Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for the support from parents and teachers during the time that Mrs. Shelley has been absent. We welcome her back from her role as School Education Director for the Georges River Network. I also would like to thank Mrs. Kaye for being the relieving Stage 3 supervisor during this time, and Miss Evans who has been taking 6/5D.

Ela Gandhi Visits Ashbury
On Wednesday 27th February, Ela Gandhi came to Ashbury School. Ela Gandhi is an internationally renowned peace activist, an author, and was a Member of Parliament in South Africa during a very important part of their history linked to freedom, peace and democracy. Ela Gandhi is also the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi. He was one of the most famous leaders and champions for justice in the world.

Monday 11 March 2013
Ela Gandhi came to Australia to work with people who also want a world that is peaceful and non-violent. She has opened up the International Centre for Non-Violence in Sydney. She believes that non-violence should be taught to children at a very young age, so we can all have a better future. Ashbury was one of only two schools that she visited on her Sydney trip.

Ela Gandhi visits Ashbury with Dr. Phil Lambert, Regional Director.

Zone Swimming Carnival
The Zone Carnival was held at Roselands Pool on the 27th February. Our students did exceptionally well at the carnival, finishing 3rd out of 17 schools. Sandro A was named 11yr Boys Champion. The Junior Boys, Junior Girls and Senior Boys Relay teams all made it through to the Regional carnival as well as several students for
individual events – Sandro, Kim, Kylani, Ben, Geoffrey and Amelia.
Thanks to Spook and Mrs. Horton and all the parents who drove children to and from the school. It was a great day!
The Regional Swimming Carnival will be held at Sydney Aquatic Centre on 11 March. We wish our team all the best.

**National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy 2013 (NAPLAN)**
The NAPLAN tests for students in Year 3 and Year 5 are scheduled to take place on the following days and times -

**Tuesday 14 May** - Language Conventions- 
(Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) Yr 3 and Yr 5, 40 minutes and Writing Yr 3 and Yr 5 40 minutes

**Wednesday 15 May** - Reading Yr 3, 45 minutes, Yr 5, 50 minutes

**Thursday 16 May** - Numeracy- (Number, Algebra, function and pattern, Measurement, Chance and Data and Space) Yr 3, 45 minutes, Yr 5, 50 minutes

**Friday 17 May** - A “Catch-Up” day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on the test day.

Students may be considered for exemption if they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) or have a significant intellectual and/or a functional disability.

Parents may withdraw their child from sitting the tests but must discuss this with the Principal prior to the test. Withdrawals, exemptions and special provisions need to lodged before the 27 April.


**Peer Support**
This week on Tuesday 12 March at 1.30pm our Year 6 leaders will commence working with their Peer Support Groups on “Building Connections - a focus on positive relationships”.

Year 6 children lead groups of 6-8 others ranging across all grade levels. The aim is to learn about building positive relationships with others and get to know and understand other students who are in our school. It is also a wonderful leadership opportunity for our senior students.

Please have a discussion with your child at home about positive relationships; how to include others in all activities; how to be careful not to bully anyone or let anyone bully someone else; how to be a good friend.

**P&C Open Night**

**Tuesday 12 March**
7pm-8.30pm
School Hall

All parents welcome!!

Tea, coffee, cake

Hear from P&C, Community Garden, Fete, Uniform Shop, Band, Principal’s Report - there are lots of ways to become involved in this great school!

**Mathletics**

Mathletics is once again being used as part of our learning at Ashbury. This week students will be given their passwords so they can start using Mathletics at home. Mathletics is Australia’s most used educational website. It’s fun, supportive and effective for students of all ages and abilities. Why Mathletics? - kids love it; they see real tangible improvements and results, more than 3.5 million students worldwide are involved; and it covers all the curriculum areas.
School Council AGM
Our School Council Annual General Meeting will be held at 9.15am on Monday 25th March in the hall. All parents are invited to attend. We are looking for a few new parents to be a part of our School Council as two of our parents have completed their 3 years of service. A huge thank you to Isabelle LeCalvez and Malcolm Mills who have supported the school by being on Council for the past few years. School Council meets twice a term on a Monday night to review and write various policies associated with the school. School Council is made up of parent, teacher and community reps. If you are interested in being on School Council and want to find out more or can’t attend the AGM; please let either Mrs Shelley, Isabelle Le Calvez or the front office know.

KITCHEN GARDEN WORKSHOPS
We are very excited that our Stage 3 students have been involved in cooking lessons in our Community Garden. Kitchen Garden Specialist, Jo Anne Calabria, has run these fun and hands-on workshops in our outdoor classroom. Last week students start the process of making ginger beer to coincide with the Stage 3 curriculum topic of microorganisms, in particular yeast. They also made Labana cheese from yohurt and used the herbs from our garden to make bread and Za’tar. Thank you to our Community Garden and in particular to Joanne and the parents who assisted in making this a wonderful experience for our Stage 3 students.

E readers at school
Some students have been bringing e-readers to school for use in class and at lunchtime. While we certainly applaud the children for their love of reading and technology, we would prefer that the children do not bring them to school as they are valuable and are easily broken or misplaced.

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).

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.

Bike Safety
It is great to see so many students riding their bike or scooter to school. All students must wear a helmet and all bikes and scooters must be kept at the bike racks at the back of the school.
Dates for your Diary

Term 1 2013

Monday 11th March  - Regional Swimming
Friday 15th March  - Stage 3 Kitchen Gardens
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

Term 3 2013  - Tues 16 July - students Return
Thurs 1 Aug  - Ashbury Athletics Carnival At Campbell Oval
Friday 20 Sept  - Last day of Term 3

Term 4  - Tues 8 Oct - Wed 18 Dec

Sally D’Arrigo
Relieving Principal

Message from Mrs Shelley:
I would like to thank Mrs D’Arrigo for the great job she did as Relieving Principal while I was away working as a Relieving School Education Director.
Thanks also to Mrs Kaye and Ms Evans who also supported Mrs D’Arrigo as well as the whole staff and parent groups.

I am delighted to be back at Ashbury and know that we have a busy time ahead but a very rewarding time as well.

S.Shelley
Principal

Advertisements:
- The Creatory - an inspiring collection of contemporary handmade products from local, interstate and international artisans + a range of cool workshops-
  3/60 Carlton Cres, Summer Hill
  0404228264 www.thecreatory.com

- Blackheath Retreat - an affordable cottage in the Blue Mountains - sleeps up to 15 people
  www.blackheathretreat.org
• **St Francis Xavier's Church**  
  54 Leopold St Ashbury  
  9798 3924  
  An invitation for children of suitable ages for the celebration of the *Sacraments in 2013*  
  Suggested ages:  
  Year 2 First Reconciliation  
  Year 3 First Eucharist  
  Year 6 Confirmation  
  **Dates for Celebrations:**  
  Confirmation 14 Sept 6pm  
  First Reconciliation 20 Nov 7pm  
  First Eucharist 2 June 10am or 12pm  
  Information & forms on  
  9798 3924 or  
  faxashbury@bigpond.com

• **St Matts Ashbury Love this place**  
  10th Anniversary & Art Show  
  4-15 year olds can enter art competition- artwork must be  
  Themed "love this place" & should show why you love the suburb or place you live in. Maximum of 2 Artworks per entrant- need to be able to be wall mountable. Artwork Needs to be in between 11 -15th March. Exhibition on Sunday 24 March 10-12pm.  
  Details: Sally on layso@yahoo or  
  0417 464 814
Welcome to the 2013 Band Program! A special welcome to new families in the training band – it will be an amazing year. All the bands are well under way. The calendar is already filling up, and Tuning Notes will keep you informed.

Budding Percussionists:
The training band needs some more percussionists. If you know anyone who was considering becoming a percussionist, please tell them to contact Tina at secretary@ashburyband.org.au.

Band Camp:
The information night for band camp will be 4th March, at 7pm. This session is both for band camp and a general information session for this year’s band program. All families are strongly urged to attend, even if you’ve been around for a few years!

Band camp will be 6-7th April. Notes for all of this will be sent home shortly.

Concert and Jazz Band Workshops
Monday 29th April – Jazz band
Tuesday 30th April – Concert band
There will be full day (9am – 3pm) workshops for the Jazz & Concert bands during the 2 pupil free days at the beginning of term 2. Students need to bring their own food. There is no extra cost, but parent supervisors will be required for the day. The roster coordinators will be contacting you regarding this.

General Housekeeping
A few reminders since the beginning of the year can be a hectic time. All students are required to help set up and pack away for rehearsals. This means they need to arrive about 10 mins early and need to stay for about 10 mins after the official finishing time. This ensures the students are getting the most out of their rehearsal time with Mr. Isaac.
An adult is required to be with students during lessons – either in the room or directly outside. This is a DEC requirement and is for everyone’s safety.

Next Band Committee Meetings
Next Meeting: Monday 18th March
7pm in the staffroom
AGM: Monday 8th April
The Band Program would not be possible without the hard work of the Band Committee. This is a subcommittee of the P&C made up of parents and staff reps. We’re always looking for new members to help with all aspects of the Band Program - no experience necessary!

Website: Don’t forget to use the website to keep up to date with all things Ashbury Band Program.