22nd February 2013

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Last Tuesday was yet another wet and windy day but the unpleasant weather didn’t stop parents and caregivers from attending our parent Information night. It was wonderful to see so many faces -new parents and caregivers to our school and of course, our returning families. I trust that those who were able to attend found the event informative about the direction our school is taking and the manner in which we cater for the education of your children.

In this newsletter, and in following editions, I will explain in greater detail the four key elements of our strategic approach to teaching and learning at Ashmore State School which will provide you with deeper insight into our teaching and learning framework, designed to challenge and engage students in learning every day in every classroom.

We call our teaching and learning plan the Pedagogical Framework and School Strategic Plan. You can access the Strategic Plan on the school website at ashmoress.eq.edu.au
The four key elements on which we place emphasis are Aspirational Learning, Personalised Learning, Connected Learning and Precision Teaching and Learning. Each element is underpinned by world’s best research regarding successful schools. This fortnight I will focus on Precision Teaching and Learning.

Precision teaching requires educators to have a deep knowledge of subject content (the ‘what’) together with being expert in the way they teach (the ‘how’). The way in which content is taught is referred to as ‘pedagogy’.

In today’s ever changing world it is extremely difficult to have deep knowledge about all content all of the time hence our teachers and administration team regularly engage in professional development to ensure our knowledge is deep and current.

Additionally, precision in teaching requires staff to know exactly the learning needs and learning styles of each student in their class. This requires teachers to constantly gather and analyse data about the progress of each child to inform teaching practice. The data is captured from NAPLAN results, specific math and reading tests called PAT M, PAT R & PROBE together with pre-and post-tests which are designed by the classroom teacher/s.

As you can see our teachers, administration, Head of Curriculum, specialist staff and teacher aides work extremely hard to ensure your child gets the best education possible and they leave no stone unturned to help each child reach their greatest potential. If you would like to learn more about learning styles just Google Gardners’ Multiple Intelligences where you will find a clear and concise explanation of the way we all learn differently.

Thought for the fortnight: The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change. Carl Rogers - Psychologist (1902 – 1987)

MARGARET JAMES

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- AMANDA FRY

Our Dance group this year will be performing a tribute to Saturday Night Fever and in particular the music of the Bee Gees. I have over 40 students who have expressed an interest in Dance for 2013. My vision is to have all the students perform in the iconic white suit worn by John Travolta for their performance. My difficulty is sourcing the suits. To buy from a Fancy Dress Supplier they are far too expensive – some up to $90. To have them custom made locally is also incredibly expensive. Is there anyone in the community who can help out with a solution as to where to source the suits at a very reasonable price? Alternatively, is there a parent, grandparent, relative or friend out there who would be able to make 40 white suits?
Shortly, parents in years 3 to 7 will be receiving information about the “International Competitions and Assessments for Schools” (ICAS). ICAS is a highly regarded assessment program for schools offered in the key subject areas of Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. This program offers recognition and reward for school students. Each participating student receives an individual diagnostic report as well as a certificate to recognise their achievement. More information on the benefits of ICAS is available at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- LEIGH JOSEY

Welcome to Prep E and Mrs Helen Cox

It has been very pleasing to see continued growth in the number of students who have enrolled in Prep this year. As was the case in the last two years, a fifth Prep class has been formed – Prep E. We welcome Mrs Helen Cox as Prep E’s Teacher. Mrs Cox taught Prep D in 2012.

Prep E commenced on Monday; and all students, their teacher and teacher aide have settled in very well.

“SUPPORT-A-TALKER (S.A.T.) PROGRAM” – Workshop

When: Tuesday 26 February

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (with afternoon tea provided)

Where: Carmichael Centre Conference Room (downstairs)

What: The afternoon involves a two hour session regarding how parents, grandparents, family members, carers, teacher-aides (and any interested adults) can assist children from Prep to Year 2 with their oral language skills.

The aim of the S.A.T. program is to provide children with the opportunities to interact regularly with a supportive adult to enhance the child’s language learning. Children work towards increasing their vocabulary, and learn to express their opinions, to think, to make hypotheses, to speculate, to express doubt, to draw conclusions, to question, to make comparisons, to explore and to listen and respond to others.
This will be an extremely beneficial workshop for participating adults. Valuable strategies will be shared for improving the development of oral language and communication skills in our children. An improvement in verbal skills assists overall language and literacy development (reading and writing).

After participating in this workshop, if interested, you could volunteer to assist children in need of help in this area, in your child’s class and/or another class. Otherwise, you’ll be trained to assist your own child/ren at home.

To R.S.V.P. please ring the office (5656-1333), email ashmoress@eq.edu.au, or return the slip below to the office, by Monday 25th.

Thanking you

Leigh Josey

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

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Support a Talker Workshop – Tuesday 26 February

- Yes, I would like to attend.

- Name: __________________________

- Child’s Name (if applicable) - __________________________

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BUSINESS SERVICE MANAGER- MRS PETA DONOGHUE

Facilities:

Firstly I would like to introduce our new Schools Officer, Garry Lawler! Garry is a gem and has worked tirelessly trying to get the school up to scratch after the massive storms and the holidays. Please say Hi to Garry. He is a great asset to Ashmore State School and we are extremely pleased to have him on board.

We have many things coming up with regards to our facilities. There will be new carpet laid in the modular that houses the year 2’s. This will occur on the 3rd March. Finally we are getting rid of the “mushroom” downpipes and they will be replaced with new galvanised ones which will be painted and will not need on-going maintenance.

We have additional external painting occurring for E, G & F block- very excited about this!
I have to say a huge thank you to the P & C that arranged for the pram path to be constructed over the holidays. I know you will agree that this is being used really well. P & C are arranging for rails to go in for added safety.

Ivan has been busy at work beautifying our school. He worked really hard over the holidays and I think he has done a great job!

Our boomgates are in! We are just waiting on the remotes to be programmed which should be this week. The electronic sign is not well. It will be taken down this week and hopefully will be repaired quickly so we can keep you all informed of upcoming events.

Blinds will be installed in the G Block mini computer lab, lifeskills rooms, green room & seminar room in the Carmichael Centre. We believe this is necessary for security as all these rooms house computers and equipment that we need to keep out of the public eye after hours.

Our new directional signs and overall facilities improvements are funded through the hire of facilities and international visits.

**Finance:**

Don’t forget that the payment window is only open on Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 8.15am – 9.15am. We cannot take monies outside these hours so please do not send your child to school outside these days with money.

Remember to look at your excursion letters etc for DUE DATES for payments. Again we have to stick to these due dates and will be unable to take late payments. If you are internet banking remember that the monies need to be cleared in our account 48 hours prior to the due date. If you put the money in our account and they are not cleared in time we will be placing a credit against your child’s account.

I have a lot of parents saying that they cannot get into school on the banking days. Remember that we do have internet banking that you can do in the comfort of your homes without coming to school.

**Staffing:**

You will notice that we have a couple of new faces in the office. Kate (who is relieving Lyndal Goodman) & Michelle (who is relieving Lyn Peart). They have hit the ground running and are doing a great job!

Have a great week!

Pete

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**BANKING DETAILS**

You may wish to print these details for easy reference throughout 2013.
GUIDANCE OFFICER

CONFIDENCE

How Confidence Develops

For most children school means spending more time on learning and less on ‘play’. It also means more expectations of them – from parents, carers, teaching staff and also from themselves. Children typically start out with high expectations. When they see how well they do things compared to others, their view of their own abilities often changes. They learn that they are good at some things and not so good at others. They also see how others respond to what they do. These things influence their confidence in their abilities, and influence how willing they are to have a go in situations where they feel unsure.

How Parents and Carers Can Help

Confidence improves through building on small successes. Parents, carers (and teaching staff) can help by:

- explaining that skills develop with practice
- encouraging persistence when outcomes aren’t achieved straight away
- praising effort, persistence and improvement
- making sure that goals are achievable by breaking down large tasks or responsibilities into small steps
- being ready to help when necessary, without taking over
- encouraging children to have a go and valuing individual improvement

Confident Thinking

Self-esteem is an important part of confidence. Having good self-esteem means accepting and feeling positive about yourself. Confidence is not just feeling good but also knowing you are good at something. Remember: How I think affects how I feel.

Particular ways of thinking are very important for building confidence. Helpful ways of thinking include:

- believing that, if you try, you can succeed
- finding positive ways to cope with failure that encourage having another go
- enjoying learning for its own sake by competing with your own performance rather than that of others.

Dealing with Disappointment

Everybody fails to achieve their goals sometimes. Parents and carers (and teaching staff) can help by:
• Acknowledging feelings, and respond sympathetically and with encouragement e.g. ‘You sound disappointed, but at least you had a go.”

• Helping kids focus on what they can change to make things better, rather than thinking that the situation is unchangeable or that there is something wrong with them, e.g., ‘What can you try that might make that work better next time?’

• Challenging words like ‘I can’t’ or ‘I’m a failure’, and letting them know that ‘giving up’ may not help them reach their goal.

Let them know you believe in them and remind them of what they have achieved.

Adapted from: www.kidsmatter.edu.au

Carla Loughnane

Guidance Officer

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

R.E. books will only be for sale at the tuckshop until the end of February. The last day to buy them will be Friday 1st March. If students have lost their form to purchase the book, just write their name and class on a piece of paper to take to the tuckshop. I want to let Kerry and the tuckshop ladies how very much I appreciate their help in selling the books in my absence. I am away on leave until the end of this term because of my husband’s declining health.

Marg Potter (Chaplain)

RESOURCE CENTRE- MRS LEIGH HERING AND MS SANDRA BROWNE

Recommended Reading

In the Junior Fiction area we have a wide selection of colourful picture books for our younger readers suitable for all reading interests.

There are a number of books which students in years 3, 4 and 5 may enjoy. Series such as Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Geronimo Stilton are always popular and first to be borrowed by students. All novels by Roald Dahl and Emily Rodda are highly
recommended. Students in these year levels are able to borrow up to 2 books at a time and these can be a
combination of fiction or non-fiction.

Students in years 6 and 7 are able to borrow up to 4 books at a time. We have the Artemis Fowl series. In the
collection of eight books the teenage criminal mastermind Artemis Fowl solves mysteries in the fairy world. The
series is enjoyed by both girls and boys. If you would like to further investigate Eoin Colfer’s novels, visit his
website at http://www.artemisfowl.com/

MUSIC NEWS

Dear students, parents and caregivers,

Welcome to Music in 2013! My name is Miss Anna Dart and I will be teaching all students from Prep to Grade
7, while Jenny Williams is on leave. I hope to develop and extend the childrens’ music knowledge and skills, as
well as their interest in music education.

Senior and Junior Choirs are now established and rehearsing for our first performance. Strings lessons have
begun with Miss Sarah Larmor and the bands have also started with Mr Justin Hart. Please ensure that your
child is aware of the day and time that they are to attend. If any parents are experienced or capable of piano
accompaniment, we are looking for someone to assist with the strings groups and choirs.

An edStudio from the music department has been designed to allow students online access to the information,
performance dates, websites, discussions, videos and games that relate to what they have been learning at
school. The students will be introduced to the edStudio in their music lessons and we encourage them use it at
home, during the school term and over the holidays.

To access the edStudio, please follow the steps below:

1. Students log on to the Learning Place with their school (EQ ID) log on.


   1. Enter the ‘Student Space’ and click Early Phase

   2. Search for our edStudio - Studio Name: Miss Dart’s Music edStudio

   - Studio Access Key: S47489221

1. Have fun discovering the online music classroom!
We look forward to another successful year and in advance, we thank you for supporting your child’s music education.

Kind Regards,

Anna Dart
Classroom Music Teacher

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS DESK...

**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 was cancelled due to wet playing surfaces. The next trial is scheduled for 25 February with 3 training days to follow in March. The Monday Gala Days are scheduled to be held on 25 March, 22 April, 29 April, and 6 May.

**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 7 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 (U11) – 28 February
- District Rugby League (U12) – 6 March
- District AFL – 13 March
- District Basketball – 14, 21 March
- District Hockey – 19 March

**District Swimming** – Congratulations to the following six students for leading Ashmore at the District Swimming Championships on 13 February at Runaway Bay Super Centre Pool:

Jasmin F. 7B, Cameron H. 7B, Jacob G. 5/6D, Max H. 5B, Amy J. 5B, Blake F. 5C

**Fitter, Faster, Stronger** – or Running Club, started 2 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 8:30am 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.

Please contact Mr Ellis (PE/Sport Teacher) if you have any questions.

PEACEMAKERS

On Feb 13th, 45 students attended a full day course aimed at giving them the skills and theory behind being a school Peacemaker. They started their roles this week in the junior adventure playground and junior undercover area. Peacemakers is possibly the longest running program still happening at Ashmore, and hopefully this year’s students will benefit from it as much as previous students have. Congratulations to all the new Peacemakers and thank you very much for offering to dedicate some of your time to helping younger students in our school.

Mrs Julie Sealey

COMPUTER LAB OPEN FROM 8.15AM

Just a reminder that the computer room is open for Mathletics AND NOW TYPING SKILLS every morning from 8:15am and every second play break except Monday.

Mr Dart

ICT Teacher

REQUEST FOR OLD TIMBER SKATEBOARDS

If anyone has any old timber skateboards for “The Workshop” they would like to donate to the school for the children to repair and restore, I will gladly take it off their hands.

Thank you

Mr Dart
PARENT LiaISON REPORT

What a great response we have had to the first issue of **Scholastic Book Club** for the year. You have bought over $2,000.00 worth of books which has given the school $400.00 to spend on extra books for the library and home readers.

Here is a breakdown of how much was purchased in each grade:

- Prep parents spent $521.00
- Year 1 parents spent $398.50
- Year 2 parents spent $283.50
- Year 3 parents spent $375.00
- Year 4 parents spent $180.50
- Year 5 parents spent $68.00
- Year 6 parents spent $99.00
- Year 7 parents spent $155.50

Thanks to all the parents who have purchased Book Club in the past and will do so throughout the year – your consistent efforts are providing a great resource for your children.

**Lost property** was such a big job last year that it has now been split amongst the parent reps. If you would like to label your clothing, there is a special marking pen available in the tuckshop so please ask for it and label your items whilst at the tuckshop.

LINDA SEALEY

Parent Liaison Officer (PLO)

P & C REPORT

**AGM MEETING:** The Annual General Meeting of Ashmore State School P&C will be held this year on

**Monday 18th March, at 5.30pm** after the usual P&C meeting at 3.30. This is your opportunity to be a part of an
exciting school community and help shape the wonderful events that we have coming up this year such as Mother’s and Father’s Day stalls, Spell-a-thon, Trivia Night, Sports Day Carnival and our big event of 2013, the Ashmore State School P&C Fete. 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 comprises of:

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Vice President

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

**2013 PARENT REPRESENTATIVES:** We would like to welcome our wonderful Parent Representatives for 2013, as below. They are a vital link of communication for our school community. Feel free to have a chat!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ron Odle</th>
<th>Prep</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Engler &amp; Ivan Russell</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Berryman &amp; Kelly Slattery</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Ware &amp; Dinah Williams</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elida Alvarado</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Pakatyilla</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clive Whittington</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
We had a great first meeting, with some good initiatives we are acting on straight away:

**LOST PROPERTY:** There is a continual problem of tracking down lost items. As the hats are navy, sometimes writing on them in black is hard to read. The tuckshop now has a Silver Nikko on hand, which will be easier to read. If you would like to organise for your class to have their items named, please contact your Parent Rep to co-ordinate this.

**PRAM PATH:** Parent Rep Ivan Russell has been working furiously in the area to lay soil and prune the large bushes beside the path – if you are able to help him, we are sure he would appreciate it. Please contact Simone in the P&C office to assist. Please ask your children not to play on the path, especially while he is working there. The P&C is arranging balustrading, which will be installed soon.

**UNIFORM SALE:** As we are no longer going to be having the long-sleeved polo shirt (due to low sales), our existing stock is going on sale for **$25.** Sizes available: 4, 6, 8, 10, 16, 18.

**BACK GATE SCHOOL CROSSING ZONE:** Some parents may be new to parking at the back gate, so we would like to remind you that **parking next to the school crossing and within the specially marked areas, is illegal and dangerous to our kids.** Please park in the appropriate spaces in the street, also avoiding residents’ driveways. The school consistently receives complaints about this, so we would ask for your cooperation.

**MOVIE NIGHT ADVERTISING:** On Sat 23 March we are running a ‘Movie on the Oval’ night here at the school. Local businesses have the opportunity to run an ad on the screen. This has a low cost of $100, if you would like to take this opportunity, all you need to do is send us your ad in Power Point, and we will send you an invoice for payment. Please email Simone Hellsten on shell24@eq.edu.au.

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_Ashmore P&C_

pandc@ashmoress.eq.edu.au
HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands Ashmore

0400 708 773
ashmore@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au

Greetings, parents/carers, and families of Ashmore State School,

Welcome to all our new families that are now attending Helping Hands OSHC. I hope everyone has had a great start to Term 1? We are well under way now into week three of the Term 1.

We have now started our new exciting program "Make A Music Video". This is a new program which takes place on Mondays at 3.30pm in the Carmichael Centre. The children thoroughly enjoyed their first lesson and learnt lots of new techniques in how to use modern day materials and we can’t wait to see their end results.

Did you know that by attending the Helping Hands service that you are contributing directly back to your school? Helping Hands financially contributes to Ashmore State School for every child that attends our program.

Please feel free to pop in anytime, even if you would just like to see what we are doing or look at the service. All staff are very welcoming and can assist you in your queries.

Kind Regards,
Lisa Reid

Note to Parents

Bookings: Please note that any bookings made are not set until confirmed by the coordinator. If you require care please let the center know in advance to ensure a placing and avoid any disappointment.

Late Pick Up Fee: Please be aware that a late fee will apply if your children is picked up after the closing time of 6:00PM. A late fee is $15 for the first 15 minutes and then $1.00 for each minute after that.

Helping hand star awards!

• Congratulations to Baylee for receiving the seniors helping Hands Star award.
• Congratulations to Holly for winning our great choice prize.

Hats:
Here at Helping Hands we have a strict NO HAT NO PLAY policy and we urge parents to ensure that a suitable hat is packed into the school bag for BSC, ASC and Vacation Care. As children are disappointed when they are not allowed to play out in the open and have to stay undercover.

HOCKEY SIGN UP

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The September Open Week is coming!
- Call today to secure your FREE trial class!
- Classes for boys & girls aged 2.5 - teenagers
- 10th-15th of September
(All bookings essential)

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