22nd March 2013

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Easter

As this is our final newsletter prior to the school holidays I would like to wish our Ashmore School Community a very happy and safe Easter. The origins of the different customs of Easter lie in both pre-Christian religions and Christianity. In one way or another all of the customs mark a new beginning- a fresh start- a new life.

Apparently the word "Easter" is named after Eastre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring whilst the .Easter Bunny is supposed to be a rabbit-spirit. Long ago, he was called the "Easter Hare" and because hares and rabbits have frequent multiple births they became a symbol of new life.
History tells us that the custom of an Easter egg hunt began because children, many years ago, believed that hares laid eggs in the grass. Christians consider eggs to be “the seed of life” and symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. No matter what the origins of our customs are, the main thing is that we enjoy quality time with family and friends and act in goodwill towards each other.

**A New Beginning**

Recently, teachers with more than 10 years service across Queensland were offered re-training packages to assist them looking to enter another profession. A significant number of teachers across the state applied for such an opportunity and two of our teachers, Ms Jenny Williams and Mrs Nicole Wallace were successful.

Both teachers have made an invaluable contribution to Ashmore State School during the many years they have been with us and I know that the entire Ashmore Community wishes them every success in their newly chosen path.

**We’re all connected!**

Our regular newsletter readers would be aware that each fortnight I am sharing with you the four key aspects of our 2013-2016 Strategic Plan – *Aspirational Learning, Connected Learning, Personalised Learning and Precision Teaching and Learning*. In the last two issues I have explained the focus and our approach to *Aspirational Learning* and *Precision Teaching and Learning*. This week I am focusing on *Connected Learning* which, in our context, refers to our digital world. The digital technologies in our school provide new and unique opportunities to enhance teaching and learning, engage our students, link teachers with parents and with other teachers, link students with peers and teachers, experts and places within and beyond the classroom. We engage in *Connected Learning* at Ashmore through lessons that are ‘beamed’ into the classroom from universities, secondary schools and the school of Distance Education. Some of the programs include ‘Unify’ for accelerated learning in writing, science and creative thinking and ‘Project 600’ to extend students in Math. Additionally our teachers are working to develop *Ed.Studios* to enable students and parents to access homework on-line and receive notifications of school events. Our staff are committed to ensuring that *Connected Learning* is a pivotal part of our school’s teaching and learning culture and I invite parents and caregivers to engage in our approach as partners in the education of your children. We offer tutorials to parents, carers and friends.

**Congratulations**

In conclusion, I wish to congratulate our P&C Executive on their recent election to office for 2013. This group of committed parents and community members make an invaluable contribution to building community partnerships that result in increased school resources, improved facilities and an increased positive parent and friends involvement on our school. They keep children at the centre of all they do. I look forward to working with Jodi, Ron, Linda, Alana, Bindi and Ivan this year together with our P&C Administrator, Simone, Tuckshop Convenor, Kerry and Uniform Shop Convenor, Donna. Well done team!

**Thought for the Fortnight:**
Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. - Henry Ford

MARGARET JAMES

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- LEIGH JOSEY

**Prep Easter Hat Parade**

On the last day of term (28th March) at 9:15 am, the Prep students will march from their classrooms around the school and then into the hall. They will be wearing Easter hats and adornments made in class. In the hall they will sing Easter songs together, before returning to their rooms to continue the school day as usual.

If you do not want your Prep child to participate for cultural or religious reasons, please write a note to your child's teacher and alternate arrangements will be made for their supervision during this time.

BUSINESS SERVICE MANAGER- MRS PETA DONOGHUE

Finance:

Don’t forget that the payment window is only open each Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 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, sports notices etc for DUE DATES for payments. Again we have to adhere to these due dates and are 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 into our account and it is not cleared in time we will place a credit for future use. 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.

Pete

BANKING DETAILS

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

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW

GUIDANCE OFFICER

What sort of start is your child getting?

Just a little bit late doesn’t seem much but........

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He/ She is only missing just.......</th>
<th>That equals.......</th>
<th>Which is.......</th>
<th>And over 13 years of school that’s.......</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1/2 a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 Hour 40 mins per week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day per week</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 1/2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2 1/2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If your child misses.....</td>
<td>That equals.....</td>
<td>Which is......</td>
<td>And over 13 years of school that’s...</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>29 days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>88 days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 8 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Carla Loughnane
Guidance Officer

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
In our library we have a notice board that displays information regarding current competitions. At the moment Ashmore PCYC are running a Creative Writing Competition with a Junior Category ages 10-12 years. Students are invited to write a fictional story with 600-800 words with the theme "My Community". 1st prize $150 + book, 2nd prize $50 + book, 3rd prize a book. Entries close April 30th, 2013. Write 4 Fun have a competition to write a short story - 500 words. The story has to have a twist or you can write a 16 line poem. Entries close March 31st 2013. Entry is free and entry forms and further details can be obtained from the library.
NEWS FROM THE SPORTS DESK...

**Fitter, Faster, Stronger** – The Running Club, Sprint Club, and Circuit Training are held from 8:00am to 8:30am on the oval (or the netball courts if it’s a bit wet). Students from all grades and parents are welcome to attend. New participants are always welcome. Bring a change of clothes for the wetter days. Thank you to all parent and teacher volunteers. Your help is greatly appreciated.


Upcoming School Sporting Events:

- Ashmore Cross Country Carnival – 26 April, Term 2, Week 2
- Ashmore Track and Field Carnival – Term 3, Week 1

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

COMPUTER LAB OPEN FROM 8.15AM

Just a reminder that the computer room is open for Mathletics and and “The Workshop” every day of the week, before school from 8:15am and after eating in the second break.

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
MUSIC NEWS

Dear students, parents and caregivers,

This weekend our Senior Choir will be performing in Ashmore's Neighbourhood Watch Community Fun Day. There will be local speakers, entertainment from our talented singers, a free sausage sizzle, face painting and a jumping castle. Details are as follows.

Place: Girral Park, Ashmore (off Cotlew Street or Ashmore Road)

Date: Sunday, 24 March, 2013

Time: 10am - 3pm (performance at 11:00am)

We encourage that you attend to support the choir, school and our community. Look forward to seeing you there!

Kind Regards,

Anna Dart

Classroom Music Teacher

NEWS FROM JENNY WILLIAMS

To The Ashmore State School Community

Hi Everyone,

The moment has come for me to take my leave from Ashmore and retire. Teaching music at Ashmore since 1994 has been an amazing journey with the breadth and depth of enriching experiences that you can never truly feel until time allows for some quiet reflection.

It has been an incredible privilege teaching music to the beautiful children of Ashmore and I am extremely grateful to all of the Ashmore community for your encouragement and support during my 18 year stay.

I will greatly miss the fantastic musicals and choral work that we have collaboratively produced over the years, and the simple joy of seeing eyes sparkle and beaming smiles as children learn to sing and play in ensembles together. These are the very precious gems of my teaching career that I will treasure for a lifetime.

I feel honoured and blessed to have been a part of this school and it is with much sadness that I say farewell, and thank-you all Ashmore, for so many wonderful memories. I wish you all the best.
FAMILY FUN FAIR NEWS

Every class is collecting for the Cent Auction which will be one of the exciting activities at this year’s Family Fun Fair on Saturday 15 June. Every class will have a washing basket which will be filled with items donated by families. Every class has its own specific theme for their basket. Your child’s teacher will tell you the class theme and you can then donate items to match that theme. Eventually we will have 32 fabulous gift baskets as prizes in the Cent Auction. We will also be looking for other substantial items as prizes, so if you have a business or connections to a business that would like to donate prizes, services or gift vouchers suitable as a Cent Auction prize, your child’s teacher would love to hear from you.

At this year’s Family Fun Fair we will be conducting a Model Search. This is being sponsored by Reeder Model Management and is open to all children - boys and girls ages 2 to 13 years. Every child will bring home an entry form. The competition is open to all children not just those at our school, so if you have cousins or nieces and nephews who would like to enter – they may do so. There are great prizes to be won as well as trophies for Best Catwalk, Best Dressed and Most Photogenic and 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each age group. For the overall champion in each age group there is a Modelling or Deportment Course valued up to $499 to be won. You can pre-enter the competition by completing the entry form and returning it to the tuckshop with the $5 entry fee or you can enter on the day.
BABY BOOMERS

URGENT! URGENT!
FORTNIGHTLY PROGRESS REPORT
THE SECOND HAND CLOTHING COLLECTIONS for the SCHOOL CARNIVAL in June

We, the Baby Boomers are ready, willing and able to sort all of the clothing donated into gender and sizing for ease of selling at the School Carnival. We are a little surprised at the slow start, but, we would dearly like to thank the 5 wonderful families who have taken the time and effort to sort through their clothing and dropped off their good, but unwanted clothing to the designated drop off points. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will definitely end up as someone's "Treasures".

To enable us to reach our goal of the Biggest and Best Second Hand Clothing Stall EVER we desperately need each and every family's assistance by going through wardrobes, etc and bundle up all good but unwanted or un-needed clothes, shoes, manchester and drop it off to either The Old School Library or to 3 Darling Crescent, Molendinar (the back house on the property).

When dropping off your desperately needed donations please leave a note naming your child's/children's name/s and class so the school can thank them personally in the next School Newsletter.

The following children's families have kindly donated 2nd hand clothing so far:-

- EMMA 4B
- TAYLOR 7C
- TAHLIA 7D
- SUMMER 1D
- MAX PREP D
- JACOB PREP D
- KYRA 1D
- JORDAN 5A

Guess what? The Weatherman forecasts more rain and, with Easter only a week away, what a great opportunity to do your Clothing Autumn Clean. This is just thought, of course!

The more money raised from the sale of your second hand clothing donations, the more equipment that can be purchased to assist and enhance your children's schooling experience.

Please help the Baby Boomers help your children by making this venture a Great Success!

"ONE PERSON'S TRASH IS ANOTHER PERSON'S TREASURE"
P & C REPORT

AGM MEETING: The Annual General Meeting of Ashmore State School P&C was held on Monday 18th March.

We would like to welcome our parents who have been elected to these positions:

- President: Jodi McLeod
- Treasurer: Linda Sealey
- Secretary: Ron Odle
- Vice President: Ivan Russell & Alana George
- P&C’s Qld Representatives: Ivan Russell & Bindi Moore

Thank you so much to each one of them – it’s wonderful to have such a dedicated team of parents working hard to improve our children’s school and build our community.

MADAGASCAR 3 MOVIE NIGHT: We do apologise that due to the difficult weather conditions we have decided to postpone our Movie Night until the end of the year.

EASTER RAFFLE: Spare books of tickets are available at the tuckshop. Winners of the prize baskets will be drawn at Assembly on March 28. We also need eggs to be donated for the baskets. Please drop them into the tuckshop soon. Your contributions are most appreciated.

Raffle Books MUST be returned to the tuckshop, sold or unsold. We appreciate your assistance in this.
SKORT SALE: The P&C has decided to discount the present stock of skorts from our previous uniform supplier. These can be purchased for $15 from the Uniform Shop and on Flexischools. There is no refund or exchange on discounted skorts.

Change in P&C meeting times to:

Terms 1 & 4: 3rd Monday of every month, 6.00pm in the Carmichael Centre

Terms 2 & 3: 3rd Monday of every month, 3.15 in the Carmichael Centre

Ashmore P&C

pandc@ashmoress.eq.edu.au

PARENT LIAISON REPORT

Just a couple of recurring issues with Book Club I wanted to mention.

1. If you are paying with your credit card over the phone or online, please make sure the order form on the back of each brochure is still handed in to the library staff. Without these forms, your order won’t be processed and your child will not receive their books.

2. Please meet the cut off times noted on the classroom poster. If your order is late, it may be returned to you especially if we have already placed the main order with Scholastic. I try to give you as much time as I can to get your orders in so late orders can make the processing a bit “messy”.

FAMILY FUN FAIR NEWS

Behind the scenes work is moving along quickly for our fair in June. Rides are about to be booked along with the food stalls. We are also having an “art and craft” market area as well. Quite a few have been booked, but if you have an idea for a stall and would like to organise it, please contact Linda on 0439 427 418 or return your blue form to the tuck shop to be contacted.

We are having a good response to our “blue forms” on which we are asking for parent/grandparent/ carer volunteers to help us before and on the day of the fair. You might like to help us prepare for a stall beforehand or to volunteer on the day. With your help, we can do this.

Apart from our bbq and tuck shop being open, which we need volunteers for, some extra activities and stalls that we would like to do are: sandy candy making, sand art making, chocolate toss, stick lotto, lolly and cookies stall, teacher dunking, pluck a duck and a raffle wheel. If you would like a trash and treasure stall, this is also possible but again volunteers are needed to do the prep work of sorting and pricing, along with people on the day.

These are really easy things to help the P & C to achieve, and all things are possible, but we won’t be able to do them without your support. Your children will love doing the activities and games along with foraging through the
stalls, so if you can help for a couple of hours on the day it would be really appreciated. Also your children will be thrilled to see Mum, Dad or a grandparent helping on a stall.

After all, the fair is for the children on the day but also to fundraise for a much needed middle school playground. Come and make the most of your fair experience - you never know - you might just enjoy yourselves whilst helping out!

Linda Sealey

BENOWA HIGH SCHOOL

Benowa State High School Expo Evening for Year 8 in 2014

Tuesday 26th March 2013

Commencing at 5.00pm in the Sports Hall

For any enquiries please phone 07 5582 7333

HELPING HANDS
LIONS BIGGEST BBQ

Where: Broadwater Parklands

When: Sunday 7th April - 10 am
Who: Lions Clubs

FOX’S REAL ESTATE

COMMUNITY CUPPA- SONESHA

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW

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