Dear Parents and Carers,

Ashbury PS is certainly is a busy place. Everyone is currently hard at work and all classes are very settled. We have selected our PSSA and debating teams and auditions for the various dance groups have been held. Our choirs, bands and recorder groups are already busily learning new pieces that they will perform throughout the year. I would like to thank the staff, who generously give up their time to ensure that the students at Ashbury PS have a wide range of extra curricula activities available to them.

School assemblies are held every Monday morning starting at 9am under the COLA. We take this opportunity to celebrate the success of our school and the students, present the pennants, hand out lost property and announcements are made on upcoming events. Primary assemblies are held in the odd weeks and Infants assemblies in the even weeks. These assemblies take place in the hall at 2:20pm and classes take turns running these assemblies. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Good luck to the 34 students who will be representing Ashbury PS at the zone swimming carnival on the 3rd March. Thank you to Mrs D’Arrigo, Mrs O’Brien and Spook for attending and assisting at the carnival. A special mention to Mrs D’Arrigo, who is the Zone coordinator.

It is great to see so many students and parents walking and riding their bikes and scooters to school. Please remember to “Be Safe” at all times and wear the right protective equipment. If you do ride to school, for the safety of everyone please make sure you walk with your bike or scooter inside the school grounds and always lock up your bike or scooter.

In the next few weeks a number of our local high schools will be holding open days/nights. It is never too early to be thinking of where to send your child to high school. These open days/nights present a great opportunity for you and your child to go to the various schools and have a look at what they have to offer. I will do my best to keep you up to date when they are on but also keep an eye out in the local papers as the schools do advertise these events there.

The School Security Fence
The Asset Management Unit has completed its review of the school security fence. A hard copy of this review is available for reading on site in the office area. If you would like an electronic copy please click on the link below or I am happy to copy the report onto a USB for you.

http://www.mediafire.com/view/vbtj4m1wlmb8ga3/#Ashbury_PS_Final_REF.pdf
There will be a community meeting held between 8-9am on the 3rd March in the library where the report will be presented and an outline of where to next will take place. Members from the Asset Management team with Rod Leonarder, Sue Shelley and I will be present at the meeting.

**Around the school**

Just a reminder that if you are entering the school during school hours you are required to report to the office and sign in. This allows us to know who is on school grounds at all times. This is a Work Health and Safety requirement by the Department of Education and Communities. We appreciate everyone’s cooperation in regards to this matter.

Recently we have seen an increase in damage to our school property. We believe that this is occurring after hours. If you notice anything out of the ordinary occurring in the school grounds please contact Ashfield Police on 97974099.

**Play equipment**

Our play equipment is a great asset to our school and we know the students love playing on it. However, I would like to remind all students and parents that it is out of bounds before school. If your child wishes to play on the equipment after school they must supervised at all times by their parent. Ashbury PS accepts no responsibility use of the equipment before or after school.

**COLA**

As you would have all noticed by now we have a new COLA, which is a Covered Outdoor Learning Area. We are very grateful for this structure. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P&C and SPLASH for contributing to the cost of the COLA. The school also used its funds as well as a tied grant which we received from the government. The COLA offers us a safe place for outdoor learning and activities.

**Parent Volunteers**

All parents who volunteer at school, whether in classrooms, canteen, excursions, etc. are required to complete a Working with Children Declaration and provide 100 points of identification. This is a legal requirement. Forms can be obtained from the office or downloaded from our website. We appreciate your cooperation and the time that you give to help our students.
Launch of the 2193 – Plastic Water Bottle Free Campaign.

Student representatives from schools in the Canterbury Local Government Area will gather on 28th February to celebrate Schools Clean Up Day by launching ‘2193 – Plastic Water Bottle Free’ a collaborative campaign where all schools in the Canterbury postcode take action to reduce their plastic footprint. This project is the first of its kind in Australia and possibly the world. Ashbury PS will be represented by the School Captains / Officers and the Stage 3 Environmental Officers.

Lost Property
All lost property is located outside 2M’s room, the first classroom downstairs. Historically we have had an enormous amount of lost property. Please ensure that all property is clearly labelled with your child’s name and new class. This ensures a speedy return of property.

Mindquest
On Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th April 2014 the 71st NSW Talent Enrichment Weekend Mindquest will be held for primary students from years 1 to 6 at St George Girls High School in Kogarah. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with above average ability with a special interest. Students will have the opportunity to participate in over 38 exciting, fast-paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, lego robotics, art and much more. The cost of the weekend is $175. Brochures can be collected from the school office. Closing date is 7th March.

Pennant winners:
Rohan 2B
James 2B
Frances 4/3H
Yvelyn 2M
Anastasia 6/5S
Joel 3S
Aliza 2B
Abbie 2M
Samantha 6/5D

Year 5 Peer Mediators

The Peer Mediation program is now operating in the playground at lunchtime and achieving excellent results. Year 5 Peer Mediators are helping solve disputes by following a structured process that allows students involved in a dispute to each put forward their own point of view about what happened and to explain how they feel about what happened. The role of Peer Mediators is not to tell students what to do, but to help students solve their own problems by asking them a series of questions and using active listening techniques. There is a roster for peer mediation so that Year 5 students get three turns a term at being a peer mediator. Peer Mediators are rostered on in pairs and walk around the playground wearing florescent, yellow vests and carrying folders.

“I was very impressed last week when I observed Year 5 students mediating between students who were having disputes. They help students talk about the issue, listen to each other and come up with a solution that is acceptable to both parties, usually resulting in a hand shake and being able to continue playing together,” said Ms Strong, the Peer Mediation Coordinator.
Poetry from 6/5S

From the seas of Gerringong and the beautiful Bass Strait
There’s more than one typical Aussie, friend or mate
To the flying cockatoos to the jumping kangaroos
A thong or a flipper or an Aussie golden slipper
From the Tassie Tiger whose situation is more than dire
To the wandering and singing Grey Lyre
The sunset is so grand
In this green and gold land.
Nicholas K

I love to dream
About the Australian cricket team
When Mitchell Johnson lets the ball free
The ball goes on a wicket hitting spree.
Jacob

Australia is beautiful, of that I have to say,
It probably was some time ago, much like it is today.
But seriously, it’s not all getting drunk and old windmills,
I’m really sorry England, I know that feeling kills.
Zoe

When England saw our kangaroos they said
“What on earth is that?”
They thought that a kangaroo was some sort of giant rat.
I am proud of Australia for its very different creatures.
From the great Tasmanian Devils to the tiny little leeches.
Cara

I’m proud of our Australian Socceroos
But when they score a goal the crowd only boos
But when they win a game
They all sing and say ‘hip hip hooray’.
Max

Across the dry desert ground
The mighty kangaroos bound
But at night comes they fall asleep
The agile possums begin to creep
And as koalas sleep up in trees
Lizards run ‘round as they please.
Mira

The luscious golden wattles waving in the sweet air
The odour of the pavlova that you just can’t bear
The lively kangaroos and sleepy koalas that you just love
This is my country. This is what I am proud of.
Mary

I am proud of Australia especially the girls’ choir
Though we have to sing higher and higher and higher
We sang at the Opera House
And I saw a mouse.
Essence

When I go to the fun, sunny beach
I come out of the water I have a leech
And then I show it to my mum
She says it is no fun.
Nicholas B
Celebrating Harmony Day at Ashbury PS
Thursday 20\textsuperscript{th} March 2014

This term, all classes are learning about families, communities, and how we all belong as Australians. We are having a celebration at our school on Thursday 20\textsuperscript{th} March and are inviting families to join us. We hope to see some extended family members, especially grandparents, at this special morning tea. An invitation will be sent home with students this week.


Welcome BBQ

It was great to see so many families and staff at our Welcome BBQ. It certainly was a great night. A special thank you to the P&C for putting on the BBQ and to all the volunteers who helped make the night a success. Once again the gelato was a big hit, so too the scrumptious tastings on offer from the Community Garden.
Dates for your Diary

2014

Term 1
Fri 28 February - Clean Up Schools Day
    Carnival of Schools
    2193 Launch
Mon 3 March - Band Camp Information
Night upstairs activity area at 7pm
Thurs 6 March - School Photo Day
Thurs 20 March - Harmony Day
Sat 29 March - Community Garden
    Working Bee
Sun 30 March - Autumn Harvest
Wed 2 April - Community Garden AGM
Sat / Sun 5 & 6 - April Band Camp
Mon 7 April - Band AGM
Fri 11 April - Last day of Term 1

Term 2
Mon 28 April - Staff Development Day
Tues 29 April - School Resumes
Sun 27 April - Community Garden Working
    Bee
Sat 31 May - Community Garden Working
    Bee
Sun 29 June - Community Garden Working
    Bee
Fri 27 June - Last day of Term 2

Term 3
Mon 14 July - Staff Development Day
Tues 15 July - School Resumes
Sat 26 July - Community Garden Working
    Bee
Sat / Sun 26 & 27 - Band Festival
Tues 29 July - Showcase
Thurs 14 August - Book Week celebrations
Fri 19 September - Last day of Term 3

Term 4
Tues 7 October - School Resumes
Sat 25 October - Community Garden Working Bee
Sun 26 October - Spring Jazz in the Garden
Mon 3 - Wed 5 Nov - Stage 3 Camp
Sun 30 Nov - Community Garden Working Bee
Sat 13 Dec - St Matt’s Christmas Carols
Wed 17 December - Last Day 😊

Dee Stephenson
Relieving Principal
9798 4509
ashbury-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent”

Victor Hugo

Short and Sweet Tuning notes
Dear all, a short and sweet turning notes for this month. Hope that all things band, and lessons are running smoothly for everyone. If you are having problems, please contact Mr Isaac via a written note in the band box, situated outside the APS office, or in person, pre or post a band. Alternatively you can email our parent liaison Magdalen on contact@ashburyband.org

Band Website up and running!
Thanks to the fabulous, talented, and generous Maria, we have an up and running band website. As first point of call, for any of your band questions, to check dates or find that necessary piece of band paper, please go to http://www.ashbury-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/banwelcome . Thanks too to Ariane, for setting up the e-lists, and diary such that all of those dates are current.

STILL WANTING TO JOIN? IT’S NOT TOO LATE!
If you are in the primary school (years 3-6), are new to the school, or just wanting to find out more about our band, then please do not hesitate to email our beautiful parent liaison, Magdalen on contact@ashburyband.org for more information.
SMALL ENSEMBLES
Anyone interested, but not yet enrolled in the small ensembles (jazz, percussion), should put a written expression of interest including name, instrument, year, and contact details, into the band box, which is situated just outside the APS office.

BAND MEETING
This Monday, 24th February, at 7:00 in the APS staff room, is our first band meeting for the year. We will be discussing a number of key issues for the band program, including: consolidating fees for the upcoming year; all things band camp; fund raising for the creative and practical arts performing space and more generically; maintenance of the band list; volunteers; and refining our project management of the band over the year. If you would like to come along, we would love to see you. Nibblies are traditionally provided by the chairperson, and you can expect a night of scintillating discussion!

BAND CAMP MEETING
This evening is particularly targeted towards training band parents, but any other band families are very welcome to join us. We will be meeting at 7:00pm, Monday 3rd March in the upstairs activity room. Bring all of your concerns about first camp, a night away from home, what to expect, and we will (very hopefully) put you at your ease. Information will be primarily provided by Kate O’Sullivan, our parent volunteer (complete with Working with children check) who organises band camp, and Mr Jason Isaac. Ongoingly feedback from the band camp is “ohw, it’s really fun, and its a weekend for band, and getting serious about your music” (Finlae Gibb, saxophone, year 5); “Well, I thought it was really really boring, but then a year later I thought it was really cool” (Jesse Gibb, euphonium, year 4).
SPOTLIGHT ON:
A special thanks from the band committee goes to Deirdre in the office who tirelessly works to administer the timetable of which lesson, and which band goes where, and when. Thanks Deirdre for all of your work around this, and for helping the band program run so well.

HOUSEKEEPING:
Please note that if your child is unable to attend their music (instrumental) lesson, then you need to contact their instrument teacher directly you do not need to advise the school. If your child is unable to attend a band or ensemble rehearsal, then you need to contact the school to advise them, and they will pass the message on to Mr Isaacs.

WHAT’S ON THIS YEAR:
Performing Arts Space
This year, one of our major aims, is to work together as a community to raise enough money to design and build our own Performing Arts Space. If you are someone who has a keen eye for finding grants in the public or private sector, if you have a knack for getting businesses to provide (tax deductible) sponsorship, or if you are a dab hand at putting together funding submissions, we would love for you to share your skill-sets with our creative arts community. Please approach one of the band committee members, or email Magdalen, or email Jodie on jgoldn01@gmail.com. Together let’s make this one of those projects that we collectively sing into being.
WHO TO CONTACT:

Parent liaison: Magdalen contact@ashburyband.org
Training Band: Emily emily@masimedia.com
Intermediate band: Michelle mioxx@hotmail.com
Concert Band: Louisa louisa1001@yahoo.com
Jazz Band: Ariane ariane@g2enhance.com
Treasurer: Maria maria@boost.com.au
Chairperson: Jodie jgoldn01@gmail.com

Please remember that all of these people are volunteers, so please be respectful of their time, and generosity in taking on these roles.

EXCITING BAND FACT:

Did you know, that every piece of music, every instrument, and every item purchased by the band committee is effectively a gift by the band community to the school. We take nothing with us, and leave everything behind, ensuring the ongoing evolution of the musical wealth of our school’s band program.

Looking forward to an exciting and music filled year, warm regards,
Jodie Goldney (on behalf of the band committee)
DATING FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **Committee Meeting:** Monday 24th February 7pm, APS staff room.
- **Band Camp information night:** Monday 3rd March 7pm upstairs activity area
- **Jazz in the Garden:** Sunday 30th March
- **Band Camp:** Saturday 5th April-Sunday 6th April.
- **Band AGM:** Monday 7th April 7pm, APS staff room
- **Band Festival:** (all bands) Saturday 26th July-Sunday 27th July. Details TBA.
- **Showcase:** Tuesday 29th July: Details TBA
- **Jazz in the Garden:** Sunday 26th October, details TBA.

**Band Timetable**
- Monday 7:15-9:00 Intermediate Band
- Monday 3:05-4:15 Jazz Band
- Tuesday 4:20-6:00 Concert Band
- Thursday 4:50-6:00 Training Band
Carmel Mesiti
Singer

m: 0403 086 818
e: Carmelms@bigpond.net.au
w: www.facebook.com/carmelmesitimusica

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Carmel Mesiti – Singer

Carmel Mesiti has established herself as a dynamic presence in the Sydney music scene for almost twenty years. Carmel has cultivated her craft of singing with a passion for music, her dedication to professionalism and a willingness to apply all her zeal and energy to whatever project or association she works with. Indeed, these attributes have seen Carmel perform alongside some of Australia’s leading artists and performer’s like: Marcia Hines, Human Nature, David Campbell, Christine Anu, Steve Balbi (Noiseworks), Doug Parkinson, Natalie Imbruglia, Jack Jones (Southern Sons), Courtney Act, John Rowe, William Forsythe, John Rowles, Stephen “Spud” Murphy, John Bowles, Angry Anderson, Eric Weideman (1927), Tamsin Carroll, Michael Cormick, Ric Herbert and Mark Williams.

Her television appearances and movie soundtracks are similarly impressive, Australian Idol, Mornings with Kerry-Anne Kennerley, Midday with Ray Martin, In Sydney Today, John Mangos Show, Star Search and New Faces with Bert Newton, and “Thunderstruck the movie”. Carmel brought to these performances a certain glamour and star quality that was recognized and appreciated by audiences and peers alike.

Carmel has also established herself as one of Sydney’s most passionate and loyal vocal teachers, lending her abilities & experience to such institutions as Brent Street, The Australian Institute of Music, The Australian Performing Arts College, The Arts Dept and the Australian College of Entertainment. Past students have included, Delta Goodrem, Bianca Oecshle, Rebecca Cartwright, Chloe Zuel (Hairspray, Australian Idol).
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@ishasofyan@yahoo.com.au
Western Suburbs Magpies Junior AFL Club is on the lookout for new players of all ages. U5-U17’s all welcome to join!

**Registration:**
Register online or come down to Picken Oval in Croydon Park on Feb 22\textsuperscript{nd} 10am-2pm or when Swans visit on March 4\textsuperscript{th} 5-7pm

**Contact:** Richard Stone  
**Phone:** 0408 409 200  
**Email:** Richard.stone@anz.com  
**Website:** [www.westsjuniorsafl.com.au](http://www.westsjuniorsafl.com.au)

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ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ASHBURY  
- SACRAMENT PROGRAM 2014 -

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:  This Sacrament will be celebrated twice in 2014 - Saturday 14\textsuperscript{th} June at 5.00pm and Sunday 15\textsuperscript{th} June at 12 noon – Celebrant: Bishop Terry Brady. Preparation Sessions will be held on 21\textsuperscript{st}/28\textsuperscript{th} May and 4\textsuperscript{th}/11\textsuperscript{th} June at 7.00pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:  This Sacrament will be held on Sunday 24\textsuperscript{th} August at 10am and 12 noon. Preparation Sessions will be held on 30\textsuperscript{th} July and 6\textsuperscript{th}/13\textsuperscript{th}/20\textsuperscript{th} August at 7.00pm.

FIRST RECONCILIATION:  The date for this Sacrament will be decided by the school for those children who attend St Francis Xavier’s Primary School. For those children who attend other schools, this Sacrament will be held on Sunday 26\textsuperscript{th} October, following the 10.00am Mass.

PLEASE NOTE: Application Forms for all Sacraments are obtainable from the School or Parish Office. Application Closing Dates: Confirmation (20\textsuperscript{th} March), First Eucharist (1\textsuperscript{st} May) and First Reconciliation (1\textsuperscript{st} July).

FR XIANG FENG