21st February 2014

From the Principal's Desk
Deputy Principal - Leigh Josey

Chaplain's Chat
Deputy Principal - Amanda Fry

BSM
Twitter

Banking
Sports News

Guidance Officer
P & C

Responsible Behaviour Plan
Brain Development Centre

Get Started Program
Keebra Park High School

Resource Centre
Fox's Real Estate

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

At Ashmore State School our staff regularly reflects upon our Moral Purpose as educators. A sense of moral purpose helps us decide what is and isn’t important, and so helps us make informed decisions about what we continually need to do to help our students achieve their aspirations.

Michael Fullan is a Canadian educational researcher and former Dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. In his books regarding Moral Purpose he states that the role of schools is to make a positive difference in their students’ lives, and thus we must be motivated by a desire to improve the life chances of young people. Hence when we consider the way in which we teach the children in our care it must be based on well informed, evidence based research and reason. Although we are not making any major changes to the philosophy of how we teach and learn at Ashmore we are continually aiming to improve our approach because we should not be satisfied with being a high performing school. We must be aspirational and strive to be an internationally high performing school. We want our students to ‘play on the world stage’.

I thank all of our staff for continually striving to improve the way we do businesses at Ashmore. The students’ progress is evidence of that commitment to Moral Purpose by all of our Ashmore team.

**Parent Information Evening**

I trust parents and carers who attended our recent information evenings gained an insight into the direction the school is taking. Again, not a lot is changing but rather we continue to review and refine. Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or a member of the administration team if you require additional information or wish to discuss a matter of concern to you. It is always a good idea however to make an appointment so that adequate time can be set aside for you to ensure all of your questions are answered.

**The Power of Social Networking.**

In today’s world, people regularly stay in contact via social networking in one form or another. This can be very beneficial in so many ways if used appropriately and ethically. However when used in an inappropriate manner it can be hurtful and sometimes damaging to a person’s reputation and their health and well-being. I recently read an article where the writer referred to such detrimental use of ICT as ‘Faceless Book’ – a instrument used by those in our world who cowardly and mischievously hide behind the social networking tool to malign others, rally support against people for their own self-interest or bully to get their own way – sometimes using false names and network addresses. To this end our ICT team continually reminds our students of the importance of using such tools sensitively and ethically. The team also delivers those ever important lessons about cyber safety. If, as parents and carers, you also keep a close watch on what is happening with your computers at home, and indeed model such ethical behaviors, we can then safely say that we are working together to ensure that no-one at Ashmore is the victim of ‘Faceless Book’.

**Welcome to New Staff**

On behalf of Ashmore State School I warmly welcome Mrs. Lee Fanning as our ESL Teacher Aide. Mrs. Fanning will be working within our international student program and also with our current ESL students. Lee has many years’ experience in this field and we are fortunate to have her working with us. We also welcome back Ms Natasha Fisher who is teaching Prep B.

Thought for the fortnight:

“Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring and integrity, they think of you.” H. Jackson Brown Jr, Author

*MARGARET JAMES*

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- LEIGH JOSEY**

**New Prep Class**
This is the fourth year in a row, that our Prep enrolments have grown significantly over the holidays and leading into the first weeks of the school year. Yet again, this has meant that we were able to establish a fifth Prep class. This fifth class, Prep B, began on Monday. Welcome Prep B. They have had a wonderful first week together with all children settling in beautifully. We would like to welcome Prep B’s teacher, Ms Natasha Fisher, who taught Year 1 at Ashmore in 2013. It has been great to see that once more, so many families have chosen Ashmore as the school for their children. Prep to Year Three now have five classes each.

**Prep Chicken Hatching Note**

Prep parents please visit the school’s website (click on “News” at bottom left) or the Prep’s EdStudio, for the note about chicken hatching. You will need to print off the permission section and return it. Payment options are outlined on the note.

**Year 4 Tallebudgera Day Camp Note**

Year 4 parents please visit the school’s website (“Co-curricular” tab at top) or the Year 4’s EdStudio, to access the permission form for this upcoming day camp. Payment options are outlined on the note.

**Prep Families and Students**

*Please keep this sheet in a safe place for future reference.*

Welcome to a new and exciting way to interact with your child’s classroom at home. Ashmore State School is now offering access to an up-to-date and informative online resource *EdStudio*. The page will include many aspects of your child’s curriculum and classroom events (e.g. chicken hatching permission note).

Access can be gained following these steps.

2. Click on Student space

![EdStudio Image]

3. Enter your child’s school computer Logon ID and Password (in their homework folder)
4. Enter our Access Key s28391867 and you will be directed to our own page. Have Fun!!

Please see your child’s teacher if you have any queries or concerns.

Regards,

Wendy Gerns, Sheena Setaro, Helen Cox, Natasha Fisher and Kate Madden (Prep 2014 Teachers).

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- AMANDA FRY

The first round of auditions for our Junior Girls and All Boys Dance Teams was overwhelming. With over 300 girls from Years Prep to 4 coming to their audition and close to 200 boys from all year levels busting out some moves – it was a very exciting couple of lunch hours. Auditions will continue for the next couple of weeks until all students have had opportunities to be seen and selected. We were very fortunate to have the talents of Miss Greta and Ms Shepherd from Southport State High School assist us with the boys’ session. This is one of the many benefits of our involvement with the Southport SHS Learning Precinct. Once the teams have been selected then lunchtime rehearsals will begin and more information will be available on the school Website.

The Senior Dance team for girls years 5 to 7 will begin as soon as the Interschool Sports program commences in Week 8. We are having a slight change to Senior Dance team this year. All students who nominate Dance as their chosen sport option will learn the dance routine but not all girls will be selected to perform at serious competitions such as Gold Coast Eisteddfod. It is very difficult to compete at this high level of competition with an
'unauditioned' team. There may be other events such as 'Danc-ed in the Spotlight', at which the whole team will perform.

BUSINESS SERVICE MANAGER- MRS PETA DONOGHUE

FACILITIES

Sign writing – We are having some sign writing placed around the school. The first ones to go up will be on the wall facing the Deputy’s offices and it will have the ‘Kids Matter’ logo put up. It will also go on the wall next to Mrs Josey’s window. The second one will be the Ashmore State School Values which will be going up on the blank wall of the music block facing the tuckshop.

New Middle School Playground

An update on our playground is we have laid some turf around the edges of the playground and are waiting for it to take hold before we let any students on the playground. It will probably be another 2 weeks minimum.

New Guttering

The new guttering has commenced and will take around 3 weeks to complete. Please be careful around these areas and remind your children of the changes and to be safe at all times.

Ashmore Community Garden – this is a fantastic opportunity for the students, parents and staff to get involved in something fun (and healthy) together. The organisers meet at the school every Tuesday morning from 8am – 10am and they attend to the gardens that have been installed up behind the demountables at the back of the school. When you get a chance have a look as they look amazing and if you get involved you are able to sample the produce and use in your own kitchens at home!

Without volunteers the gardens will not survive so please if you are able to help out it would be greatly appreciated.

Staff Carpark Sign

You will all have noticed at some point the Staff Car Park Sign (See above). Please take special notice of the writing that says “NO PEDESTRIAN ACCESS”. Please DO NOT walk your children through the carpark at any time as this is a safety issue.

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 cooperation 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 myself or Kate Grevett on P:56561333

**Messages for your children.**

As stated in previous newsletters, it can be extremely difficult to give students personal messages from parents during the school day, so to alleviate this issue we have 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

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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- CARLA LOUGHNANE**

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**FAMILY SQUABBLES**
Parents often worry about brothers and sisters quarrelling. A certain amount of quarrelling is normal for children in families. It is one of the ways that they learn how to get on with other people. Quarrelling can be positive. Sometimes, however, you will need to step in when tempers become frayed and you can see that things are getting out of control.

**What causes quarrelling?**

**Learning to get on with others**

Arguments between brothers and sisters are one of the ways that children learn to respect other people’s belongings and feelings. It is one of the ways children learn to solve problems. Learning to argue fairly and without hurting each other will help them get on with others.

**Parents’ attention**

Children in families also fight about parents’ love and attention. To children love means time and attention. Young children do require more attention, but allocating time to an older child is just as important and will make for better relationships all round.

**Health**

When feeling unwell resistance can be low for coping with adversity. We may be more sensitive to comments and less able to manage our own emotions.

**What parents can do**

**Here are some steps you can take to help lessen quarrels.**

- Protect the needs of each child, for example prevent older children’s activities from being interfered with by younger children and vice versa.
- Spend special time with each child on a regular basis.
- Allow each child to own some special things of their own that they don’t have to share. For younger children, see that there are more than one of the same toys, such as matchbox cars, so that they can play together without having to share. Two second hand tricycles are often better fun than one new one that has to be shared. If you have three children make sure that the same one is not left out every time.
- Invite other children over – children learn social skills through exposure and practise
- Children need their own bit of space which will not be interfered with by others, even if it is only a drawer.
- Try not to compare children with each other - this always leads to bad feelings.
- Be generous with hugs and affection to all your children.
- Make ground rules. Get your children to help you make some rules about what behaviour is not allowed in your home, for example name calling or hitting. Then if you have to step in, you do so because someone has broken a rule, not to take sides.
- When you can see that children are feeling upset, help them to find ways to express their feelings by talking about feelings. Play that helps with feelings includes water play, painting and playdough. For older
children and adolescents it may be something like going for a run or playing their music. Talk with them about what helps.

- Maintain good health - Healthy active children may exhibit greater tolerance / resilience and manage their emotions more appropriately when needed.

Children need adults to teach them how to solve problems, and while squabbles may be annoying and stressful they also may be the means of teaching resilience as well as developing skills for managing relationships throughout our lives.

*Adapted from `Parenting SA`,

*Government of South Australia*

*Carla Loughnane*

*Guidance Officer*

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**ASHMORE STATE SCHOOL RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR PLAN**

Please see the attached link for detailed information regarding the Ashmore State School Responsible Behaviour Plan and expectations regarding student behaviour across the school.


The Responsible School Behaviour Plan can be found on the Ashmore SS website.

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**GET STARTED PROGRAM FOR PARENTS**

appropriate details are completed in the payment detail box and all orders have your child’s name and class clearly marked. Scholastic give out an 11 digit receipt number and this is also written in the same details box.

Upon receipt of books from Scholastic orders are collated and delivered to your child’s classroom.

If parents are purchasing books for special occasions, please supply a contact number and we’ll contact you to arrange pickup from the Resource Centre.

If you have any queries don’t hesitate to contact our friendly library staff.

School App

If you want to keep up to date with everything happening in our school we strongly advise parents to use the QSchools app. It is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information from and about schools.

To download the app either check out our website for the links or go straight to iTunes store and Google Play.

While all schools are searchable using the app, the full app features are designed to integrate with the department's preferred school website platform, to allow users to see when news, events and newsletters are posted to their selected school website. Users can also see other useful information provided by the school, such as tuckshop menus, uniform shop information, class times and the school's and the department's social media feeds.

The school community can also receive emergency announcements such as natural disasters and school closures through the app.

School Website

We create a “News” item whenever new information is uploaded to our website. If you're looking for specific information or forms, use the “Search” function on the top right hand corner in the website.

CHAPLAIN’S CHAT

I have appreciated the large number of parents who have already purchased the R.E. activity books for their children. This is a reminder for students without a book that the last day to buy these books is Friday 28th February. I am always looking for new R.E. teachers, so if you know anyone who attends a local Christian church, please let me know.
Do your children fight with each other a lot? I have a program called “Siblings you’re stuck with each other, so stick together.” If you think this may help your family members, contact me at school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays.

Marg Potter - Chaplain

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS DESK...February

**Interschool Sport** – Ashmore State School will be participating in the Gold Coast North District Interschool Sports Gala Days. These Monday competitions are scheduled to be held on 19 May, 26 May, 2 June and 16 June. Approximate cost will be $40 per student. Students have been requested to nominate their sports preferences and trials will commence 17 March on Monday afternoon.

**Gold Coast North Trials** – Students who wish to be selected in Gold Coast North representative sporting teams must be selected and 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 and information will also be given via student notices. Gold Coast North Trials for term 1 are Cricket, Swimming, Netball, Tennis, Rugby League, Basketball, A.F.L., Soccer
and Hockey. Term 2 GCN sports trials are Touch, Softball, Rugby Union and Golf. Term 3 GCN sports trials will be Athletics.

GCN Swimming Trials are on 18 February and we wish our competitors Shaye G, Amy J and Jacob G the best of luck for the trials.

GCN Netball Trials are on 20 February and we wish Mackenna B, Alyssandra S and Tia S the best of luck for these trials also.

**Fitter, Faster, Stronger** – or simply, Running Club has commenced for 2014. Fitter is where kilometres travelled will be recorded. Faster is learning sprint techniques so that students can learn to run faster and attendance will be recorded. Stronger is circuit training and attendance will be recorded. Each session will be held from 8am to 8:40am on the oval. Students from all grades and parents are welcome to attend.

Mon – Fitter, Tues – Faster, Wed – Stronger, Thurs – Fitter, Friday – Faster. I hope to see you there.

Mr Mallyon

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**P & C NEWS**

**P&C AGM MEETING:** The Annual General Meeting of Ashmore State School P&C will be held this year on **Monday 17th March at 6.15pm in the Carmichael Centre.** It is here that you can be a part of an exciting school community and have input into the wonderful events that we have coming up this year such as Mother’s and Father’s Day stalls, Trivia Night, Sports Day Carnival and our big fundraiser for this year, the Cadbury Chocolate Drive in May. All these fundraising events go towards providing 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 a member of the P&C, then please come along to the AGM and fill out an application form.
**PREP PLAYGROUND UPGRADE** – Now that our Middle School Playground is completed, the major goal for this year’s P&C is the upgrade of the Prep playground. The grounds have become very eroded, and as the area is heavily used, the grass is very difficult to grow, and the playground becomes very dusty. This is causing problems for our students and teachers, especially if they suffer from asthma.

After much research, the best solution is to excavate and level the area, and put down a good quality Astro Turf. This is quite a major expense, and the P&C will be applying for grants where possible. However, if you would like to make a donation towards this worthy project, you are able to make a *Voluntary Contribution* on Flexischools.com – or by cash directly to the P&C at the tuckshop. We would very much appreciate your support.

**GARDEN/WORKING BEE** – This year one of our wonderful Parent Reps, Clive Whittington, is overseeing a ‘Once a Term’ Working Bee here in the grounds of the school. This will be held on:

*Sunday 9 March*

8.00am – 12.00

If you can please bring gardening tools/outdoor cleaning tools it would be much appreciated. The P&C is providing a FREE Sausage Sizzle. Come along and have a great time helping your school for our children.

**ATTENTION LOCAL COMPANIES! – SPORTS SHIRTS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY:**

We are requesting sponsorship for Sports Shirts for our School teams. All of our teams listed below play in the Gold Coast North District competition. At present we have very out-dated shirts, of mixed colours, hence our students do not have access to co-ordinated team shirts. We are aware that sponsorship is often sought and there is only so much money available. Bearing this in mind we would like to make you aware of the following sponsorship opportunities:

We have made contact with suppliers directly and can currently obtain fully sublimated shirts, which are of good quality and should last at least 7 years. At a cost of $1,000 your company can sponsor a Sport in our school, and have your Logo and Company Name across the back of each shirt. The Sports Teams are:

1. Athletics – 45 team members
2. Netball – 5 teams of 12
3. AFL – 2 teams of 20
4. Rugby – 3 teams of 17
5. Soccer – 5 teams of 14
6. Touch Football – 4 teams of 12
7. Hockey – 3 teams of 14
Please call Simone or Ron in the P&C office on 56561367/0402029279 or email on shell24@eq.edu with any enquiries, or to send in your nomination for this exciting opportunity.

**ASHMORE STATE SCHOOL 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!!

*Ashmore P&C*

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

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**BRAIN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**
The Gold Coast Brain Development Centre is open.

Gold Coast clinical psychologist Dr Christine Salisbury will offer a new approach to child development in 2014, offering an alternative for parents whose children and adolescents are not achieving at their expected peak academic performance or have learning difficulties.

The Gold Coast Brain Development Centre provides training designed to improve the brain’s ability to acquire knowledge and learning skills by enhancing the Working Memory. A competent working memory is required in order to learn new information and to follow the flow of a conversation.

Working Memory is the mind’s workspace, it is the system which holds information active in the mind, keeping it available for further processing. It may be described as our brain’s RAM.

The evidence based training program which we employ, utilises the potential of the brain to create new neural pathways in order to improve working memory.

Children from 4 years of age, primary and high school students, can be trained to improve their working memory, utilising a revolutionary and fun based but challenging computer training program, which may be completed at our clinic under the supervision of a certified coach, or, alternatively, at school.

We also provide training for adults, who, by augmenting memory capacity, will also benefit from training.

For further information, please contact Dr Salisbury on
Phone: 07 5527 9886
Email: office@gcbrain.com.au
1/12 Carrara Street, Benowa QLD 4217

KEEBRA PARK HIGH SCHOOL

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