Dear Parents and Carers,

Just recently I was struck by how fortunate we are at Ashbury to have such a wonderfully supportive community. The care shown at the Zone Swimming carnival with many parents offering lifts and ensuring students stayed safe and well looked after; the willingness of parents to attend the School Council AGM so we had a quorum; the dedication of the Garden Committee to provide a wonderful opportunity for the community to get together at the inaugural “Taste of Ashbury” last Thursday night. We are all part of something special and these are fantastic examples of community spirit where each of us plays our part. We should all be very proud of Ashbury!

School photos were taken last Thursday. It was wonderful to see our students proudly wearing their uniforms and with hair gleaming and shoes shiny! The students behaviour and school uniform was complimented by the photographers. Thank you everyone for taking the time and effort to make your photos a special memory.

Communication Between Parents and Teachers

The staff at Ashbury really do value the partnership we have with parents, and we want to make sure the lines of communication between us are open. Please feel free to call or email the office if you need some information (see footer below) and any messages will be passed onto the appropriate staff. Unlike the business world, teachers don’t sit at a desk during the day, so calls and emails might not be responded to immediately.

You are obviously reading this newsletter, but please help us to remind other parents to read it and tell them how they can get it sent to them via email! We also send notes, so check school bags regularly. Many parents have told me they like the SMS messages and the class parent emails which are used to send...
reminders or specific information, so please make sure we have your phone details so you can receive these too. When we are able to communicate respectfully and openly with each other, we can look after the students, your children, in the best way possible!

**Mrs Shelley’s Farewell Assembly**
This special event will be held on Wednesday 23rd March at 2.30pm in the hall. It will be a chance for the Ashbury community to say farewell and all the best for the future. More details to come.

**China Opportunity**
Last Tuesday night an information evening was held for Stage 3 parents and students to discuss an exciting opportunity to travel to China in September for 10 days as part of a tour for NSW Public School students. The students heard about some of the wonderful cultural experiences they will encounter - visiting Shang-hai, Naijing, Beijing, the Great Wall of China, Tian An Men Square, Disneyland Shanghai, martial arts shows and a ride on the bullet train are just a few of the events the action packed tour has planned. Our students will also visit schools and perform musical performances with and for Chinese students. There is also a parallel tour available for parents so they don’t miss out on all the fun! Parents have until 21st March to make up their mind if they will attend the tour and pay the first instalment. Please contact the school if you require further information.

**A Taste of Ashbury**
What a wonderful night to celebrate the Ashbury Community Garden! It was a balmy Thursday evening when about 40 Ashbury school parents, teachers and Ashbury community members got together to share a drink and some freshly made “tasters” using fresh produce from our Ashbury community or local gardens. We sampled ginger beer, stuffed zucchini, corn fritters, spinach and fetta mini pies, basil pesto pasta, finger lime tartlets and rockmelon sorbet along with several other tasty morsels. Thank you Garden Committee for the seamless organisation, for providing the delicious food and beverages and for setting up and packing away so efficiently at the end of the night. It was an amazing night filled with community spirit – hopefully we can do it again next year!

**Harmony Day**
On Monday 21st March we will be celebrating Harmony Day. This year the theme is “Our Diversity is our Strength”. We will have lots of fun activities to do in class and with our buddy classes. To support the day students are invited to wear Harmony Day colours of orange or yellow!

From 9-9:45am grandparents are invited into the class room to share their stories or read a book to the class. It is going to be a great day of celebrations and learning. A note will be sent home.

**The “Tell Them From Me” Student Survey - Years 4-6**
This term, our school, like 1,500 others in the state, will once again participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey will be sent home shortly.
National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy 2016 (NAPLAN)

The NAPLAN tests for students in Year 3 and Year 5 are scheduled to take place on the following days and times -

**Tuesday 10 May** - Language Conventions - (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) Yr 3 and Yr 5, 40 minutes and Writing Yr 3 and Yr 5 40 minutes

**Wednesday 11 May** - Reading Yr 3, 45 minutes, Yr 5, 50 minutes

**Thursday 12 May** - Numeracy - Yr 3, 45 minutes, Yr 5, 50 minutes

**Friday 13 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. Please make an appointment to see Mrs D’Arrigo if you have any concerns about NAPLAN.

School Council News

The Ashbury school council met for the first regular meeting of the year last Monday night 29th February. Thank you to all members who are continuing their three year tenure, and for Shanthi Viswanath, one of our teacher representatives who has joined Council replacing, Karen Morris, who left last year. During 2015, Council worked hard reviewing the Council Constitution, the Aboriginal Education Policy, the Attendance Policy, the School Dress Code and Uniform Policy (pending approval) and the Student Wellbeing and Discipline Policy and Anti-Bullying Plan (pending approval). You can look at these on the Ashbury website [http://www.ashbury-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/rules-policies/school-policies](http://www.ashbury-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/rules-policies/school-policies). Policies pending approval can be viewed by all interested parties, with comments relating to content to be directed to [www.ashbury-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:www.ashbury-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) with the subject heading to say School Council - and the policy name.

In 2016, Council plan on formulating or reviewing the Sport and Physical Education Activity plan, the Enrolment Policy, the Special Religious Education and Special Education in Ethics Policy and Procedures, Internet & Intranet Policy, and the Excursion Policy and the Student Health Policy. They will continue to work hard to ensure our school is the best it can be!

Recommended Uniform Change

After extensive consultation with students and parents via survey last year, the School Council has recommended a small change to the school uniform. Most aspects of the Ashbury school uniform people saw as satisfactory or had strong views either way e.g. baseball caps versus cricket hat; so these items remained unchanged. However the survey results clearly indicated that many people would like to see the boys wearing the blue sport shorts in daily use. Boys would be still permitted to wear grey shorts as well. Stay tuned for the final decision on this and when the change can occur.

Stage 2 Walks

A huge thanks to Mrs Kaye and the Stage 2 teachers who walked around our neighbourhood during the past two weeks looking at the historical sites in Ashbury. Students talked about what the land would have been like prior to 1788 and the arrival of the European settlement, they talked and learnt about Canterbury House, the Trevenar’s Dairy, the Ashfield and South Ashfield Brickworks and the changes to our own school over the years! Very interesting stuff – Stage 2 parents, please ask your children all about Ashbury history!

Tree management

You may have noticed the workmen and machinery at our school last week. The tree loppers spent the day pruning and dead-wooding the trees in our playground in order to make our school safe as per departmental guidelines. The mulch from this activity has been retained and is being used around the school.
**Stewart House**
Stewart House is a hospital, a charity and a school. It provides health care and short-term respite care for children in need who are enrolled in public schools in NSW and the ACT. Stewart House receives no government funding, therefore fundraising, salary contributions and donations play an essential role to ensure they continue to provide this great service to children. Encouraging children to be a part of charitable action has many benefits. It helps teach empathy, shows children that their actions can have a positive impact, helps connect children to their (local, national, or international) community and helps children better understand and cope with unpleasant events. The Stewart House used clothes bags will be sent home to be filled by each family. The pick-up date for the bags is Wednesday 22nd March 2016. Please leave all bags under the stairwell near the office. Thank you in advance, for your generosity!

**Zone Swimming Carnival**
Congratulations to the 34 students who represented Ashbury PS at the Wiley Park Zone Swimming carnival on the Monday 29th February. It was wonderful to see so many of our swimmers doing their best with many performing personal best times. Our school placed 4th on the day out of 20 schools – a great result. Well done to the Senior Boys Relay team – Ben, Louis, Julian and George who made it through to the Regionals and Kylani, Ben, Amelie, George, Edward and Valentino who were successful in gaining Regional positions in their individual events. The Sydney South East Regional swimming carnival will be held on Tuesday 15th March.

**Special Religious Education/Special Ethics Education**
SRE/SEE has started for the year on Tuesdays 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 currently also offer Ethics classes for Stage 3. Another teacher has recently received training in Ethics and so a Stage 2 class has been offered to those students in non-scripture beginning soon.
If you or anyone you know would be interested in training to become an Ethics teacher please contact ‘Primary Ethics’ or Catherine on 0408 563 138.

**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 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.
4B ‘Carnival of the Codes’ Recounts

On the 17th February, the whole of stage 2 went to Canterbury Boys High School to attend the Carnival of Codes. We went by bus to do sport and have fun. We played five different sports. These sports were netball, AFL, rugby union, rugby league and soccer.

Firstly, our class did netball. We played a modified game of netball. It involved four teams (wearing blue, green, red and yellow bibs) passing a netball five times, then to the person in the circle.

Then our group went to AFL. We were trained by Sydney Swans. We practised kicking skills. We had to kick the ball into the big white stumps then grab the cones and run back to the group.

After that, our class went to rugby union where we did throwing and catching. We learned to catch with a ‘W’ in your hands and to throw with superman arms.

Finally, we did soccer. There were 2 coaches and we got separated. I was the goalkeeper. Our team won 3-2. After all of that we all met up and went to the bus. We all quickly ran onto the bus and drove off exhausted.

By Gabriel

On the 17th February, stage 2 went to the Carnival of the Codes. 4B came by bus and we had first class reception. When we got to Canterbury Boys High School everyone lined up in lines and went to sport.

4B walked to netball and formed groups of 5. We played a modified game of netball, but it was still fantastic. After 15 minutes of netball we ran to AFL and sat down on the silver seats. When we walked to the AFL field, we got into groups of 6 and played AFL. We kicked the hard AFL ball. Next they blew the whistle and we ran and got the ball back.

After AFL we took 20 steps to rugby union. At rugby union we got one of the soft balls and we were in groups of 2. I went with my friend Jacinta and we passed the ball to each other. Next we took 5 big steps to rugby league and we played ‘rob the nest’. When we played that game it was so funny. We had to do star jumps, tuck jumps and 5 claps before we could get the ball.

Last of all, before we went to soccer, we had recess for 20 minutes. After recess we walked back to soccer and two people had to play goalie. After a long day, I was tired and went to sleep at 4 o’clock.

By Lily

On the 17th February all stage 2 went to Canterbury Boys High School to participate in the Carnival of Codes. The sports that we played included netball, AFL, rugby union, rugby league and soccer.

The first sport we played was netball. At netball we had a custom game, which included four teams competing against each other to get the ball to the goal. Before we could do this, our team had to throw five consecutive passes.

Next, we learnt the skills of AFL. We kicked balls (and tried to get them on our instructors), ran to get the balls and played a game where we made teams of four. Everyone got a turn of going near a cone and kicking into the goal. When you got a goal you took the cone and gave the next person the ball and repeated this.

After recess we played rugby union and rugby league. In rugby union, we passed balls with a partner and played try games. In rugby league, we played Bullrush and Rob the Nest.

Our last sport was soccer. The group was split in half and both groups played soccer. Thankfully we won the game! Too bad there was no prize…

After all of the sport, we went on our private bus (some kids called it a jet) and went back to school. It was the best Carnival of Codes ever!

By Keira

Pennant winners:

Jacob B 2M
Poppy G 4/3K
Innes W 3N
Rebecca W 1V
Jada M 2M
Jesse G 6/5J
Isobel B 6/5S
Chloe H 1/KW
Finley J 4/3K

CONGRATULATIONS!

Notes Sent Home
This Fortnight:

- Ukulele lessons
- Stage 2 Ethics
- Choir and Choral Festival
- Festival of Instrumental Music

If you missed any of these notes please visit the website or call in to the office for a copy.
Does your child have a disability?

Parents of children with a disability aged 2 to 12 are now eligible for free parenting support through the Stepping Stones Triple P Project.

EARLYED invites you to attend the following FREE parenting seminar series:

Seminar 1: Positive Parenting for Children with a Disability
Wednesday 16th March 2016 10.00am-12:00pm.

Seminar 2: Helping your Child reach their Potential
Wednesday 23rd March 2016 10.00am-12:00pm.

Seminar 3: Changing Problem Behaviour into Positive Behaviour
Wednesday 30th March 2016 10.00am-12:00pm.

Where: Berala Community Hall
2-4 Tilba St
Berala NSW

Please note child minding will not be available.

RSVP: As these programs are being funded as part of a research project please contact the research team to register.
Phone: 02 9114 4060
Email: fhs.Steppingstones@sydney.edu.au or Sonia at EarlyEd squgnani@earlyed.com.au 98971511
Rosebank College is Turning 150!

In 2017, Rosebank College will be celebrating its 150th Birthday! Such an auspicious milestone could not have been reached without the thousands of young women and men, teachers and parents whose stories have stitched the fabric of Rosebank’s history and unfolded its future. As we approach 150 years, we are seeking to reconnect with as many people as possible who have a story, memory or artefact to share and to help us complete the intricate and colourful tapestry that is Rosebank College.

Everyone with a connection to Rosebank is very important. Please do not count yourself as insignificant.

You can assist by getting in touch if:

- You are an ex-student, former teacher or past parent of the College
- You have an old uniforms (particularly from the 1930s – 1950s) that the College can use to either photograph or recreate
- If you are the relative of a deceased mother/aunt/cousin/grandmother etc. who attended Rosebank and can recall any conversation you had about Rosebank
- You have any photos (particularly from the 19th century), exercise books, diaries, medals, trophies, yearbooks or other memorabilia from your time at the College

Our College Archivist is extremely keen to hear from anyone who can contribute. Contact details are:

archives@rosebank.nsw.edu.au or 9713 3155