Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week students entered their 2015 classes. Teachers at the end of 2014 spent many hours working on the 2015 classes to ensure all students reach their full potential. This year we have 379 students in the school. Our 46 new Kindergarten students also settled into their classes on Friday. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new students and parents to the Ashbury community, as well as welcoming back all returning students and families.

2015 Classes and Staff:
KM Mrs Morris
KS Mrs Saville
K/1V Mrs Viswanath
1W Ms Wayte
1F Miss Filaktos
2B Miss Bayndrian
2A Miss Aiello
Mrs Kaye and Mrs Xanthis (Relieving Assistant Principal’s responsible for Kindy, Year 1 and 2)
3M Mrs McKeever
3G Mr Newmarch
4J Mrs McLoughlin
4/3A Ms Asimina (Relieving Assistant Principal responsible for Stage 2)
5/4M Mrs McInerney (Mon-Thur)/Mrs Zietsch (Fri)
6/5R Mr Robinson
6/5H Mrs Horton
6/5S Mrs Sukkar (Relieving Assistant Principal responsible for Stage 3)

Learning and Support Teacher (LaST) - Mrs Helen O’Brien
Librarian - Mrs Kaye (Relieving Assistant principal)
English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EALD) - Mrs Kapruziak and Mrs Gor
Reading Recovery Teacher- Mrs Xanthis
Enrichment Groups’ Teacher and Support teacher- Mrs McEvoy and Mrs Gor
Release From Face to Face Teachers (RFF) - Mrs Simmiss, Mrs Xanthis, Mrs Zietsch

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 1
Tues 10 Feb-7pm- P&C Meeting. All welcome!
Fri 13 Feb - P&C Welcome BBQ
Tues 17 Feb – Scripture commences
Wed 18 Feb – Meet the teacher evening.
Fri 20 Feb – Summer PSSA starts
Sun 22 Feb – Community Garden Open Day 9-11am
Mon 23 Feb – School Council AGM
Wed 25 Mar – Carnival of Codes
Mon 2 Mar – Zone Swimming Carnival
Wed 4 Mar – School Photo Day/Garden Meeting
7pm
Tues 10 Mar – P & C Meeting. All welcome!
Sat 28 Mar – NSW Election BBQ/Garden Working Bee
Wed 1 Apr – Community Garden AGM
Thurs 2 Apr – Last day of Term 1

TERM 2
Mon 20 Apr – Staff Development Day
Tues 21 Apr – School Resumes
Thurs 23 Apr – School’s Remember ANZAC
Sat 25 Apr – ANZAC Day
Sun 26 Apr – Community Garden Country Fair
Mon 27 Apr – ANZAC Day holiday
Tues 12-15 May – NAPLAN week/ P&C Meeting
Mon 8 June – Queen’s Birthday Holiday
Sally D’Arrigo  
Relieving Principal

P & C
The first P&C meeting is this Tuesday night, 10th February at 7pm in the hall. A note has been sent home about this. For new parents this is wonderful opportunity to meet the hard working parents of our P&C and become a member. The P&C plays an important role in our school and contributes to a number of programs that benefit the school. Please join us on Tuesday night.

P&C Welcome BBQ
All invited - Friday 13th February 2015  5.30 – 7pm at school
On Friday 13th February, the P&C will host a Welcome BBQ for all 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.

Meet the teacher night
Meet the Teacher night is Wednesday 18th February. K-2 6-6:30pm and Years 3-6 6:45-7:15pm. All meetings will take place in your child’s classroom. This is an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and to find out about how the class will operate. It is also a great chance to meet some of the other parents in your child’s class.

Student Safety
We provide a staff member on playground duty from 8:30 each morning. If your child is at school before 8:30am for their safety they need to come up to the office area and wait until 8:30am before going to the playground where there will then be a teacher on duty. In the afternoon school finishes at 3pm, it is important that you collect your child as close to 3pm as possible. If you are running late could you please contact the office and the office staff will notify the class teacher who will then instruct your child to wait in the office area for you. All students who are not collected by 3:15pm are taken to the office for their safety.

Anaphylaxis
We have a number of our students who suffer severe reactions to some foods, in particular peanuts and other tree nuts. We ask that you ensure that your child does not bring nuts to school in their recess or lunch. This includes peanut butter, Nutella, and some types of muesli or nut bars.

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, Oztag 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/

Dogs on school grounds
Just a friendly reminder that dogs are not allowed on schools grounds. This is to ensure the safety of the students and the dogs.

Swimming Carnival
Thank you to everyone who attended the swimming carnival. It was a very successful day and it was wonderful to see all our students actively participating in the swimming races as well as the novelty events. I would particularly like to thank Mrs Simmiss for organising our carnival and all our parents, teachers and community volunteers who helped on the day or who came along and cheered on the students. Students who will be attending the Wiley Park Zone Carnival on Monday 2nd March, will be notified soon.
The final results are: 1st Koalas, 2nd Emus, 3rd Wallabies and 4th Magpies

Here is an article from our student correspondent, Tadhg:

“Yesterday Years 1-6 had a swimming carnival. It was held at Ashfield Swimming Centre. We got to the pool at approximately 9:30am.

There were many races to compete in, including freestyle, backstroke, butterfly and breaststroke. Races were from 15m -200m. All races were based on the age you were turning this year. For competitive swimmers there was a medley which was 50m of each stroke. If you were not a great swimmer you could participate in the novelties. There certainly were some fun games.

Each and every house team did a lot of chanting and supporting their fellow house mates while they did their very best in their races. During the course of the carnival, there were lots of parents helping out with time keeping and life guarding. Teachers also played a major role at the carnival with Ms Simmiss organising the carnival and Mrs D’Arrigo encouraging each and every one of us and making all the helpful announcements. Overall it was a great day at the pool with lots of parents turning up to cheer”.

By Tadhg 6/5S

Peer Support

Peer Support will involve all students from Year K-6. Year 6 participated in Peer Support leadership training in week 1. The purpose of this is to prepare the students for their role as Peer Support leaders, where they will lead a group of other students through a series of structured social skills lessons. This year the focus is on “Being a good friend”. Peer Support activities will begin later this term.

Here is an article from our student reporter, Alex:

“During the first three days of school, Year Six 2015 participated in Peer Support training. Peer support is a program that involves all students at Ashbury P.S. They are put into groups and taught about social skills. Peer support training helps Year Six learn how to teach these skills as well as learning them themselves.

During the training, we learned active listening, communication and mannerism skills. We learnt how to be organised, how to lead and manage a group of others and how to show empathy. We learned these skills through fun games, informative discussions and role plays. We were taught by Mrs Sukkar and Mrs Horton and I am sure that we all appreciated their helpful skills and pep talks.

Overall everyone enjoyed learning the skills required to be a fantastic peer support leader. GOOD LUCK YEAR SIX!”

By Alex K

Peer Mediation

Peer mediation is a conflict resolution strategy used by our school. In peer mediation, two trained Yr 5 students lead other students through a structured process to resolve minor disputes in the playground. We aim to empower all students by teaching them the skills they need to resolve conflicts. Training of our Year 5 Mediators occurred in Week 1. They will be seen later this term in the playground in pairs assisting other
students. 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.

An article from our student reporter, Kala:

“As it is a new year, everything is getting back into routine. Kindergarten are starting school, and of course Year Five were inside the hall for three days with the lovely Mr Robinson and Mrs McInerney for the yearly training of the incoming Ashbury Public School Peer Mediators for 2015. Year Five learnt many tips, tricks, rules and techniques for helping making this school a non-conflict community. We were taught how to resolve problems we may have ourselves, and how to help others do this too. And that is what we intend to do in the playground this year.

Every Year Five student was taught how to be a Peer Mediator. Even though a lot of people think that to be a mediator is not an important job but really you could be making somebody’s school life better”.

By Kala S

Community Garden

With a new year starting, we have the pleasure of returning to the beehive and enjoying all the goodies our beautiful Community Garden has to offer. There will be lots of exciting events all through the year, so don’t miss a thing and bring your family and friends along!

Welcome BBQ - February 13
We will be holding a produce tasting stall at the P&C Welcome BBQ 5.30 - 7pm Friday 13 February. Taste our homemade chutneys or buy some freshly picked produce from the garden.

Open Garden - February 22
Our first Open Garden of the year will be held on Sunday 22 February 9-11am. Come along to have a tour of the garden, enjoy some morning tea, do a spot of gardening and find out about how you can get involved. Everyone is welcome!

For more information, please contact us at info@ashburycommunitygarden.org.au

Ashbury Public School Band

Rehearsals have commenced for Intermediate and Concert Band (Week 2) and will commence this week for Training Band (Thursday 4:50 – 6:00pm), Percussion Ensemble (Tuesday 3:15-4:15 pm), and Jazz Band (Mondays 3-4:10 pm).

For those students who have put in an expression of interest and/or would like to join percussion ensemble or the jazz band please come along to the rehearsals this week.

Also, students are still welcome to join the Training Band for 2015. Contact Magdalen via email magdalenrozsa@gmail.com for details.

A BAND INFORMATION NIGHT for all band parents will be held on Monday 23rd February at 7:30 pm in the downstairs activity area. Children do not need to attend this meeting, but at least 1 parent is requested to attend. This meeting is not only for new parents, it involves information concerning all band students and parents. There will be important information about Band Camp, band books will be distributed, and band fee information / invoices provided. Information about parent responsibilities as well as general band information will be discussed.

IMPORTANT: Parents are reminded that an adult must attend music lessons provided by music tutors before and after school. Also, if students attend Chess Class on Tuesday afternoon, they must be supervised by a parent for the time between the end of Chess (4:05) and Concert Band (4:20).

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Kaye
Band Liaison Teacher
Assemblies - New Time!
Our first assembly of the year will be held tomorrow, Tuesday 10th February. Years K-2 and 3-6 are held on alternate weeks. This week is infants. *The new time for assemblies is 11.45am.*

Uniform Shop information
Second hand uniforms are now located inside the uniform shop and can be accessed outside the uniform shop on a Thursday afternoon from 3pm, when the shop is open. Items are all $5 or $2 each. Second hand uniforms in good, clean condition can be left at the Uniform Shop on a Thursday afternoon. Our space is limited, so alternatively please pass on any second hand uniforms directly to other families you know in the school.

Uniform shop order forms are available on the school website and can be left at the office, with payment, to be available for collection or delivery to your child on Friday. Please ensure payment is included with the order form when it is left at the office. Any orders without payment will not be processed.

Unfortunately we may run out of some standard uniform items during high demand periods i.e start of year, change of season, as we no longer have space to store large numbers of stock in the uniform shop. Please be patient as new stock will be ordered in as soon as possible.

V Neck Sweatshirt Jumpers and White Shorts are discontinued uniform items and are no longer for sale at the uniform shop.

Uniform Shop Coordinator and Stock Controller – Volunteers needed to take over these positions commencing March 2015
Volunteers are needed to take over the roles of Uniform Shop Coordinator and also Stock Controller at the AGM held in March. I am happy to assist the new volunteers until the end of the year to make it easier and ensure a smooth transition.

The Uniform Shop Coordinator’s role deals with the sales receipts, banking, providing a monthly report to the P&C Treasurer, preparing the volunteer roster and liaising with the Stock Controller. Basic knowledge of Excel spreadsheets is required and some previous bookkeeping experience would be useful, but not essential. You don’t have to be available to work in the shop on a Thursday afternoon as most of the work can be done after hours.

The Stock Controller’s role deals with uniform sales, ordering and deliveries, organising the twice yearly stocktake and liaising with the Uniform Shop Coordinator. Basic knowledge of Excel spreadsheets would be helpful and being available to pick up and return the Uniform shop receipt books from school on a weekly basis. Again, you don’t have to be available to work in the shop on a Thursday afternoon as most of the work can be done after hours.

By having two positions, it means that the workload is manageable and less time consuming for any one person. It also means that there is back up help for each person, if needed at any time. I know many of us are working parents and we all have busy lives these days, however if you could spare an hour or two per week, for either of the above positions, it certainly would be greatly appreciated.

The Uniform Shop provides a valuable and convenient service to all parents at the school and cannot continue to function without volunteers to manage it.

If you have any queries, please call me on 0410 309 699 as I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

*Louise Murphy*
*Uniform Shop Coordinator*
Pennant winners:
Nartarn C 2/1F 2014
Eshana S 2/1F 2014
Noah A 6/5D 2104
Nicholas K 6/5S 2104
Hugh P 1W 2104
Jacob D 6/5H 2015

CONGRATULATIONS!

Notes Sent Home
This Fortnight:
- Chess class
- Class requirements
- Voluntary School Contributions
- Welcome BBQ
- Ashbury P&C Open night
- Changes to Ethics
- Buddhist Scripture

If you missed any of these notes please call in to the office for a copy

Community Group Advertisements
Ashbury Public School does not endorse any of the following advertisements

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MUSIC TEACHER
Keyna Wilkins is a music teacher with a home studio in Ashbury specialising in flute, piano and music theory tuition with a passion for helping students achieve their musical potential. She has music degrees from the Sydney Conservatorium, Bath Spa and Bristol Universities as well as a PGCE (Professional Graduate Certificate of Education, UK).

Keyna teaches classical, jazz and contemporary styles from beginner to advanced. During her 15 years experience she has taught students ranging in age from 3 to 70, lectured in music at Bridgwater College (Somerset, UK) and taught a number of primary and high schools including conducting instrumental ensembles. In each lesson Keyna involves creative ways of learning pieces, improvisation (in a classical, jazz, blues or latin style), scales (classical and jazz), music theory and playing technique. Adept at preparing students for exams, Keyna has taken more than 300 students through flute, piano and theory exams with a 99% success rate in grades 1 - 8 in both classical and jazz, though understands exams are not suitable for every student.

Keyna is also a published composer, pianist and flautist. Eight sets of compositions have been published through the Australian music publisher, Wirripang. Born in country Somerset in the UK, she has enjoyed an international music education spanning Australia (Sydney Con), Germany (Hildesheim Uni), England (Bath Spa and Bristol Unis) and is currently completing her Master of Music Composition at Sydney Conservatorium. Since immigrating to Sydney in 2009, Keyna has performed in many venues including Sydney Opera House, The Basement, Art Gallery of NSW, and had compositions commissioned by Sydney Conservatorium.

Current availabilities on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fees: 30 mins: $35, 1 hour: $65
For more info see: www.keynawilkins.com (e) keynawilkins@gmail.com (m) 0416305490

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