22nd Aug 2014

From the Principal's Desk
Deputy Principal- Leigh Josey
Deputy Principal- Amanda Fry
BSM
Banking
Guidance Officer
Kids Matter
Resource Centre

Sports News
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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This week all schools that engaged in the NAPLAN tests received their students' results. I am very pleased to announce that Ashmore State School has once again demonstrated that we are amongst the top performing schools. I offer my sincerest congratulations to our students and their teachers for this wonderful result. NAPLAN is just one testing instrument of many however it does provide us with valuable data regarding student achievement and progress at a given time. At Ashmore State School we supplement this information with other creditable diagnostic and school based assessment throughout the year thus ensuring that all students are rigorously monitored in their progress and provided with the personalised learning opportunities they deserve.

My congratulations and appreciation also to our Performing Arts teachers and students who have been part of the Eisteddfod competition this past fortnight. The choirs, bands and instrumental musicians have stood proud to shine on the stage at Gold Coast Arts Centre spending their days and evenings representing our school. Music is an international language that brings fun and enjoyment to our lives in so many ways. Thank you to Miss Anna Dart, Mr. Justin Hart and Miss Hannah Williams for the work that you do in building a love of music within our children.

What a Fair!
Our busy fortnight included the exceptional Book Fair organised by Mrs. Leigh Hering and Mrs. Sandi Brown. Families visited our Resource Centre to view and share the many books on display. Many of our students took part in the Book Character parade where family talents were on display via imaginative and innovative design of the many book character costumes. Ashmore Staff was not to be left out of the celebrations! It was commonplace to see Red Riding Hood and the Paper Bag Princess teaching our classes together with Miss Daisy, Aladdin and The Twits. Lots of fun and laughter! And of course our P&C once again stepped in to help with the celebrations, organising food and drinks for the many visitors and adding to the atmosphere with their good cheer and humour.

Konnichiwa!

This week students and teachers from Fuso Town School in Japan spent three days with us engaging in specialised English lessons and participating in classroom activities. On Friday afternoon they shared many aspects of the Japanese culture with their class ‘buddies. A formal exchange of gifts took place and everyone enjoyed a rewarding cultural experience. Thank you once again to Mrs. Simone Hellsten who coordinated the visit and to our BSM, Peta Donohue and our Tuckshop team for ensuring that the facilities and celebrations were prepared. Please visit our Resource Centre to view the interesting gifts that the school receives from our many international visitors.

Thank you to our community

Our school community members are extremely important to the success of Ashmore State School. Genuine interest and concern about the operation of our school is welcomed. Our administration team invite your suggestions to help continually improve the manner in which we serve you and work with you. One area in which we continue to develop is that of on-line information. We anticipated that parent permission notes could be completed on-line by the end of Term 2. This has not been realised as we had hoped however our ICT team is working closely with departmental staff to have this facility available to you as soon as possible. In the meantime, I thank you for your patience and should you not have access to a printer or find the printing cost prohibitive please do not hesitate to inform the office staff. Thank you to our P&C members who have offered suggestions regarding on-line permission notices. I will keep you updated as we progress our efforts.

Kiss and Go!

This sign is located at the front of the school on Currumburra Road. It is a designated place for parents and carers to quickly deliver children safely to school and move on, thus relieving parking congestion. Please utilise this area in the manner in which it is intended. It is not a short or long term parking area – just simply Kiss and Go!

Thought for the fortnight.

“The first step in getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are.” Chauncey Depew

Warm Regards
Prep Enrolments for 2015 Welcome

If you have a child born between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010, they are eligible for Prep in 2015. Prep enrolments are now welcome. Enrolment packs can be obtained from our School Office between 8 am and 4 pm. When the forms are completed please ring me to make a time to meet. At this time I can answer any questions you may have. Please bring along your child’s birth certificate or passport for this meeting.

If you have friends, neighbours or relatives with children in this age group, please have them ring me to make a time to meet. Tours etc. can be arranged.

Please call me or come and see me if you would like, at any time, to discuss any matter or ask questions.
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- AMANDA FRY

WAKAKIRRI FINALS UPDATE

Just an update on details to hand for our upcoming Wakakirri Finals Performance. As we were the winner of the ‘Best Environmental Story’, we now go on to compete again at Logan Entertainment Centre for the title of ‘Best Story-Dance.’ We compete in Division 2 (for new or less experienced schools). There will be six other schools in our division.

As for like our first performance, we need to be at the Logan Entertainment Centre one hour before our scheduled rehearsal time. We will be leaving school at 1:00 p.m. The students will eat an early lunch before we leave. The evening performances will start at approx. 7:15 p.m. and conclude by approx. 9:45 p.m. This means our return time back to school will be approx. 10:15pm. All students will be travelling by bus to the Centre. On the return journey, students who have family in the audience will go home with their family. All other students will return to school by bus. Students are permitted to bring a phone which will be collected before leaving school and returned on the bus to enable students to contact parents should our return time be adjusted.

There is a cost involved with both the bus and the hire truck required to transport our props. To this end we are hoping to conduct some fund-raising activities in the next few weeks. This may include ice-cream days and fun competitions. Hopefully, this will mean no cost to parents. However, if our fundraising does fall short there may be some charge to parents. For this event we are asking the students to bring their own food for lunch, afternoon tea and dinner.

We are not permitted to change anything from our first performance. As in the heats, we do not know in what order we are performing – this is announced during the afternoon of rehearsals.

We were so thrilled with our results last time. We hope to emulate them again this time and be ‘Proud To Shine’ – as always.

Any questions can be directed to me on 5656 1333.

BUSINESS SERVICE MANAGER- MRS PETA DONOGHUE

FINANCE

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

NO MORE BPAY OPTION
We have had to remove the BPAY option from finance as there is only 1 BPAY reference attached to a family which makes it difficult when you have more than 1 child.

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

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

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE BPAY OPTION IN FUTURE

Permission Slips

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

Excursion Payments

Just a reminder, every excursion or school event that requires a payment to be made will have a set ‘DUE DATE’ that must be adhered to. If you have difficulties prior to the ‘DUE DATE’ making a payment, please do not hesitate to come and see me or someone in Admin to make other arrangements. We DO NOT accept any late payments after ‘DUE DATES’. If you pay over the internet please ensure that you make the payment 3 days prior to the due date to ensure that it clears in the schools bank account by the due date. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

GENERAL

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

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

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

Picking up children early – If you are intending to pick your child up early please do not call the office to get your child down to the office prior to you getting here. You need to come to the office to sign your child out and then we are able to get your child sent down.
**Absent/Sick Students** – If your child is going to be away on a particular day could you please ensure that you call the **Absent Line on (07) 5656 1360**. This will save you time as you can just leave a message and don’t have to talk to the office ladies or wait if the office is busy.

**Messages for your children** - As stated in previous newsletters. It can be extremely difficult to give students personal messages from parents during the school day, so to alleviate this issue we have implemented a cut off time of 2pm each day. If you require a message to be given to your child you will need to ensure that you phone the office prior to this time. Could you please advise your child of after school pick up times and locations prior to dropping them off at school as these seem to be the most common messages. If you contact the office after this time we will not be able to assist unless it is an emergency.

Many Thanks,

**Pete**

Business Services Manager

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**BANKING DETAILS**

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


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**GUIDANCE OFFICER - MICHELLE DAVIES**

**Seven Simple Parenting Strategies That Work**

If you’re a parent, then you are likely interested in finding ways to interact with your children that create a strong relationship, foster positive behaviour, and helps you respond to behavioural problems.

Take a look at any bookstore and the shelves will be full of advice. But figuring out which strategies are actually effective can be a challenge. The American Psychological Association was asked about the best research-based parenting strategies that showed effectiveness in improving behaviour, strengthening the bond between parents and children, and helping parents react to behavioural problems that arise.

The following seven empirically tested parenting strategies were the result.

1. **Praise.** Studies have shown that the behaviour that gets attention is the behaviour that you’ll get more of. Attention to undesired behaviour — often in the form of reprimands or punishment — will increase undesired behaviour. At the same time, specific, labeled praise of desired behaviours increase that
behaviour. Parents should not offer praise indiscriminately. Instead, parents should give specific feedback on exactly what the child did that the parent liked.

2. **Ignore Minor Misbehaviour.** If a misbehaviour is minor and not dangerous, ignore it. Ignoring when a toddler throws food on the floor or a pre-teen slams a door, while responding with attention when they ask nicely or express their feelings teaches the child that good behaviour is a reliable way to get attention.

3. **Understand Child Development.** Understanding developmental milestones can help a parent attend to and praise steps towards that milestone. Knowing a four-year old wants to please friends will make you more likely to praise their positive behaviour with friends. At the same time, understanding that young teens typically have concerns about body image, looks and clothes might make it easier to ignore all that extra time spent in front of the mirror.

4. **Do Time-Outs Right Along With Quality Time-In.** Brief and immediate time-outs have been shown to work best, particularly when paired with parents who are also modelling positive behaviours and praising good behaviour. Keeping calm — often a real challenge at the moment a misbehaviour is occurring! — and praising compliance makes time-outs more effective.

5. **Focus on Prevention of Misbehaviour.** Paying attention to when a child gets tired or hungry can prevent a large portion of meltdowns. Planning ahead and anticipating potential problems and teaching a child ways to cope with problems when they arise can even eliminate the need to use time-out.

6. **Take Care of Yourself First.** Children are negatively affected by parental stress, with 86 percent of children reporting that parental stress bothers them. It can seem nearly impossible when you’re busy with the demands of parenting, work and life, but it is essential to take time to exercise, maintain hobbies and connect with friends and partners.

   **Take Time and Do Nothing.** Spend time with your child (experts recommend 1 hour a week per child) doing nothing but being with them, acting interested in them, and expressing positive thoughts and feelings to them. Avoid teaching, inquiring, correcting or offering alternative perspectives.

At times, parenting can feel like you’re in in an airplane in turbulence in a thunderstorm and the oxygen masks have dropped. As with on a plane, when parenting it’s important to remain calm, put your oxygen mask on first — before you help your children and give specific instructions of what to do, with lots of positive feedback for good behaviour.


**KIDS MATTER**

We know that children tend to thrive when they have a true sense of belonging.

Our children all need to develop really strong, positive connections with the people around them - their friends, their family members, their school and their community. When children have these solid connections....... and when they feel they are understood and supported by others, they become better equipped to grow into happy, healthy and resilient young adults.

We all need to have warm and open communication channels with our children. We also need to work together to help them learn the skills they will need in order to form their own close, caring and supportive relationships.

We should remember that not all children are born with an innate ability to make friends easily. Many actually need our support and our encouragement in order to learn these types of skills. As they start to become more social, more outgoing and more considerate of the feelings of those around them, their personal confidence and self-esteem will certainly begin to grow. As they develop their ability to form new friendships and to really connect with other important people in their lives such as their relatives, teachers, sports coaches etc., their feelings of true belonging will continue to increase.

By becoming more connected, our children are actually strengthening their own well-being. They are also starting to build a kind of safety net that can help them to cope during those times when life can become more difficult. Connectedness has been shown to increase resilience. It strengthens our ability to bounce back after problems and difficult times.

No doubt this matters to you and it also matters to us because we at Ashmore are a KidsMatter school. KidsMatter is a whole-school approach that focuses on nurturing and supporting the well-being and academic achievement of all of our students. It takes a strong commitment from us all, but the benefits can be significant. Let’s all work together for the benefit of all our children.

RESOURCE CENTRE

BOOK FAIR

The Resource Centre would like to thank the school community for their support throughout the Book Fair. A huge thank you to Mrs Sealey for donating her time and helping out with the sales, as well as a number of staff members during their breaks, before and after school. We would like to thank Woolworths, Ashmore Plaza for a donation of vegetables used in our...
book display which accompanied Stanley the Scarecrow. Sales have been running hot and due to everyone’s support, we are able to purchase more resources for our school. It just goes to show reading and the love of books is alive and well in Ashmore!

**Donation**

We would also like to thank Trinity College for donating a class set of new Oxford Dictionaries.

**Premier's Reading Challenge**

All completed and signed forms need to be handed back to the Resource Centre no later than 5th September. Any forms received after this date will not be eligible for a signed certificate.

**NEWS FROM THE SPORTS DESK...August**

**Swimming:** Ashmore will be offering swimming lessons through the PE program again this year. The lessons will be at City Pools Nerang and transportation will be by bus. Swimming is a required component of the PE curriculum. The lessons will be scheduled during Weeks 8 to 10 of Term 3 in September. The permission forms are available online. Cost is $40 for the week, including lessons and bus travel. The proposed timetable is attached below.
**Gold Coast North District Track and Field Trials:**

Congratulations to Michellie P who has qualified to represent Gold Coast North at the South Coast Track and Field Trials on Tuesday 2 September.

Could all students who borrowed school uniforms for these days please return them to Mr Mallyon.

**Fitter, Faster, Stronger (a.k.a. Running Club) -** 8:00am to 8:30am. Students from all grades and their parents are welcome to attend. New participants are always welcome. Bring a change of clothes if you wish.

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

Please contact Mr Mallyon(PE/Sports Teacher) if you have any questions about any of the sport information.

**GIFTED AND TALENTED**
These school holidays, G.A.T.E.WAYS has invited gifted and talented children to the ‘Gold Coast Festival of Workshops’. Parents can enrol directly in a G.A.T.E.WAYS Festival of Workshops. Festivals are special programs offering a large range of workshops running concurrently over two days, with the emphasis on challenge and fun. Students studying chemistry might make bath bombs or the easily broken glass from a Hollywood movie set; those for a passion for language might solve cryptic crosswords or participate in a feisty Slam Poetry competition; others might experience the passion of Latin American dance or uncover the mystery of magic tricks. All Festival details and enrolment procedures can be found on the Ashmore State School website.

On another note, this week we have 3 teams competing in the Opti-MINDs challenge. These students have worked tirelessly over the last 6 weeks building a space elevator. I wish these three groups the best of luck for this weekend!

**CHAPLAIN’S CHAT**

Congratulations to all our amazing students who are participating in the Eisteddford competitions. You have been truly proud to shine for our school, as you practise, attend the actual competitions, and accept the results in the Ashmore way. We are all very proud of you and our music staff for your dedication and commitment. Well done!!

I really want to express my HUGE appreciation to all those who have donated breakfast cereals to our Wednesday morning breakfast club. Your generosity has been overwhelming and very much appreciated. On behalf of all our brekky club students, thank you!

Are you interested in your children attending camps over the next school vacation? Scripture Union always has camps running in every holiday period. Please see me for a brochure if interested, or have a look at camps available in the September break on my office window in the Student Services building.

Marg Potter - Chaplain

**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER**
P & C NEWS

PREP TEA TOWELS - 2014 Prep Tea Towels can now be ordered in tuckshop - $12 each. Orders must be placed by 30 August please.

DROP AND GO ZONE – Parents please be considerate to other users of the ‘Kiss and Go Area’ on Currumburra Road as it has come to our attention that some parents are parking their cars in this area during the busy drop off time in the morning. This area is strictly a drop and go zone with a two minute limit. There are parking areas in the public car park attached to the school on Currumburra Road or alternatively cars can be parked across the road from the school or even by the soccer club along Mualla Drive with a short walk to the school. Repeat offenders will have a warning notice placed on their vehicle and if they persist then we will have no hesitation in informing the local council of their behaviour.

ASHMORE SS CAR BOOT SALE – Come and get a Bargain!!

Saturday August 30th

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 Ron Odle, our P&C President, he is contactable on 0422798458. The P&C will be running a Sausage Sizzle.

**GARDEN WORKING BEE –**

*Come for an hour*

*From 8.00am Sat Aug 30th*

*Helper Sausage Sizzle*

This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to help (especially if you’re working through the week). We have beautiful grounds at the school, however they do need quite a bit of work! For catering purposes, let’s know at shell24@eq.edu.au if you can make it.

**Father’s Day Stall** - The P&C will be running the annual Father’s Day stall this year on Wed 3rd and Thurs 4th September. If you can spare some time to help run the stall on any of these days then please sign up at:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0848AEAA22A4FB6-fathers1

**OUTSTANDING CHOCOLATE MONIES:** Need to be paid by 30 August. You can pay for your chocolate box in cash at the tuckshop, or directly into our account (Please use your child’s name as the reference):

Account Name: Ashmore SS P&C Association General Account

BSB: 064430

Account Number: 10716566

Thank you for your support of our major fundraiser this year – all funds are going to the Astro Turf Project for the Junior Playground.

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION** – Do you want to help the P&C but don’t have the time spare to volunteer for our events? You can make a voluntary contribution at your leisure via Flexischools. Just login into your account and start a new order then select the ‘Donations’ tab to make your contribution. All monies raised this way are going to the renovation of our prep playground area and we will be very pleased of your assistance.

**P&C MEETING:** The next P&C meeting of this year will be held on Monday 15th September at 1.30pm in the Conference Room at the Carmichael Centre. We welcome any parents who want to get involved in the
school community so if you have any ideas or thoughts that you want to put forward then please come along, your input will be much appreciated.

Ashmore P&C

pandc@ashmoress.eq.edu.au

ASHMORE LITTLE ATHLETICS

Ashmore Little Athletics sign on for boys and girls 5 to 16 years

Saturday August 30th and September 6th

12.00 noon- 3pm

Brian Johnston Athletics Track, Currumburra Road, Ashmore

Proof of age is required

Competition begins Saturday September 13th

More information at:  www.ashmorelittleas.com.au

SOCCER X

In October, Soccer X will be running an 8 week Summer Soccer league at Carrarra Soccer Fields for U6’s – U11’s. For more information and online registrations please visit WWW.SOCCER-X.COM. If you have any questions please call Justyn on 0451 162346.

FOX’S REAL ESTATE
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07 5656 1330

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http://www.ashmoress.eq.edu.au/

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