PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

It is extremely important to student success that schools work in partnership with parents and carers, clearly communicating student progress and encouraging parents to play an active role in the education of their children. To this end, all students at our school have Personal Improvement Plans (PIPs) to assist them in setting targets and deciding upon strategies to reach their goals, communication books and classroom edStudios (online creative authoring spaces for staff and students). I urge all parents and carers to engage with their children in these various facets of communication. If you are unsure of how to access your child’s edstudio or if you do not regularly sight a communication book please do not hesitate to discuss this with your child’s teacher.

Another avenue we have at our school to assist parents in helping with their child’s education is Parent Education Tuesdays. (PET Days). Every Tuesday afternoon commencing at 1.45p.m in the Conference Room, you can attend a training and information session that focuses on key areas of learning in our school. The list of PET topics for each term is displayed on your child’s classroom door, advertised on the school’s webpage and
communicated through twitter and text messages. Some of the topics this term included accessing Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress, Support a Talker, Student Digital Portfolios and Link- it! Next term there will be a focus on the teaching of reading and writing, accessing on-line permission forms as per our paperless school’s journey and understanding criteria rubrics.

**Official opening**

This week Councillor Bob La Castra officially opened our new school playground. Morning tea was hosted by our School Captains, Vice Captains and Music Captains who also assisted in the setting up of the audience area. This venture has taken a number of years to come to fruition and with the hard work of the P&C and assistance from Gold Coast City Council the large project has been realised. The playground is designed for use by Stage B (Yrs 2/3) at recess and lunch playtimes and can be accessed by other classes for fitness activities during school hours.

*Councillor Bob La Castra, flanked by our School Leaders, addresses students at the Official Opening of the new playground.*

**Family comes first**

Mrs Sarah Holden recently shared with me that she would like to organise her work life so that she can spend more quality time with her daughter who has just started Prep at a school in the area where Mrs Holden and her family live. Although Mrs Holden advised me that she is very happy at Ashmore, we all know how hard it is when one works long hours and has the competing responsibility of caring for children particularly when they are very young. With this in mind, I’m sure that, although you will be sad to see Mrs Holden leave us, you totally understand her decision. To assist students to make a smooth transition from one teacher to another Mrs Holden will commence at her new school where her daughter is enrolled, before the school holidays and subsequently her class (6A) will have their new teacher, Mrs Kate Palen working with them before the holidays. Many of you would know Mrs Palen following her work as Resource Centre teacher these past few weeks. I thank Mrs Holden
for her dedication to her students and the many other projects she has been involved in at our school including Travel Smart, Parent Coffee Club and Kids Matter. Sarah, on behalf of Ashmore State School community I wish you every success and happiness.

**Congratulations and thank you**

This week The Annual General Meeting of the Ashmore State School P&C took place. This was a time to celebrate the efforts of the 2013 P&C in working to build community and provide resources for our students. It was also the time for the election of Office Bearers. I wish to sincerely thank the 2013 P&C Executive for the manner in which they have ably led the many fundraising initiatives, participated in school events and dedicated their precious time to help make our school a better place. To the newly elected Executive, I congratulate you on behalf of the Ashmore School community and warmly welcome Mr Ron Odle as P&C President, Mrs Alana George and Ms Jodi McLeod as Vice Presidents, Mrs Erin O'Shea, our newly appointed secretary and Mrs Chelsea O'Neill who steps in as our new treasurer. Mrs Bindi Moore and Mr Ivan Russell continue in the important role of QCPCA representatives. I look forward to working with the new team this year and I know that the former executive is readily on hand to provide guidance and support.

**Giving to our school**

We all know that time is a precious commodity particularly at weekends which are often times for catching up with family and friends. Hence, I am greatly appreciative of our parents and community member, Judy of Ashmore Community Gardens, who gave up their time to participate in our first Working Bee of the year. Although small in number they were big on energy and heart, rejuvenating the aboriginal garden and teaching the children present about correct practices in horticulture - a learning experience coupled with a lovely social experience. Thank you to Mrs Elida Alvarez for providing morning tea.

*Clive Whittington and Louise Ware smiling through the hard work and hot weather!*

**Thought for the fortnight:**

“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.” *DeAnn Hollis; Volunteer Administrators Network*
Margaret James

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- LEIGH JOSEY

Prep Easter Hat Parade

Date Claimer – Tuesday 1 April (in the last week of term) at 2:20 pm

After the lunch break, our Prep students will dress in their Easter hats (made in class). The students will march single file up the ramp to the Tuckshop. They will then parade to the Mall, past Year 5 and then walk towards the Hall past 2B and 2C. Each class will then parade on stage, before sitting as they do for Assembly. We will then sing three Easter songs together.

If you do not wish your Prep child to participate, please let your child’s teacher know, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- AMANDA FRY


These girls will now start learning their routine every Tuesday lunch time. Rehearsals will increase as we get closer to Eisteddfod. Parents will a letter shortly outlining the commitment to Dance for 2014.

Congratulations to the following boys who are the members of our first ever All Boys Dance Team. They will begin practice every Thursday lunch time. Their parents will also receive a letter shortly with details for Dance 2014.

Our Senior Dance Team will start their rehearsals in week 8 when Interschool Sports tryouts begin.

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 will be implementing 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

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking Account Opening Day

The Commonwealth Bank School Banking Program is at Ashmore SS. To help get your child involved we will have representatives from the Commonwealth Bank visit the school on:

WEDNESDAY 26th March 8am - 9am AND 2.15 – 3.15pm

Outside the TUCK SHOP

Staff will be available to help complete the application form required to open a Youthsaver account for your child so they can participate in the School Banking program.

- Please ensure you bring along photo identification such as a valid driver’s licence or passport for yourself.
- No identification is required for your child as the school will confirm their identity.
- Siblings are welcome to participate, however you will need to bring along their birth certificate or passport.
- If you can’t make it to school this morning you can visit your nearest Commonwealth Bank Branch with both your and your child’s identification.

School Banking is every FRIDAY

This is a great fundraiser for our school. We receive $5 for every Activated Account via the School Banking program (i.e. for each student who banks through the school’s program for the very first time) and we match 5% of every deposit made at school (up to a maximum of $10 commission per individual deposit).
GUIDANCE OFFICER- CARLA LOUHNANE

The Act of Giving

One of the key factors in teaching our children to be resilient (to bounce back in times of hardship) is through:

‘Developing responsibility, compassion and social awareness by providing opportunities where your child can contribute or give back to others.’

‘Raising Resilient Children’ by R. Brooks and S. Goldstein

We are all social beings. No matter how hard we might try to seek isolation, or how high the fences we build, our lives are shared by others – family, friends, and community. Children learn from an early age about the ‘act of giving’ through watching their parents give to them or others. Unfortunately though, our children may not learn that they also have the capability of giving to others and that life isn’t just about receiving. Such thinking creates selfishness and the idea that ‘I’ am the only important person.

When you educate children regarding giving, you teach them about caring for others, compassion, and taking responsibility for those less fortunate. You also will teach that ‘everyone’ is important and we all have a responsibility to protect others in our community and world.

Most kids can readily relate to other children who are hurting. Try preparing a list of ‘ways we can give to others’.

Here are some ideas:

- Ask a child to choose an item of clothing or a toy that he or she no longer uses, to donate to charities for children that have few clothes and perhaps no toys at all.
- When you do your weekly grocery shopping, ask each of your children to pick out an item or two to donate to the local food charity.
- Get your child to make gifts for friends rather than expecting mum to purchase a gift.
- As children get a little older, they can begin giving a small percentage of allowance or savings to charity.
- Look for a charity started by children, and share the information with your children. If you also make ‘giving’ a priority children will learn to give cheerfully.
- Sponsor a child in a poor country
- If you can’t give financially you and your kids can still offer your time. You may even want to start a fundraiser, and donate the proceeds to a favourite local charity. There are many fundraising opportunities and your child's class might even want to participate.

For more information visit www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking or contact the office.
No matter how large or small the effort, instilling a sense of charity will teach children to care about others, to give willingly and become kind and compassionate human beings.

Carla Loughnane

Guidance Officer

FROM THE IT DESK

COMING SOON ...

The IT team and Mr Ron Odle have been working together to bring you forms that you can complete directly online either on your computer, tablet or mobile device.

In a nutshell this means you will soon be able to open a document, say Year 4 Camp permission slip, complete the form, digitally sign it then press submit and the form will be sent via email to the school. No need to print the form and fill in by hand and bring to school, just simply fill it in and click submit.

When you open an online form you will see that certain fields will have a red border, these are required fields and you must enter information in these fields if asked to do so before you can submit the document.

Any form that requires a parent signature can now be signed digitally using a digital signature that can be placed right in the form. Digital signatures are law abiding and can be easily created on your computer or mobile device.

The majority of our online forms will now be in PDF format and you will need Acrobat Reader to view and complete the documents. Acrobat Reader is a free program that works on all platforms and can be easily downloaded and installed on your device.

We realise for some this might all be a bit daunting, so we are offering a Parent Education Tuesday (PET) in Term 2 on how to create your own digital signature, downloading Adobe and anything to do with completing our forms online.

Please keep an eye out for the date.

Ian Duncan, Denita Boler and Leigh Hering

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

The annual K's 4 Kids Fundraising Walk is being held on Saturday 24th May to raise funds for Gold Coast Chaplaincy programs. The choices are:

30km starting at 7a.m. at Southport Surf Saving Club
20km starting at 9a.m. from Don Macsween Park, Miami

10km starting at 10:30a.m. from Palm Beach Parklands

3.5km starting at midday from Bilinga Surf Lifesaving Club

To register or donate online, go to www.ks4kids.org.au

Easter camps are being run by Scripture Union Queensland for Years 5 to 7. Go to suqld.org.au for more information or collect a brochure from my office.

Marg Potter - Chaplain

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS DESK...March

**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.
**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 may need to meet specific qualification standards and 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 notices each morning.

Upcoming Trial Dates will be preceded by a school trial the week before:

- District Rugby League (U12) – 5 March
- District AFL – 12 & 19 March
- District Basketball – 13 & 18 March
- District Soccer – 19 & 20 March
- District Hockey – 25 March

**Gold Coast North AFL - CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Max P, Rhys M and Christopher G on being shortlisted for the Gold Coast North AFL Team. Well done boys and good luck at the next level of trials.

**Gold Coast North Soccer - CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Zac B and Noah C on being shortlisted for the Gold Coast North Soccer Team. Well done and good luck at the next level of trials.

**Fitter, Faster, Stronger** – or Running Club, started several weeks ago. We have had amazing student and parental turnout. Fitter is where kilometres travelled will be recorded, faster is learning sprint techniques so that students can learn to run faster, and stronger is circuit training. Each session will be held from 8:00am to 8:40am on the oval. Students from all grades and parents are welcome to attend. New participants are always welcome. Thank you to all parent and teacher volunteers. Your help is greatly appreciated.


**Upcoming School Sporting Events:**

- Ashmore Cross Country Carnival – 30 April, Term 2, Week 2
- Ashmore Track and Field Carnival – Term 3, Week 1

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

CHOIR NEWS

Our choirs have been working very hard this term to prepare for their upcoming events.

First performances are for the choirs listed below:

Mezzo Choir (Year 4 and 5)
Voice Fusion 1
Thursday, 3 April
7:45am – 3:30pm
Senior Choir (Year 6 and 7)
ANZAC Day
Thursday, 24 April
9:30am

I have been encouraging the children to practice their songs at home to make sure they are ready to “SHINE”!

THE UKE GROUP

Every Wednesday at morning tea, some students have been learning how to play the ukulele! Only limited numbers can attend. If you are interested, please talk to Miss Dart.

Term 1 – Year 7
Term 2 – Year 6
Term 3 – Year 5
Term 4 – Year 4

Miss Dart

P & C NEWS

ASHMORE SS CAR BOOT SALE! The P&C is going to be running Car Boot Sales this year in our carpark.

Our first one will be on:

Saturday 22 March
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.

The P&C will need help on the day to run the Sausage Sizzle – if you can assist, please call Ivan on 0401813149. Thank you!!

END OF TERM SAUSAGE SIZZLE – 4 APRIL: 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 1 April.

If you can spare some time to help on the day of our Sausage Sizzle then sign-up here at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0848AEAA22A4FB6-1stterm

Thank you!!

LOST PROPERTY – Lost Property is now being held in the storage shelves in the Disabled Toilets – you can call into the office and collect the key anytime and have a look – or a member of the P&C will be there:

Friday mornings from 8.30 – 9.00am

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.

Ashmore P&C

pandc@ashmoress.eq.edu.au

QUEENSLAND HEALTH

Child, Youth & Family Health

Gold Coast Hospital & Health Service

43 Nerang Street(PO Box206)
17th March, 2014

Dear Parent/Caregiver

Now that your child has commenced Prep it is important to ensure that he/she has the maximum opportunity to learn. One of **THE MOST** important things you can do to support this is take your child to an optometrist for a comprehensive eye examination.

If children cannot see well, they cannot reach their full learning potential. Children often assume that how they see is normal and will therefore not comment or complain. However, one in ten children suffers from a long-term eye disorder. Early detection and treatment is vital, not only to maximise their ability to learn but, in some cases, to prevent permanent vision loss.

From birth until about 6 years of age, vital connections are formed between a child’s eyes and brain. Anything that blocks or blurs vision in one or both eyes may then inhibit or block the development of these connections. This can cause the brain to not fully recognize the images seen by one or both eyes. When this happens, the brain begins to ignore or suppress the images seen by the otherwise healthy eye, and the eye becomes weaker, losing vision strength (acuity). This eye is then referred to as "amblyopic" or “lazy”. This can result in permanent vision loss if not corrected.

**Don’t put it off** – have your child’s vision tested by a qualified Optometrist as soon as possible. A thorough vision check takes about half an hour and attracts a Medicare rebate (most optometrists bulk-bill consultations but please check when making an appointment). No referral is required and you will find an Optometrist in all major shopping centres, with some offering weekend appointments. It’s a good idea to make an appointment for a time when your child is more likely to be relaxed and happy and not frustrated or tired, such as first thing in the morning.

Remember, don’t wait until you think there could be a problem with your child’s eyes – **act now!** Regular reviews are also recommended as children’s eye health and vision can change rapidly as they grow. For further information regarding ways to protect your child’s vision please refer to the Optometrist Association Australia website: [http://www.optometrists.asn.au/your-eyes/your-child%27s-eyes/resources-for-parents.aspx](http://www.optometrists.asn.au/your-eyes/your-child%27s-eyes/resources-for-parents.aspx)

Yours faithfully

Community Child Health Services
Children’s vision and eye health

More than 80% of a child's learning is vision-based. Recent research has found that as many as one in ten Australian children have some form of long-term vision problem which can impact on their ability to learn. Children are often unable to recognise they have a vision problem because it develops over time and they’re unable to sense this change. Outward signs of vision problems may include excessive blinking, squinting or rubbing eyes. Children may also demonstrate behaviours such as losing their place when reading; using fingers to follow words in a book (not for a new reader); crooked writing or poor spacing between words; covering or closing one eye to read; holding a book very close; or tilting their head to view things.

The most common vision problems are those affecting children’s ability to see clearly and sharply. Short- and long-sightedness and astigmatism are perhaps the better known conditions, and are usually correctable. Some other problems not so well known include poor eye co-ordination, turned eye, poor hand/eye coordination, eye movement defects, and difficulties focusing. Early detection and treatment is vital, not only to maximise children’s ability to learn but, in some cases, to prevent permanent vision loss.

The Optometrists Association Australia recommends children have their vision assessed at 6 months of age, 3 years of age, again at 5 years of age, and then every two years thereafter. These consultations are covered under Medicare and more than 95% of optometrists bulk-bill. You don’t need a referral to see an optometrist – just telephone for an appointment.

Apart from regular optometrist assessments, here are some tips to support children to maintain their eye health:

- Encourage them to read in a room with good and even lighting and take regular breaks;
- Minimise UV exposure by having them stay out of the sun between 10 am and 3 pm and wear sunglasses and a broad brimmed hat when outdoors;
- When watching TV ensure even room lighting and do not allow them to sit in a completely dark room;
- Limit computer sessions to less than two hours, ensure the top of the monitor is at or slightly below eye level, and encourage them to regularly look away from the computer screen;
- For video games, encourage children to sit as far back from the TV as the leads allow.

For further information about children’s vision or to find your nearest optometrist, please refer to the Optometrists Association Australia website: http://www.optometrists.asn.au/your-eyes/your-child%27s-eyes/resources-for-parents.aspx
Wednesday 26th March

3:30-6:30pm

<Entry via The Enterprise Centre in Lionel Ave)

All families in our community are invited to attend.

For more information please contact 5509 1222

KEEBRA PARK HIGH SCHOOL

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW

KARATE

Karate Now Open

New Members Welcome

- Mon, Wed at Ashmore S.S Dance studio
- Saturday at Benowa S.S Hall

Start time: 5:30pm Wed 2nd April at Ashmore S.S

(Free Lesson & Free Pizza!)

Opening Month's special—First 3 lesson Free

For more information please contact Koki Takano sensei (Japanese instructor)

0432 956 644
takanodojo.com

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

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