Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support in helping to settle the students back at school and getting into routine.

I would also like to thank the P & C for the wonderful BBQ held last Friday night and to all the volunteers who helped make the night a success. The evening gave many new and returning families an opportunity to mix and get to know one another, and the students certainly had fun. The gelato and cool drinks were a big hit in the heat and so too the scrumptious tastings on offer from the Community Garden.

It was also great to see so many parents at our “Meet the Teacher” night. When we form a partnership, we can help the students see that we work together for the benefit of their education.

Teachers have been busy training our PSSA teams and organising sporting events this past week. Student Representative Council (Years 2-6) and Environmental Officers (Years 1-6) are being elected. Year 5 Peer Mediation has started, with our mediators helping out in the playground. Chess has begun and our bands and senior recorder groups are already busily learning new pieces that they will perform throughout the year, and auditions for choirs are being held this week. Dance groups and junior recorder will start a little later. I would like to thank all the staff who have already spent many extra hours to ensure that the students at Ashbury PS have a wide range of extra curricula activities available to them.

Thanks also to the many families who have been so generous sending in School Contributions. These donations help provide many extra opportunities for our students.

Multi-Age (Composite) Classes

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that multi-age classes are not a disadvantage to your child and that what is important is the quality of the teachers on the class. At this school we have fine teachers who will ensure that your child continues to receive the very best education. From time to time it is necessary for schools to form multi-age
or composite classes. This means that students from two or more grades are in the same class. This is necessary because most classes have a limit of 30 students (for Years 3-6 and less in the K to 2 classes) and if the number of students in the grade is more than this number and not enough to form another class, then a class with more than one year must be formed.

We know from extensive research that there is no difference in the performance of students in straight grade or multi-age classes and some schools deliberately structure all classes as multi-age even though they are not required to do so because they believe it is advantageous. In fact at Ashbury we successfully structure our Years 5 and 6 into multi-age Stage 3 classes. Research has highlighted the fact that multi-age classes do not disadvantage students academically and may benefit them socially and emotionally. Over the past fifteen or so years that I have been at Ashbury Public School, I have noticed parents of children who were in multi-age classes have indeed found this to be the case. Although parents may have felt some degree of uncertainty at the beginning of the year, after they gave the teacher a chance to get-to know their child and teach them, they were very happy with their child’s achievements by the end of the year.

Our school’s learning support team believe that mixing children of different abilities is educationally and socially advantageous and so decided that each of these classes would comprise students of mixed abilities: some gifted students, some capable students, some average ability students and some who may require additional support. We acknowledge that there are significant individual differences in each child to be addressed regardless of age so the formation of classes can reflect and cater for these individual differences. And we know that it is possible that in a straight (single grade class) there often is a wider range of abilities than in a multi-aged class.

Consequently careful consideration was made when we allocated students into these classes. Placement decisions were made by last year’s teachers – the people who, outside your family, know your child best, and were based upon their professional knowledge and experience. Your child’s social and emotional needs, including their friendships and social compatibility, were considered as well as their work habits and the learning outcomes that they had achieved during the year.

As there are not distinct syllabuses for each grade, all students are working towards achieving the Board of Studies syllabus outcomes.

Kinder work towards Early Stage 1
Years 1 and 2 work towards Stage 1
Years 3 and 4 work towards Stage 2
Years 5 and 6 work towards Stage 3.

So, for example, students in a Year 1 / 2 class are all covering the same content and working through the same mandatory units of work. However every student in the class will have their own individual learning needs – be it a strength in number or a weakness in spelling. Teachers work to address these individual needs of their students regardless of their age or grade level. Therefore it makes no difference that there may be ten year 1 students in a Year 2 / 1 class or eight year 3 students in a Year 3 / 4 class. Every student in each class works at their own individual level. No student is disadvantaged.

**Attendance**

Recently the School Council reviewed the Attendance Policy. This policy is currently up on the school’s website pending final approval. There are a few important areas to note regarding this syllabus. Please see below:

“Partial Attendance - Parents/carers should attempt to make appointments outside school hours to reduce disruption to their child’s education. Parents who collect their children before the end of the day are required to sign their child out at the office prior to taking their child away from the school grounds. Parents/carers should also ensure that children arrive at school on time. If a student is late, both student and their parent are required to report to the office to collect a late slip which is given to the teacher.” It is important if your child is away that you write a note to the classroom teacher outlining the reason for absence. It is a requirement that children come to school every day possible. If your family is seeking leave because you are travelling, please see the office to fill out an “Application for Extended Leave”.
Assemblies
School assemblies are held every Monday morning starting at 9am under the COLA. We welcome parents to attend these assemblies where we celebrate the success of our school and the students, present Ashbury pennants and announce upcoming events. In addition to this, there are also separate assemblies held for Primary (Years 3-6) and Infants (K-2) on Tuesdays. Primary assemblies are held in even weeks and Infants in the odd weeks. This week (23/2) it is the K-2 Assembly. These assemblies take place in the hall at 11.45am and classes take turns running the assembly. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Carnival of Codes
“Last Wednesday 17 February Year 3 and 4 went to Carnival of Codes at Canterbury Boys’ High school. We went in the morning on a bus and played lots of sports. It was good fun playing with your friends. There were people from different sporting groups telling us what to do. We came back to school just in time for lunch.”

Community Garden
The garden is beautiful and lush after all the rain over the summer and lots of people have helped remove the weeds so the crops can flourish as well as planting and harvesting.

We have two new Silky chooks who have joined the Ladies of Cluckington Palace. We are thankful for these donations from a local community member; they have enjoyed much attention from the children returning to school, as well as the old faithful ladies and their new younger layers.

Our next Open Garden is coming up on Sunday 28th Feb from 9-11am. It would be wonderful to have lots of people there to keep up the enthusiastic attendance. ‘The more the merrier’ is always true for the garden!
Out now are invitations to our first Taste of Ashbury evening in the garden - a culinary event for the grown-ups to enjoy locally produced treats in our beautiful garden. This event will be held on the evening of Thursday 3rd March at 6.30pm and will raise funds for our garden.

Limited places available - $25. A note went home 22/2.

Also this term:
- St Patrick’s Day Sweet Pea Planting Morning - Thursday 17 March 8-9am
- 2016 Kitchen Garden Workshops
More information at info@ashburycommunitygarden.org.au.

Zone Swimming Carnival
Good luck to the 34 students who will be representing Ashbury PS at the Wiley Park zone swimming carnival on the Monday 29th February. Travel will be by private car, so if you are attending and can take another student with you please let Mrs Simmiss know on the note provided. Please let Mrs D’Arrigo know if you are able to do this. Thank you to Mrs Simmiss and Spook for attending and assisting at the carnival.

High School Visits
Last week we had several high schools visit our Stage 3 students, and 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.
School Photo day

Each child will have received their own individual photo order envelope last week for the school photos which will be taken on Thursday 3rd March. Please return these to school as soon as possible, even if you are not ordering any photos. Please also return the permission note that went home with it. These are held by your child’s class teacher and must be returned SEPARATELY to the order envelope, which the school does not open and goes directly to the photographers.

Special group photos will also be taken of the School Officers, SRC and Sport Captains. This year the photographers will be supplying a copy of these photos to all the students in the group free of charge.

Sibling photo order forms can be collected from the office.

Special Religious Education/Special Ethics Education

SRE/SEE begins on Tuesday this week from 11 – 11.45am. Special Religious Education (SRE) is education in the beliefs and practices of an approved religious persuasion. Special Education in Ethics (SEE) is a program in ethical decision making, action and reflection within a secular framework, based on a branch of philosophy. At Ashbury we offer Catholic (K-6), Protestant (K-6), Greek Orthodox (K-6) and Buddhist scripture (Stage 3 in Semester One). We also offer Ethics classes for Stage 3. These classes are offered by approved providers, and only persons authorised by approved providers teach SRE/SEE. Sometimes we have students with religious persuasions that are unavailable at our school because there are no providers or teachers in our area. Students not attending SRE or SEE are working in the hall or the library and are provided with meaningful activities such as reading, private study or completing homework.

PSSA

The Primary School Sports Association (PSSA) summer competition has begun. Training for all teams started last Wednesday afternoons from 3pm-4pm. Cricket, Softball and T-Ball teams train at school and Oztag leave school and train at Wagenar Oval. Please pick up children promptly at the end of training and ensure that SPLASH know, if they are booked in on Wednesday afternoons.

For more details on PSSA have a look at the Wiley Park PSSA Zone website.
http://wileypark.sessazones.com/

Sports Champ

Henry W has done it again. This time Ashbury’s most famous diver has been named a finalist in the local junior sports star awards. Henry was a finalist in the team spirit category with his synchronised diving partner Matthew W from Dulwich Hill PS. They didn't win but did receive a $250 rebel voucher and a great night out. Pic is of Henry with Cathy Zuill, Editor of the Inner West Courier.

P&C

The next P&C meeting will be on Tuesday night, 8th March at 7pm in the Staffroom. Everybody is welcome. For new parents this is a wonderful opportunity to meet the hard working parents of our P&C and become a member. The Annual General Meeting will be held on this night.
School Council

The School Council Annual General Meeting was held this morning in the Hall. Thank you to all those parents who attended to ensure we had a quorum. Thank you very much to all our council representatives from 2015 who worked in a dedicated fashion to assist with school policy development and the general running of the school.

In 2015 they worked on many policies:

- The Aboriginal Education Policy was finalised (having been carried over from 2014), including adding material on the original inhabitants of the Ashbury area;
- We reviewed the Constitution of the School Council;
- The Uniform Policy and Dress Code were considered, which included composing and conducting surveys of parents, teachers and kids, collating data, using the results to make recommendations to the school;
- Revised the Attendance Policy
- The Student Welfare and Discipline Policy was reviewed, which included the creation of a separate Anti-Bullying Policy.

Pennant winners:
Edward L 4/3K
Monica Z 3N
Miranda K 4/3H
Isa T 4B

CONGRATULATIONS!

Notes Sent Home
This Fortnight:

- Permission notes – Peace Park, Child Protection, PG Permission
- Voluntary School Contributions
- SMS Parent Notification System
- Permission for Internet access and publishing consent
- Buddhist Scripture
- School Photo Day
- Class Parent 2016
- Recorder Ensembles
- Band Information Night

If you missed any of these notes please visit the website or call in to the office for a copy.
Clarinet for Sale

Buffet Crampon E12F B flat, wooden, in lightweight case.
Includes a spare mouthpiece and music books.
Sells now at Sax and Woodwind for $1895.
Will sell for $900.
Contact Catherine on 0408 563 138.

German Classes

available for any Primary Age students in Sydney’s Inner-West!

Classes located at Ashfield Public School

with teacher from The Goethe Institute.

Wednesdays & Fridays
8am-8:45am
$15/class

For more information, please contact Michela:
04 4826 4680
Easter is coming …

Vision China Times will be holding a children’s art contest to celebrate Easter 2016. Here, we are inviting your school to take part in this event and bring lots of fun to our children during this special occasion.

To Ashbury Public School:

Vision China Times is the largest and the most influential Chinese newspaper in both Sydney and Melbourne. Established over 10 years ago, our circulation has reached 23,000 and 12,000 in Sydney and Melbourne respectively.

VCT carries the mission of acting as a bridge between the local Chinese community and mainstream society. With ten years of hard work and networking, VCT has gained great success and reputation in the community. We are sponsors and participants for many community events such as: Silver Sponsor of the Granny Smith Festival (since 2011), media sponsor of Ashfield Carnival Festival (since 2007), Silver Sponsor of Shoalhaven Winter Wine Festival (2014), sponsor of Ku-Ring-Gai Australia Day celebration (since 2012), media sponsor for the Sydney Royal Easter Show (since 2012) and so on. Furthermore, we are a accredited media with Sydney City Council and many local councils.

We hold a number of events annually, such as our Valentine’s Day Message display platform, Mother’s Day Photography Contest, Father’s Day Writing Contest and Christmas Lucky Draw.

Through this Children's Easter Art contest, we are providing a platform for young children to express their creativity.
Submission requirements

Topic: “My Easter“

We encourage children to express their creativity around the topic “My Easter”.

Entry Fee: Free

Participant: Age 5 - 12 Years

Artwork submission date: entries must be received before 29 February 2016.

Contest result and winning artworks will be published on 12 March 2016 in the Vision China Times newspaper and website.

Judges Panel:

Independent judges panel comprising of a number of professional artists and photographers.

Major Sponsor:

Sydney Royal Easter Show 2016

Officeworks

Prizes:

Up to 30 prizes will be rewarded to winning submissions.

Participating school:

We are inviting all students from St Euphemia College to participate in this Contest. Participating schools will be acknowledged in our newspaper on 12 March 2016.

Requirements:

- All submissions must be on A3 paper
- 1 submission per student
- We accept all types of art medium and style
- Each submission must come with a VCT provided label

We will collect submissions by 29 February 2016 or by arrangement.

Happy drawing!!

Vision China Times
Double Bay Brainwaves Club

Special Term 1 Membership Available Now

To enrol or find out more information please contact the G.A.T.E.WAYS office.

Phone 03 9894 2116 or email kathy@gateways.edu.au

Special Introductory Offer: Enrol for a fee of $124 for the first two sessions to trial before committing to the entire term!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venues</th>
<th>Double Bay Public School, Williams Street, Double Bay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Club Meeting Dates</td>
<td>Term 1: 20 Feb, 5 Mar, 19 Mar, 2 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Meeting Times</td>
<td>1:30 pm. – 4:30 pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester Fee</td>
<td>$496.00 (includes GST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discount for siblings</td>
<td>The first family member pays the full fee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Subsequent siblings are eligible for a 5% discount.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 Semester 1 Clubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Year Levels</th>
<th>Club Focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DinoMites – places available</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cross curricular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apprentices – places available</td>
<td>2 and 3</td>
<td>Books/writing/literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SciSpies - Full</td>
<td>2 and 3</td>
<td>Maths/science/technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Einsteins - Full</td>
<td>4, 5 and 6</td>
<td>Maths/science/technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tolkens – places available</td>
<td>4, 5 and 6</td>
<td>Books/writing/literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omegas – places available</td>
<td>5 and 6</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The G.A.T.E.WAYS Brainwaves Club program is:

- not another day at school, it’s a club!
- designed specifically with gifted and talented children in mind
- an opportunity for members to mix with like-minded peers and form rewarding friendships
- setting that promotes positive social interaction
- challenging, but most of all fun!

Detailed program outlines available at www.gateways.edu.au
About the Clubs

DinoMites
Albert Einstein believed that imagination was more important than knowledge. At DinoMites, developing our imagination and creativity is at the heart of all we do. Over the year, children may:
- unpack issues and explore a broad range of concepts and ideas
- develop practical thinking skills that are fun and easy to learn
- be immersed in a rich learning experience that spans across all curriculum
- be exposed to flexible learning styles
- be encouraged in the development of language and communication skills in various forms

Apprentices
This club is for children who demonstrate advanced language skills with a passion for reading and writing, as well as a love of drama and creative pursuits. Over the year, children may:
- read, write and talk about books and learn more about literature
- explore different genres of writing
- develop their vocabularies
- communicate and debate
- be exposed to philosophical discussion

SciSpies
Albert Einstein said that the job of scientist was to coordinate our experiences of the world and try and fit them into some logical system. To do this scientists need to ask ‘How, what and why?’ In the SciSpies club children will learn science by doing. Over the year, children may:
- get exposure to a range of different and engaging areas of science
- hypothesise and experiment
- use abstract thinking and open-ended questions
- practise logical thinking and problem solving
- be involved in ‘hands-on’ activities
- build on their knowledge of science and technology and
- discover wide-ranging forms of mathematical thinking and applications

Da Vincis
Technology is progressing at a rate that very few of us can comprehend. Society requires entrepreneurs, creative people with ideas who are not afraid to take risks. That is the essence of the DaVincis. They take risks. They look at what has been done before, analyse it and build something better. Over the year, children may:
- be exposed to a wide range of new technologies
- learn to understand complex principles
- problem solve tasks that would normally be done by those many years older
- analyse, design and create
- programme
AFTERSCHOOL DROP IN

ACTIVITIES

• Ages 6-16
• Fun after school activities
• Monday – Friday from 4 pm and Saturday 8 am – 10 am
• COST = FREE*!

PCYC Mission

We get young people active in life
We work with young people to develop their skills, character and leadership
We reduce and prevent crime by and against young people.

STARTS FEB 8

After school

ACTIVITIES

SCHEDULE
### HOMEWORK CLUB
The Homework Club is an after-school mentoring program offered to boys and girls in primary and secondary who require academic, social and emotional support and would benefit from one-to-one homework mentoring with a caring volunteer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>DAY AND TIME</th>
<th>WHERE?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-16 Unisex</td>
<td>Mondays: 4 pm – 5:30 pm (Primary) 5:30 pm – 7 pm (Secondary)</td>
<td>Meeting Rooms Upstairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BADMINTON
A game with rackets in which a shuttlecock is hit back and forth across a net.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>DAY AND TIME</th>
<th>WHERE?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-16 Unisex</td>
<td>Tuesdays from 4 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Court 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TOUCH FOOTBALL
The game has all the ingredients of league with simple, easy to follow rules that make for an exciting social game that can be played by people from all walks of life that are keen to enjoy themselves and get fit at the same time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>DAY AND TIME</th>
<th>WHERE?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-16 Unisex</td>
<td>Wednesdays from 4 pm – 6 pm</td>
<td>Steel Park (meet at PCYC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COMMUNITY DROP IN
A range of fun and exciting activities and a drop in space to socialise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>DAY AND TIME</th>
<th>WHERE?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All ages welcome</td>
<td>Saturdays 8 am – 10 am</td>
<td>PCYC Marrickville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ONE TIME REGISTRATION: http://bit.ly/pcycdropin | Ph: 9559 7722 | E: merrickville@pcycnsw.org.au | pcycnsw.org/marrickville * Excludes the learn to play basketball program
**Trials & Training Days**

- **Date:** Every Sunday in February & March
- **Location:** Timbrell Park, Corner of Henley Marine Drive & Norman Street, Five Dock
- **Time:** 9am - 11am
- **What to Bring:** Football boots, Football socks & Shin Pads are a must!

**Why Play Soccer with the Pirates?**

- Boys & Girls teams from 4 years to 12 years of age.
- Provide players of all age groups a full player’s kit which includes a Jacket, shirt, shorts, socks, Training kit, bag, ball and drink bottle.
- The club is committed to working in tandem with parents & supporters to create a fun, safe sporting club for the children of the local community.
- To make it enjoyable and entertaining to visit our home ground to watch our players & socialise with fellow club members
- To make football accessible for all through targeted programmes e.g. for schools, key community groups, scholarships

- Provide a Safe & Freindly Club for children to play Football.
- Play Soccer in the Canterbury District Soccer Football Association.
- New initiative for local players playing in Ashfield, Annandale, Ashbury, Leichhardt, Summer Hill.
- To provide coaches with the best possible tools to coach & train children how to play the best team sport in the world.

For information & Registration contact Mr. Jean Kouriel on: 0411 411 142

Address: Suite 49a, 19-23 Norton Street, Leichhardt NSW 2040
Email: info@piratesfc.com.au
Website*: www.piratesfc.com.au
App: Ashfield Pirates Football Club
Do you need Quality Child Care?

Our coordination unit is staffed by trained Early Childhood Professionals who ensure the highest standards of quality care are provided for children in a secure and stimulating home environment.

Hours are flexible depending on the care required including: full time, part time, casual care, before and after school, vacation and weekend care.

- Educational experiences are planned for your child's individual learning and interests
- Developing a close relationship with one educator with mixed age groups in family settings
- Health and Safety standards are monitored
- Comply with National Quality Framework:
  - Education and Care National Regulations
  - National Quality Standards
  - Early Years Learning Framework

Child Care Benefit and Child care Rebate is available to help parents with the cost of care.

For more information about Canterbury Family Day Care, please phone 9789 9489 or email fdc@canterbury.nsw.gov.au