FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

This summer we have seen a significant amount of rainfall in our part of the world. This has caused a certain degree of damage to our classrooms, ICT resources, outdoor areas and the inconvenience for students and staff that this brings. Nonetheless our story pales into insignificance when we think about those affected by Cyclone Marcia. I know you join with me in sending your thoughts and prayers to our fellow Queenslanders who find themselves and their communities affected in so many ways – physically, emotionally and financially.
I thank our school community for your understanding in my decision to advise you not to send your children to school last Friday. The regular weather warnings that all schools received alerted us to be aware of the fact that damaging winds and heavy rainfall were predicted for the south-east coast and other regions of QLD. As the senior officer of this school it is my responsibility to ensure that both students and staff are kept safe. I take this responsibility seriously and believe that in circumstances of potential severe weather, it is far better to make decisions, in consultation with regional office staff, to ensure our children and staff are not placed in harm’s way should buildings be flooded or damaged. I am also aware of the dangers that exist when parents and staff are required to drive on roads in dangerous conditions to travel to and from school. On Friday travel indeed posed a potential danger.

**Looking After Our Health**

The QLD State Government has advised that to the following restrictions now apply:

- There is to be no cigarette smoking at state and non-state schools and for 5 metres beyond their boundaries
- The use of e-cigarettes can be perceived as the act of smoking.
- Those who ignore the restrictions may incur a fine.

**Parent Information Evening**

Our Parent Information meeting needed to be rescheduled due to the inclement weather conditions and, as advised via our school’s website, twitter and emails the new date is Wednesday 25 February. Please note that the evening is designed for parents and carers whose children are in Yr.1 – Yr. 6. Prep parents attended information sessions earlier this year. Full details are available on our school’s website [www.ashmoress@eq.edu.au](http://www.ashmoress@eq.edu.au)

**Our Point of Differentiation**

It is important that schools continually seek ways of differentiating the curriculum to suit the learning needs and interests of all students. At Ashmore State School we are always looking for new and proven ways to extend our students’ learning. To this end we have a number of teachers who give up their own time to provide opportunities to engage in Gifted and Talented Clubs before and after school and during lunch breaks. We view these clubs as tapping into a student’s talent in a particular area and then, through immersion in specially designed activities and instruction, turning those talents into gifts of superior knowledge. The Gifted and Talented Clubs (G&T) that operate currently at Ashmore include Drama, Science, Math, Writing, Fitter Faster Stronger, Dance, Music, Table Tennis and Film Making. Computer Club will be reintroduced shortly once the second computer lab is established. I strongly encourage parents to speak with Miss Nixon, the G&T coordinator, if you are interested in your child being part of these exciting opportunities.

**Thought for the fortnight:** "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good governance." Thomas Jefferson
Margaret James

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- LEIGH JOSEY

**Date Claimer – Year 1 Excursion**

When: Monday 30th March (Years 1B, 1C and 1F)

Tuesday 31st March (Years 1D and 1E)

Time: Depart school at 9:15 am; return to school for last session of day

What: Year 1 will visit the Botanical Gardens to participate in a Science program "Incredible Insects" (correlating with the Year 1 Term 1 Science unit – "Living Adventures" which focusses on living things and their habitats.);
morning tea and lunch will be eaten at the gardens

Transport: Bus with seatbelts

Cost: $3

**Note**: Permission form and payment information will be forwarded to Year 1 parents and carers soon.

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

**Mrs Tracey Roy**

Tracey commenced at Ashmore State School at the beginning of 2014, as a Year 2 general classroom teacher. This year Tracey is teaching Year 3A. Prior to this, Mrs Roy taught at Biggera Waters State School for 13 years, mostly as a Year 7 teacher. Since having her youngest child, Tracey has taught Years 2 to 4 on a part-time basis.

Besides her duties as a classroom teacher at Ashmore, Tracey has played an active role in the Performing Arts arena. Mrs Roy loves assisting in this area, particularly with dance. Tracey taught the Junior Dance Eisteddfod group in 2014; and helped choreograph our Waikakiri performance.

When asked what she especially enjoys about working at Ashmore State School, Tracey comments that she is very happy to be looping this year, taking her Year 2 class on to Year 3. Tracey enjoys seeing the personal growth and improvement of her student.

Mrs Roy grew up on the Gold Coast attending Benowa State School. Mrs Roy’s husband is also a teacher – presently working at Labrador State School. Tracey has 2 children – one in Year 1 at Ashmore and the other studying Commerce/Law at the University of Queensland. She loves going to the beach with her dogs; and catching up with friends on the weekend.
We wish to thank Tracey for her wonderful contribution to the teaching and learning of our students in her care at Ashmore State School. We also wish to thank Tracey for her great efforts in the performing arts domain!

Mrs Rhonda Gilmore

Rhonda Gilmore, one of our invaluable Teacher Aides, has worked at Ashmore State School for 21 years! What a wonderfully long length of time, Rhonda has been an integral staff member at our school.

Prior to this, Rhonda worked in retail and aged care.

As a Teacher Aide at Ashmore, Rhonda has worked with students across all year levels from Prep to Year 7. She has played an important role as Coordinator of our Support- A-Talker program for many years, assisting students in Prep to Year 2 with their oral language skills. Other roles have included Support-A-Reader Coordinator; ‘Closing the Gap’ Teacher Aide – assisting our ATSI students; Teacher Aide assisting our Students with English as an additional language or dialect; Link-It Teacher Aide for Prep to Year 2; and Teacher Aide assisting students in numeracy and literacy.

Mrs Gilmore is also a member of our EATSIPS (Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in Schools) Action team. She also works at “Helping Hands – Ashmore’s before and after school care provider.

When asked what she enjoys doing at school, Rhonda explains that she loves working with staff and students - helping to provide students with the opportunity to learn and succeed. Rhonda has also enjoyed working with Prep for the last 5 years.

Mrs Gilmore was born and educated in Melbourne; and enjoyed ice-skating, netball and art growing up. Rhonda has 3 daughters and 2 grand-daughters (with twins on the way). In her spare time Rhonda collects gemstones; and enjoys art, craft and gardening.

We wish to thank Rhonda for her wonderful contribution as Teacher Aide at Ashmore. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

Safety Message

Some students are crossing the road further along Cuurumburra Road and not at the lights. This is very dangerous and we worry about the safety of these students. Could you please discuss with your children the importance of always walking to the lights and waiting for the walk symbol to cross the street. Thank you for your assistance with this.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- AMANDA FRY
After all our excitement over ‘Willy Wonka Kids’, we have discovered that we cannot get the licence to perform it in Australia. However, all is not lost and we have found yet another exciting musical - name to be announced when I have the actual licence in my hand. Once the licence is purchased we will begin auditions. Students in Years 4, 5 and 6 will take the majority of the on stage rolls with plenty of opportunity for the younger students to perhaps be involved through dance or choir. There will also be opportunity for involvement by senior students as part of the backstage crew. More details to follow soon.

Play Breaks and Eating Breaks

Our first break during the day is known as LUNCH. This is the main eating time. The first 20 minutes of this break is play time. The second 20 minutes of this break is eating time. Student monitors collect the tuckshop box for their class and take it to the eating area. Normal ordering for the tuckshop happens at this time All foods are available for ordering. There are over the counter sales available at this break just during eating time (11:20 – 11:40).

Our second break is known as AFTERNOON TEA. The first 15 minutes of this break is for play. The second 15 minutes of this break is for eating. This is the smaller meal of the day and tuckshop ordering is limited at this time. No hot food, no iceblocks and no slushies are available during this break. There is NO over the counter purchases at this break. Student class monitors collect the tuckshop box and take it to their class eating area.

Just a reminder - the tuckshop is always in need of helpers with food preparation and counter sales. Contact Kerry at the tuckshop if you can help out.

The teachers are finding the students much more settled coming back into learning time. We have also experienced a major downturn in the number of lunch boxes lost or being left in the eating areas.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- KAREN GRAVENDYK

PAT Testing

Over the last couple of weeks students have been completing ‘Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT)’ in Science, Reading and Mathematics. These tests provide important information to inform teachers’ of their student’s strengths and areas that need to develop further. This data also informs your child’s Personal Improvement Plan.

PAT Science (Years 3-6)

The questions in the PAT Science require students to demonstrate their understanding of scientific concepts across the various areas (biology, physics, geology, astronomy and chemistry) and the processes used to obtain and analyse data relating to the problem in a variety of contexts.

PAT Reading (Years 2-6)
All tests consist of passages of text with multiple-choice questions which the students work through independently. All items are intended to measure literal and inferential comprehension of texts, and reflect contemporary understanding of the reading process.

**PAT Mathematics (Years 2-6)**

All test questions are in multiple-choice format. Each test included the mathematics strands of Number, Space, Measurement, Chance & data, with later tests including questions on Patterns & Algebra.

**Year 4 Tallebudgera Day Excursion**

Year 4 students have the opportunity to attend the Tallebudgera Beach School Two Day Adventure. Students will participate in kayaking, bushwalking, surf awareness, bodyboarding and team challenges.

4A, 4B and 4E will attend the excursion on Monday the 30th of March and Tuesday the 31st of March. 4C and 4D will attend the excursion on Wednesday the 1st of April and Thursday the 2nd of April.

All information and permission notes can be located on the school’s website.

Karen Gravendyk

Deputy Principal

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**PARENT/CARER INFORMATION EVENING**

Parents/Carers of Year 1-Yr 6 students are invited to attend their child's new school year Parent/Carer information session on **Wednesday 25th February 2015, commencing at 5.30pm.**

The venue will be your child's classroom for the first 30 minutes followed by an opportunity to meet the teacher and other parents over refreshments and cheese with entertainment in the Conference Centre.

Parents who have children in different year levels may choose to attend sessions for shortened periods of time to enable them to visit other classes.
"I am worried that my child is not settling in his/her new class. What should I do?"

This question is a common one that parents and carers ask at the beginning of a new school, particularly if your child (or children) are new to the school.

Starting a new school year is a big change for children. Some children settle straight away, but for others it can take a little time. If you are finding that your child is having difficulty settling, you are not alone!

The KidsMatter Information Sheet for parents titled **Belonging at school makes a difference** reminds us that children need to feel that school is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out problems.

As Parents and Carers you can work together with school staff to create a bridge between home and school. Take a **positive interest** in what happens for your child, or children.

Encourage your child to talk to you about what they **like** about school – this will support them to focus on the positives!

Discuss with your child what they can do if they have a problem – this will help to develop their problem solving skills.

You can also attend information sessions with your child’s teacher and let the teacher know if your child is having any difficulties. Don’t forget the Parent Education sessions which are held throughout the term, as provide an opportunity for you to receive valuation information that will help **you** to support your child’s academic, social and emotional growth.

*Adapted from KidsMatter “Belonging at school makes a difference: Component 1”*
Free ‘Student Advantage’ Microsoft Office 2013 Suite

Parents and caregivers did you know that you can now download a free copy of the Microsoft Office 365 Suite? Students must be enrolled in a Queensland State or High School. This suite provides students with a subscription to the full versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote.

After downloading, students will have the latest Office suite at home, on their personal PC's, Macs and other mobile devices (up to five in total).

Visit the Learning Place student space to access a step by step guide and the download link.

BOOKCLUB

Commencing with Book Club Issue 2 due out 25th February, we are changing to the new LOOP (Linked Online Ordering and Payment) system. This means that parents/carers can now order and pay for items on line. No need to send paper orders to the library anymore. Once ordered, all items will be forwarded to the school for distribution to students. You can use a credit or debit card for payment. Just follow these easy steps

1. Log in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download the new iPhone and iPad app from the App Store
2. Click ORDER in top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
3. Select Ashmore State School and your child’s class
4. Add your child’s first name and last initial (eg James P) (so we know who the order is for)
5. Enter the item number/numbers from the Book Club brochure
6. You can order for multiple children, just remember to add their name and select their class, then order
7. All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will be delivered to your child’s classroom AS LONG AS YOU ORDER BY THE CLOSE DATE. If orders are made AFTER the
close date the item will be delivered to your home BUT there will be an additional charge of $4.99 per order.

8. There is no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to school.


If you have any queries please contact our friendly Library staff.

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT- MARG POTTER

Have you ever been to MESSY CHURCH? This Sunday night at 4:30, come and find out all about it at the Salvation Army on the corner of Wardoo and Southport /Nerang Sts. It’s very different, a lot of fun, it includes an evening meal and it’s FREE!

R.E. BOOKS will be for sale at the tuckshop only until the end of February at a cost of $6 for Years 1 to 6. These books are used in every lesson, and lessons are starting on Wednesday 18th February.

February is VEGEMITE month at breakfast club so please donate a bottle to our hungry students. Please drop off to my desk in the Student Services building or to breakfast club in the Hall on Wednesday mornings. Vegemite is very popular!

Marg Potter - Chaplain

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
P & C NEWS

NOTICE OF UNIFORM PRICE RISE: We were notified by our uniform supplier that although they managed not to have any increases in their prices for a number of years, that as of January 1st, these prices changed.

Unfortunately, this means an increase for us as well. We have allowed for the 'Back to School' time to pass allowing parents to start off the year, however the new prices will come in effect as of March 1.

Shorts: $26.00
Skort: $33.00
Polo: $35.00
Hat: $12.00
Jacket: $45.00
Trackpants: $37.00
Socks: $8.00
Sports Shirts: $30.00
Senior Shirt: $38.00 (available soon)

CBA SCHOOL BANKING - Will begin again this term on Feb 20th. Two of our wonderful parent helpers, Nicole and Louise, have taken on the job of processing the banking – thank you!!

If you already have an account for your child, simply send the deposit book and banking into the classroom and it will be delivered to the tuckshop. If you need to set up an account, a CBA representative will be here in the school on March 13, from 7.30am. If you are unable to attend, you can go to any CBA to sign up, you’ll just need to take ID for yourself and your child. (ID for the child is not needed when signing up at the school)

AGM MEETING: The Annual General Meeting of Ashmore State School P&C will be held this year on Monday 16th March at 1.30pm in the Seminar Room (upstairs in the Carmichael Centre). It is here that you can be a part of an exciting school community and participate in 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 would like to be a member of the P&C, then please come along to the AGM and fill out an application form. Forms are also available now at the Administration office and Tuckshop.

Ashmore P&C

pandc@ashmoress.eq.edu.au

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A modified class that recreates the original moves at a lower intensity

Saturday 9:00 - 10:00am

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Contact: Jamie Lee Fraser
Ph: 0403 474 234
Email: zumbajamielee@gmail.com
FB: facebook.com/zumbawithjamielee

CLASSES ONLY $10

THEME PARKS TICKET SALE
ThemeParks.com.au
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 ticket offers.

*Terms & conditions apply, offer valid for a limited time.

PCYC
IT ALL STARTS HERE.

KAPA HAKA
NOW AT PCYC ASHMORE

Come celebrate the uniqueness that is Maori through Kapa Haka. Open to all ages, cultures and anyone who is interested. Nau Mai Haere Mai!

Participants must be a current member of a PCYC. PCYC Ashmore will sponsor the membership cost of any new member who is joining the Club to do Kapa Haka.

WHEN: Wednesdays 6.15pm - 8.30pm
PRICE: $2 per session for under 18s. $5 per session for 18+
WHERE: PCYC Ashmore: 44 Dominions Road, Ashmore

Phone (07) 5539 5774 or email ashmore@pcyc.org.au for details.
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