Dear Parents/Carers,
As you may be aware Mrs Shelley is currently taking on the role of Relieving School Education Director for the Georges River Network, Sydney Region for the next few weeks. I, (Mrs. D’Arrigo) will be the Relieving Principal for this period.
Miss Evans is teaching 6/5D and Mrs. Kaye will be the Relieving Assistant Principal for Stage 3. We wish Mrs. Shelley all the best and hopes she hurries back to Ashbury soon!

New Grass Area!!
Our new turf has been laid on our grass area. The turf looks fantastic and needs to be carefully looked after for the next few weeks before we are able to allow the children to play on it. If the turf receives plenty of water and sunlight and knits into the soil, it should be ready to use at the end of the month.
In the meanwhile, we have opened up the area behind the library for students to play in while we wait for the beautiful new grassed area to be ready.

Swimming Carnival
Ashbury’s 2013 Swimming Carnival was held on Thursday 7th February at Ashfield Pool. The weather was fantastic and it was great to see so many children participating in the events and cheering on their house.

The results of the carnival were:
1st: Wallabies
2nd: Emus
3rd: Magpies
4th: Koalas

Thank you to all the parents who assisted on the day. The Zone Carnival will be held at Roselands Pool on the 27th February.

Welcome BBQ
All invited
Friday 15th February 2013
5.30 – 7pm at school

On Friday 15th February, the P&C will host a Welcome BBQ for new Ashbury families. This is a great chance for everyone to come along and welcome new families to our school. The BBQ will be from 5.30-7pm at the covered area near the playground – weather permitting! On the night we will also have a Gelato stand where you can buy delicious Pure Gelato cones. We hope you can all make it.

Labeling of Belongings
We have lots of lost property from school and from the swimming carnival. It is really important to label absolutely everything so it can be returned if it gets lost.

Peanut Free
Please don't bring peanut or other nut products, including peanut butter and Nutella, to Ashbury Public School because we try very hard to make sure all our students are safe. We have a number of students who are very allergic to nut products. These students can have an Anaphylaxis reaction which can be life-threatening.

This also applies to cakes that you may bring in for birthday celebrations - cupcakes are best. They are safe, quick and easy for teachers to hand out.

I thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Medication
All prescribed medication should be handed in to the office before school so that the appropriate forms can be filled out. Any child with allergies, asthma, diabetes or epilepsy should have a Health Care Plan. Please see the office so we can work in consultation with your child’s doctor to keep our children safe!

Meet the Teacher Evening
Meet your child’s class teacher on Thursday 21st February in the classroom.
K-2 is at 6pm. (KV, KX, K/1R, 1H, 1F, 2M, 2B)
3-6 is at 7pm. (3S, 3M, 4/3H, 4M, 6/5D, 6/5S, 6/5L, 6/5M)

This is an opportunity for the teacher to talk about what will be happening in their classes this year as well as general questions. If you require specific information about your own child, you will need to make an appointment at another time.

Enrichment Groups
We are currently creating enrichment groups in Stage 3 in Maths and Literacy. This will involve some students working with Mrs. O’Reilly, extending their knowledge and building on what is happening in the classroom. The groups are flexible and will involve different students throughout the year.

Recorder Groups
This year the advanced and beginner recorder group will be held on Friday mornings, beginning this Friday 15/2 at 8am. We have been very lucky to secure the expert help of Susan Sukkar, Regional Arts Director, and conductor and director of the Combined Recorder Ensemble to be held at the Opera House later this year.

Once students have been placed in groups the beginner group (must be Yr 2 or older) will meet at 8am and the advanced group will follow at 8.30am. Learning recorder is an excellent and inexpensive way to learn how to read and play music. Cost is $20 per term. Please see Miss Hughes, Mrs. Morris or Mrs. D’Arrigo if you would like your child to join this group.

PSSA
PSSA stands for the Primary School Sports Association. Some students in Yrs 3-6 are currently undergoing selection trials to take part in sporting competitions against various schools in our zone. The competition is held every Friday afternoon. In summer, the choice is T-Ball, Softball or Cricket. In winter, Netball, Touch Football and Soccer is available. For more details have a look at the Wiley Park PSSA Zone website.
http://wileypark.sessazones.com/

Pennant Reminder:
Don't forget to keep your Double As, Merit Cards and Superstars safe and return to your teacher when you have achieved enough for a Pennant.
5 Superstars earns you a Pennant. If your cards have not been used (stamped on the back) then you can use them from previous year(s).

**Chess Coaching**

Chess coaching for students at Ashbury Public School is held on **Tuesdays from 3:05pm – 4:05pm.** Term 1 lessons will commence on **12th February, 2013.** Notes were sent home last week. Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment.

If your child is interested in taking part, you can either pick up an enrolment form from the school office, or email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.

**ETHICS CLASSES AT ASHBURY**

Philosophical ethics classes are available in NSW public schools as an option for students who do not attend Special Religious Education / Scripture. Primary Ethics is the organisation authorised by the NSW state government to create curriculum and deliver ethics classes.

Ashbury Public School needs another volunteer to teach ethics so we can run classes, fill the demand by students, and keep class sizes small. Full training and ongoing support is provided by Primary Ethics. Teaching takes around two hours a week, including preparation. Classes are run on Tuesday mornings, and take 35 minutes.

Primary Ethics welcomes applications from our school and the wider community. To find out more, please visit: [http://www.primaryethics.com.au](http://www.primaryethics.com.au). You can also contact our Volunteers Manager, John Jordan, for more information: ph: 0412 864 072 or ejjordan@optusnet.com.au.

**Road Safety**

Please drive carefully around the school and observe the rules that apply. Everyone needs to be very alert so we can keep our students and school community safe.

**It's Fete year at Ashbury!**

The Fabulous Ashbury PS fete will be held on Saturday 31st August 2013 from 10am to 4pm

The fete is the main fundraising event for our school this year and in 2013, money raised will be used to fund technology resources, an outdoor covered area and enrichment opportunities for our children.

Please come along to the first fete committee meeting on:

**Tuesday 26th February at 7pm in the staff room.**

If everyone helps a little we can achieve a lot for our great school. See you there!!

Tina Bidese Email: manatina@optusnet.com.au
Deanne Kinmont Email: skinmont@optusnet.com.au
and Megan Walker Email: megan_walker@optusnet.com.au
Fete Co-ordinators 2013

**Jargon buster**

Wondering why your kids talk about playing under the school COLA? Baffled at parent-teacher discussions about KLA’s? This list of common abbreviations or terms will help you to become familiar with the world inside school.


**Avoiding injuries**

Have you ever wondered if your child may be suffering physically from using a computer for schoolwork? Or if carrying their school bag may be causing them pain?

health/ways-to-keep-your-childs-back-and-posture-healthy

Maths questions
Are you in search of an educational game to sharpen your child's maths skills and recall? Maths Monkey's Quest features maths questions on topics ranging from addition and subtraction to ratios and percentages. It's aimed at children from Years 3 to 8. [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/maths-monkey-s-quest](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/maths-monkey-s-quest)

Helping your child with homework

More great parenting tips.....
[www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au)

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Canterbury Girls High School

Year 7, 2014 OPEN NIGHT

Tuesday 26 February, 2013

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm
School tours 5:00 – 6:30
Presentation 6:30 – 7:30

School in Action Tours
Tuesday 5 March
9.30 – 11.00 a.m.
Tuesday 12 March
9.30 – 11.00 a.m.

Phone for specific enquiries – Contact person: Karen Calvaruso 9718 1805
2013 promises to be a productive and exciting year in the Ashbury Community Garden! Planning is already underway for a number of events for the children and the community to come together, spend time enjoying the garden, tasting the produce and using the Community Garden as a resource for creative and engaging learning on topics ranging from art, the environment, measurement, spelling… the possibilities are endless.

On 15 February we will hold our first ever night market produce stall at the Ashbury Public School P&C Welcome BBQ to welcome families to the school. If you are curious about the garden and would like to know more, come along and have a chat to our Committee members, buy some fresh garden produce, or try some of our free tasting samples.

This term we are very excited to sponsor Kitchen Garden expert Jo Anne Calabria, to run some creative classes in the garden with Stage 3 children initially. Ms Bayndrian is working closely with Jo Anne to integrate the lessons with the children’s current curriculum on micro organisms. We will need parent helpers to assist the children during these classes (you will be given instruction and no special skill is required) so please email us if you are interested. They will be great fun! These workshops are an experiment and if successful, and funds allow, we would like to provide similar opportunities to the children in all stages throughout the year.

St Patrick’s Day is the traditional time to plant sweet peas in your garden. On Monday 18 March we will hold our annual seed planting morning so everyone can be involved in this fun activity. There will also be a ‘Green Mufti’ Day where children can wear anything green to school for a gold coin donation to the Community Garden. Check the school newsletter and garden notice board for more details.

We are planning our second annual Autumn Harvest Festival in the afternoon on Sunday 5 May 2013. This is a lovely community celebration of our beautiful organic produce. Bring the family along for dinner and a street party where you will be able to buy home cooked dishes sourced from the garden.

The Community Garden committee will be running a plant and produce stall at the Ashbury School Fete on 31 August so if you have a green thumb and can donate homegrown produce, plants, pots, tools or seeds please let us know.

As always we continue to hold monthly working bees in the Community Garden to keep it looking great and producing crops for everyone to enjoy. You don’t need any particular gardening skills to participate. The children have a wonderful time playing in the garden together, finding worms and caring for the chickens.

Dates are advertised in the school newsletter and on the Community Garden notice board on the corner of Trevenar and Ettrick Streets.

If you haven’t checked out our website lately you are in for a treat. We are gradually uploading recipes and other interesting gardening information so log on and have a look at www.ashburycommunitygarden.org.au.

Please subscribe to our enewsletter, via the subscription button on the website or email us at info@ashburycommunitygarden.org.au.

As always, if you have any bright ideas or ways you can contribute to the garden please get in contact.

**DIARY DATES**

**Fri 15 Feb 2013 5.30pm** – Ashbury Community Garden is having a produce stall at the P&C Welcome BBQ at Ashbury Public School. This is a great opportunity for parents and students to sample some of our foods and perhaps purchase some garden fresh, organic produce – helping you enjoy healthy food while supporting our garden to grow. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Monday 18 Mar 2013** – Green Mufti Day wear green and give a gold coin donation for the Community Garden. We will be planting Sweet Peas from 8am.

**Sunday 24 Feb 2013 8am to 12pm** – Working Bee in the Community Garden. All welcome! A great way to meet others and find out more about the Community Garden. You don’t need to have green thumbs or have any special gardening skills to participate. Garden volunteers are encouraged to share in our organic produce harvested in the garden. Bring a water bottle, a hat, and the children, for a fun morning in the garden.

**Sunday 5 May 2013** – Autumn Garden Festival in the Ashbury Community Garden
**IN YOUR GARDEN**

In between seasons in the garden is a time for taking stock and making preparation.

Leaving beds fallow between summer and autumn is never wasted time, especially if organic matter can be added and allowed to settle. The zealous digging of yesteryear is nowadays regarded as soil-structure vandalism, and laziness a worm-friendly virtue; just spread compost over the bed and retire to the potting shed to let nature take its course.

The record-breaking heat and torrential rain over the past few weeks has befuddled many plants, with singed leaves and bursting green growth equally in evidence. The combination of heat stress and sappy new spurts is irresistible to greenfly and other suckers. Vigilance (and soapy water) is needed in abundance.

**IT BEGAN WITH AN IDEA...**

Did you know that a current kindy parent had the idea that got the community garden started?

Ashbury Community Garden began in 2009 after Michelle Favelle won a $5,000 grant from her workplace to build a community garden at Ashbury Public School.

Sue Shelley helped to set up a committee of volunteers to manage the garden, and the school was very fortunate to have landscape architect and TV presenter, Brendan Moar, create a wonderful garden design for us.

With the generous assistance of the Ashbury P&C, the Garden Committee raised enough money to build the garden, including garden beds and paths, ‘Cluckingham Palace’ - our chicken coop, a sculptural ‘curvy fence’ and a beautiful outdoor classroom.

With the help of enthusiastic parents and community members, and expert guidance from local landscaper and ex-Ashbury parent Des Hamilton, the site has been completely transformed. Now our children can enjoy the fruits of our labour and the whole community enjoys the beautiful space that has been created.

A highlight of 2012 was being awarded Canterbury Council’s Garden of the Year Competition!

**The Ashbury Community Garden Committee encourages you to visit the garden with your children at any time.**

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**HELP OUR GARDEN GROW!**

If you’re interested in being more involved, there are so many ways you can help - whether you have a green thumb or not - from assisting your child’s teacher with their class in the garden, to creative projects, cooking, writing grant applications, as well as simple gardening and maintenance jobs.

We are also looking for new members to join our garden committee.

**PURCHASE** our fresh, local, organic, in season produce at our Market Stall, held at Ashbury Public School each term.

**TEACH** children and teachers about our garden by volunteering an hour or so when you can. Don’t worry, we’ll train you first!

**DONATE** food scraps including vegetables (no onions or citrus), fruit and bread to feed to the chickens.

**GET BUSY** in the garden. There is always something you can do to help, such as weeding, watering or working bees. Feeding our chooks is a favourite for many families!

**CONTACT US** to find out more!
Visit us at www.ashburycommunitygarden.org.au
Email us at info@ashburycommunitygarden.org.au to join our email list
Send a note to school for ‘Ashbury Community Garden’.

**Call us** on 02 9798 4509

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**CAN YOU HELP...?**

We are looking for someone to construct a timber arbor / pergola at the entrance of the garden. We have the technical drawings, and the stirrups in place in the ground….we just need someone to build it!

If you know someone who might be able to assist, please email us at info@ashburycommunitygarden.org.au or phone Michelle on 0412 075 665.
Dates for your Diary

Term 1 2013
Tues 12 Feb - 7pm P&C Meeting in Staffroom - All welcome
Friday 15 Feb - P&C Welcome BBQ - 5.30pm all welcome to come along for a free sausage and to meet everyone.
Mon 18 Feb - 7pm - Band Committee Meeting
Thursday 21st Feb - Meet the teacher
Tuesday 26th Feb - 7pm Fete Committee Meeting in the staff room.
Wednesday 27th Feb - Zone Swimming carnival
Thur 28 Feb - School Photo Day
Monday 18th March - Green Mufti day - Sweet pea planting day!
Fri 29 March - Mon 1 April - Easter break
Sat 6/Sunday 7 April - Band Camp
Fri 12 April - last day of Term 1

Term 2 2013
Mon 29 April - Staff Development Day
Tues 30 April (Additional Staff Development Day due to new Curriculum)
Wed 1 May - Students return for Term 2
Tues 14 May, Wed 15 May & Thurs 16 May - NAPLAN Testing
Wed 22 May - School Walkathon (P&C)
Mon 10 June - Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
Friday 28 June - last day of Term 2

Term 3 2013 - Tues 16 July Students return
Thurs 1 Aug - Ashbury Athletics Carnival at Campbell Oval

Fri 20 Sept - Last day of Term 3

Term 4 2013 - Tues 8 Oct to Wed 18 Dec

Sally D’Arrigo
Relieving Principal

If you see anything happening in the school which is unusual please call the Ashfield Police on 9798 4400