms and have all the stationery and supplies to ensure they are prepared for the year ahead.

**Change to Prep Starting Age – effective now**

Effective immediately, the age of a child, for enrolment in Prep, has been extended by a month. It was 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. It is now 1 July 2009 to 31 July 2010. There are conditions, however, if a child’s birthday falls in this extra month (1 July to 31 July). They must complete a written application (obtainable from the office) and show that their child is ‘ready for education considering the child’s attributes’. These attributes include the following:

- Aptitude and ability
- Social and emotional competence
- Physical development
- Level of knowledge and understanding

The application is then returned to the school for discussion and consideration.
I have included a link to further information that elaborates on the information above.


**Disabled Parking**

Please be aware that there is only one parking space for those with Disabled Parking permits. We do have parents and carers who are entitled to use this spot and need to use it, to deliver and collect young children. So please assist us by keeping this one spot clear for those who require it for mobility reasons.

**Safety Issue**

Please be aware that for safety reasons, children should remain with their parents and carers under cover before school. Children are *not* permitted to be playing in any playground before or after school. Children can play in the playgrounds at break times only, when staff members are rostered on to provide supervision. Years 1 to 6 children who arrive before 8 am (and are not with a parent) should sit in the Tuckshop area. Soon after 8 am children are moved to the hall where they are supervised by a staff member until 8:50 am.

All of these arrangements above are to ensure your child remains safe and sound before school. Thank you for your assistance with this.

**School Nurse Visit for Hearing Assessments**

If you would like your child's hearing tested by our visiting school nurse, please visit the office to complete a consent form. This form should be completed by Monday 16th February; and handed in at the office. Please see me, or ring, if you have any questions.

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**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - AMANDA FRY**

It has been a fantastic start to the school year with students settling in to work and play from the very first day.

There are many aspects of my job that I love – one of these being managing the Performing Arts program and all its subgroups – choirs, bands, Instrumental Music, Dance, Eisteddfods etc. We have a three year cycle of major Performing Arts events – Cultural Evenings (2013), External Competition (in 2014 it was Wakakirri) and in 2015 it will be a School Musical. I have much excitement in announcing that our musical this year will be "Willie Wonka and The Chocolate Factory Kids". A school musical is a major undertaking and we aim for maximum student participation through being in the crew, cast or any ensembles such as choirs, band or dance which may be included in the production. We anticipate that the event will take place in October over three nights in our school hall. There will be many opportunities for families to assist through construction of props and sets, costuming, makeup, fund raising and supervision. We have a core of dedicated staff members who have already

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[Image of children reading]
expressed their interest in being part of this event. Students involved in the production may be required to attend after school and possibly weekend rehearsals. Many more details will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

We have a number of specialist teachers on our staff who provide specialised lessons and support programs to the students. They are Steve Newman and Simone Fitzgerald (Health and Physical Education), David Hawkins (Science), Leigh Hering (Information Communication Technology), Jackie Mikami (LOTE - Japanese), Anna Dart (classroom music and school choirs), Natasha Perrozzi (classroom dance and dance groups), Matthew Armstrong (Instrumental Music and bands), Petros Stylianou (Strings program and string ensembles), Robyn Martin (Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy), Susie Ross (Literacy Advisor), Louise Stone-Schmidt, Stacey Files and Tanya Madden (Student Support), Carmel Weaver (EALD), and Margaret Potter (Chaplain). These specialist teachers and support personnel are ably assisted and supported by a raft of wonderful teacher aides and office personnel.

We have a number of camps this year which do have a cost associated with them. Early advice to parents allows you to initiate a savings plan right from the beginning of the year. Year 4 will be attending a 2 day NON-residential camp at Tallebudgera Camp School in March/April (cost in 2014 was $73). Year 5 will attend a three day residential leadership camp at Runaway Bay Sports Excellence Centre in November (cost in 2014 was $200) and Year 6 will attend a 3 day residential resilience camp at Tyalgum Ridge in September (cost in 2014 was $300) This costs are indicative ONLY as costings inevitably change from year to year. If you start putting away a few dollars each week in preparation then the camp will not be a big total cost item as the cut off payment dates approach.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- KAREN GRAVENDYK

Welcome back! We are already off to a flying start. Over the next week your child will be coming home and talking about their PIP, Communication Book and edStudio.

Their PIP (Personal Improvement Plan) is collaboratively developed by your child and their classroom teacher. The PIP records your child’s goals in reading, writing, oral language, numeracy, science and social skills. Strategies are planned to guide your child in reaching their goals. Please discuss these goals with your child and you may want to display these goals in a special place for them to view regularly.

Your child’s Communication Book will give you information about their effort, behaviour, academic assessment results and any notes from the classroom teacher. It is very important that you take the time to read and sign the Communication Book each week.

Every class has their own edStudio on Education Queensland’s ‘Learning Place’. This eLearning environment provides secure access to an innovative online space developed and maintained by the class teacher. The edStudio will give your child access to their homework, enrichment activities, and class messages.

Your child has access to an innovative and engaging online reading program – ‘Reading Eggs / Eggspress’. This
program focuses on improving your child’s reading skills. It automatically adjusts the activities to suit your child’s level. This program is part of your child’s weekly homework and compliments their home reading. Your children’s progress and participation in this program is closely monitored by their class teacher and is commented on in Semester 1 & 2 report cards.

I look forward to seeing you at the parent information evening on Thursday the 19th of February.

Karen Gravendyk

BSB BLURB

**Student ID Cards** – Student ID Cards have been issued to students which will enable them to print or borrow from the library and pay at the finance office.

If your child has recently enrolled and does not have a Student ID Card, we will have photographers attending on February 12th so that they can then be processed.

The card is the responsibility of the student and if it has to be replaced there will be a fee of $5.00. Please ensure your child understands the importance of the card as it has their photo on it.

GUIDANCE OFFICER – KAREN DAVIS

Welcome to 2015! Here at Ashmore State School, our kids REALLY DO MATTER!!

The Kids Matter primary focus for 2015 is to consolidate the already outstanding work of our staff, students and families.

KidsMatter Primary helps to improve:

- the mental health and wellbeing of our students;
- the quality of their schoolwork;
the ability of parents, carers and teaching staff to help children deal with problems; and
academic results (including NAPLAN).

This year, the Ashmore Action Team will be working closely with staff and families to support the mental health and wellbeing of our students by reviewing the school’s current efforts across the four focus areas: (1) Positive School Community, (2) Social and Emotional Learning for Students, (3) Working with Parents and Carers, and (4) Helping Children with Mental Health Difficulties.

Every school is different, with different needs for their students and families, so here at Ashmore State School, the Action Team will be looking for ways to strengthen and build on our current programs and efforts.

**How can families help?**

Families are the biggest influence on children's mental health and play a very important role in KidsMatter. Children benefit most when the important people in their lives work together and have a shared understanding of their development and their needs.

There are many things you can do to help make it a success:

- Read the KidsMatter Primary information sheets to further your understanding about children’s mental health. View them online at [www.kidsmatter.edu.au](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au) or ask the Guidance Officer for further information.
- Develop relationships with staff, so you can share knowledge and information about how they can support your children.
- Participate in school activities to build a sense of community.
- Respond to any school requests for ideas or information.
- Talk to other parents and carers about ways the school can support your needs.
- Let the school know what skills or talents you are happy to share.

*Adapted from KidsMatter “Introducing KidsMatter Primary: Component 1”*

**PARENT/CARER INFORMATION EVENING**
We would like to welcome everyone back and we are all looking forward to another great year.

Ashmore State School has a new library system called ‘Oliver’ and students will be able to borrow their own home readers during their allocated library borrowing time. Students in Prep – Year 3 are now able to borrow 2 general and 2 home readers, Year 4 students can borrow 3 general and 3 home readers and Year 5 and 6 students can borrow 4 general and 4 home readers. If home readers are lost or not returned parents will need to pay $5. General books which are lost or damaged will also need to be paid for before borrowing continues. We are sure everyone will understand that we need to implement these conditions for borrowing as the cost of replacing lost and damaged books is a heavy burden for our Resource Centre.

LOTE- JACKIE MIKAMI

"Konnichi-wa, My name is Jackie Mikami, I am the LOTE Japanese teacher for Prep and
Year 1 this year at Ashmore. This week the children learnt good morning "ohayou" and goodnight "oyasumi" and thank you "arigatou" among other words. We learnt our language through songs and craft and the children were keen to share that many of them have learnt Japanese at Kindy already. They were able to say numbers and some greetings. Throughout the term we will be learning many new words and songs in Japanese. I will also share the Japanese culture with the children. Later in the term I will be bringing in Japanese dress ups for the children also. If you have Japanese heritage and would like to join a class please contact me anytime. Have a great week. Sayonara (Goodbye). Jackie Mikami,
jmika7@eq.edu.au

CHAPLAIN’S CHAT- MARG POTTER

I want to say a huge welcome back to our 2015 school year, with a special welcome to all our new families and students. My work in the school involves many different aspects, but is predominantly one of pastoral care. I am always happy to talk to parents and students with issues they may be facing; maybe new students with problems settling into a new school. I work on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and I am in the Student Services Building.

On Wednesday mornings before school, I hold a free breakfast in the school hall, open to all students. Students are asked to use very important words “please” and “thank you.” February is vegemite month at breakfast club. If you would like to donate a jar of vegemite to our Breakfast Club, please drop off a jar to my desk in the Student Services Building. It will be greatly appreciated.

R.E. books can now be purchased from the tuckshop for $6 on Monday to Thursday before school during February. Classroom lessons will begin in week three for Years One to Six. The student activity books are used in every lesson.

Thank you, Marg Potter (Chaplain)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
P & C NEWS

WELCOME to 2015: Welcome back to all the students, parents and community of Ashmore State School. I trust that everyone had a wonderful break. 2015 is off to a flying start with many happy faces that are willing to learn and thrive in the Ashmore way. This year is going to be another exciting year for all with the Ashmore SS Fair, Stephanie Alexander Garden Program, BBQs, Stalls and other fundraisers in the mix. I look forward to meeting some new students, teachers and parents alike. I wish you all the best for the year ahead in 2015.

Ron Odle
President
Ashmore SS P&C Association

JUNIOR PLAY AREA RENOVATION COMPLETED: It has been fantastic to see the Astro Turf put down over the holidays. We would like to thank the school and the parent community for their support. The children and teachers are really pleased, it’s been a fantastic project for everyone involved.

ELECTION DAY BBQ - The P&C ran the BBQ on Election Day here at the school, which was as usual, very well supported. Special thanks to Ron Odle, Chelsea O’Neill, Donna Fraser, Claudia Gibney and Tracey Wentworth for helping on the stall.

CBA SCHOOL BANKING - Will begin again this term – date TBA. We will send home a form for you to register your child if you would like to take this opportunity. Apart from teaching your children to save, which is a wonderful life skill, the school also receives a small commission for banking through the school.

P&C MEETING: The first P&C meeting of this year will be held on Monday Feb 16th at 1.30pm upstairs in the Board 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.

AGM MEETING: The Annual General Meeting of Ashmore State School P&C will be held this year on Monday 16th March and it is here that you can be a part of an exciting school community and take control of the wonderful events that we have coming up this year such as Mother’s and Father’s Day stalls, Run-a-Thon, Sports Day Carnival and our big fundraiser for this year, the Ashmore SS Fun Fair in June. All these fundraising...
events go towards helping to enhance our school environment and provide valuable equipment and resources for our students.

Each year at the AGM the P&C will seek to elect an Executive Committee that will comprise of:

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Vice President

If you would like to fulfil one of these roles or you just want to be an ordinary member of the P&C, then please come along to the AGM and fill out an application form. Forms are also available at the Administration office and Tuckshop.

THE STEPHANIE ALEXANDER KITCHEN GARDEN FOUNDATION will be forming part of our major fundraising for this year. We will be needing assistance with volunteering for the classes, and will need some donations of kitchen and garden equipment - please email us at shell24@eq.edu.au or call Ron Odle on 0422798458 if you can help.

ASHMORE SS FAMILY FUN FAIR - Will be held this year on June 20. We are now seeking assistance from our parent community to form a Fair Committee, and start working towards this fantastic school event. There are various ways to help. Please find our form to fill out and return to us, which is also available on the website. Please email to shell24@eq.edu.au or drop into the tuckshop ASAP.

ASHMORE SS CAR BOOT SALE - We are thinking of running the Car Boot Sale once a term this year. However we would like to ask parents if they are interested in being involved – either selling or helping with the P&C stall. Please email us at shell24@eq.edu.au.

TUCKSHOP HELPERS – It's a new year, which means we have lost some of our valued tuckshop helpers whose children have moved on to High School. This means we have vacancies in the tuckshop for those who can come along and help for an hour or two. Please call in to the tuckshop and see Kerry, or call 56561365. Thank you!!

Ashmore P&C
PIANO AND VOCAL TUITION

JENNY WILLIAMS

Private lessons located in home studio, Southport

Approx. 5 minute drive from Ashmore State School.

CALL JENNY 0402942052 / 56792498

PEACH

Get your family active and eating well

The healthy lifestyle program for families called PEACH™ - Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health – is taking registrations now for a group to start on the Gold Coast in term 2.

The FREE program is available to families with a child aged between 5-11 years who is above a healthy weight for their age.

The program is fun for kids and helps parents and carers make healthy eating and activity a part of every-day life.

It consists of 10 group sessions that run for 90 minutes each. The first 9 sessions are held weekly within the school term. Ongoing individualised family support is offered through the second half of the program ending with one final group session.

Some of the topics covered include nutrition skills, relationships with food and eating, changing family lifestyle behaviours and making healthy eating affordable. While the parent sessions are taking place, children enjoy active play with a trained child physical activity facilitator.
The program is funded by the Queensland government and being delivered by the Queensland University of Technology.

If you would like more information about the PEACH™ program or to register please contact free call 1800 263 519 or visit www.peachqld.com.au

TOTAL FOOTBALL ACADEMY

Dear Parents

I am pleased to announce the dates for the football (soccer) Academy at Ashmore State School starting in Term 1 2015 for Year 3 to Year 6 Pupils. To help prepare for the commencement of the Academy, there will be a trial for pupils to come along to the first session at 7:30am to 8:30am on Wednesday 11th of February. Total Football Academy (TFA) will be providing all the training with professional coaches.

All players that are interested in playing for the School teams and who are interested in developing their skills are encouraged to join the Academy.

The program will be limited to 45 players, 15 per joint age group. The trials will allow interested students to show their interest in gaining a place in the football Academy.

**Academy dates:** Wednesday 11, 18, 25 February - 4, 11, 18, 25 March – 1 April.

**Time:** 7:00am – 8:00am

**Where:** School oval or indoor venue

**Length:** 8 weeks every term.

**Cost:** $70 per term

**Need to bring:** Boots, sports kit, towel, rain jacket, trainers (indoor wet weather).

The Academy program is aimed at Long Term Player Development, with 8 training sessions taking place during the term. Each session will finish with small sided games. The program will aid player development, knowledge and skill, allowing players to reach new levels. The academy sessions will complement Club/School training. These extra sessions also allow players to get ahead boosting confidence to try new skills.

Academy sessions will never be cancelled as they will take place either on the football oval or indoors in the event of wet weather. I am sure every pupil that participates in this program will benefit from the expert training they will receive. We are excited about the pathway we are providing for football enthusiasts at Ashmore State School.

To sign up register at www.totalfootballacademy.com.au (see below) and select Academy Program or to express your interest, please come along to the trial at the first session.

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW
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http://www.ashmoress.eq.edu.au/

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