Classes for 2016

Last Wednesday we formed an additional infants class which was a result of the number of enrolments we have received from the beginning of the year. The classes and teachers are now as follows:

- KB - Mrs Denise McKenzie
- KR - Mrs Maryann Hodges
- 1J - Mrs Jodi Jones (M, T, W) and Mr Joshua Jones (Th, F)
- 1/2C - Mrs Haylie Craig
- 2G - Mrs Mary-Louise Gorrie

In total we have 10 classes for 2016. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we have to wait to confirm student numbers in order to finalise our classes.

Swimming Carnival

Due to the requirements of student safety in aquatic activities, parents need to indicate their child’s level of swimming ability in order for their child to participate in the swimming carnival. Notes have been sent home today and need to be returned no later than this Thursday 18 February. Your support in returning these forms promptly will enable our school to support your child appropriately at the swimming carnival.
“Happiness is found when you stop comparing yourself to others.”

Messages for our parents

**Sydney Swans Visit**
Our school was treated to a visit from two star players from the Sydney Swans: Harry Cunningham and Jordan Dawson. Students listened attentively to our visitors, learning about their history, dedication and most memorable moments.

**Safety Concern**
There have been a number of reports to the school of students visiting the skate park before school and meeting up with their friends. Parents please ensure your child walks directly to school so that they can arrive safely.

**P&C Meeting- All welcome!**
Parents are invited to attend our first Parents and Citizens meeting on Tuesday 16 February at 2.00pm located in the Community Centre. New families are always welcome. Come along and hear about the fantastic things happening in our school!

**Assemblies**
Assemblies are held every fortnight on Friday afternoons at 2.30pm. The Primary assembly is held in the Hall. The infant’s assembly is held in the Library. Parents are most welcome.

**Important Dates**
- P&C Meeting @2.00pm 16 February
- Stage 3 Rugby League Clinic 18 February
- Swimming Carnival 22 February
- PLP Parent BBQ 3.00pm 24 February
- District Swimming Carnival 26 February
- Premier’s Reading Challenge begins 1 March
- Harmony Day 2 March
- Clean Up Australia Day 3 March
- Athletics Carnival 4 March
- Peer Support Camp 17-18 March
Stage 3 Rugby League Clinic
Stage Three will be involved in Rugby League clinics on Thursday the 18th February. This is a great opportunity for our older students to participate in all facets of the game in preparation for the Trent Barrett Shield and Mortimer Shield later in the school year. All boys and girls will be involved.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will 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.

More information about the survey is available at:

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 a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 11 March. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Spelling Lists
It has been encouraging to hear from some children, that they are working hard at home learning their Term One spelling lists. Please encourage your children to practise words they are having trouble with each day. Underlining the part of the word causing them trouble is a good way to help them learn their errors. Then ask them: ‘What part of this word is tricky for you?’ When they write the word next time they will have this message inside their heads!

This is Week 4 and the Term test will be in Week 9. If your child needs a list or has lost the list please see your class teacher. Thank you for helping our students with their spelling.

Interventionists
Ashmont is particularly fortunate to be able to employ interventionists to help our students with learning. An interventionist is a part-time teacher who takes small groups and individual children in every classroom to prevent students from slipping behind as well as extending the more capable students.

Our interventionists this term are: Jenny O’Neill, Kath Morton, Marg Whalan, Susan Castle and Julie Webber. Our students at Ashmont Public School are certainly benefiting from this valuable resource.

Parent Information Sessions - Meet the Teacher
Thank you to all the parents that met with their child’s class teacher last week. Parent and teacher partnerships that foster open communication continue to enhance student learning. We value your contributions and know that you can give valuable insights to help support students to reach their potential. If you were unable to attend those meetings and wish to meet your child’s class teacher, please contact them to arrange a suitable time.

After School Sport
After school sport begins next Monday for Infants children and next Wednesday for Primary. The sports programs will run from 3pm-4pm these days and the children will be provided with a small healthy snack.

The program is available for all students at Ashmont Public School and is a free sports initiative provided by the school. Peter Little will provide a range of fun and engaging activities for the children. Please be advised that they need to be picked up from the school by a parent and are not to walk home.
Parent and Community Art Workshops

Every Monday from 2.30pm

Try your hand at clay, painting and weaving. If you have an art or craft skill you would like to share, let Kath know and we can run that as well. All welcome.

Swimming Carnival

On Monday 22 February students from Year 2 (who are 8 this year) up to Year 6 will be attending the school’s annual swimming carnival. The carnival will be held at the Oasis Swimming Centre and all students are encouraged to attend. We look forward to a great day at the pool participating in age races and novelty events. Please remember to pack for the day: water, sunscreen, hat and food. The canteen will be open at the pool for snacks and lunch.

Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and textbooks
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner), such as full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work, and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Jenny Rolfe-Wallace your local Saver Plus Worker:
(02) 6931 3963 / 0437 375 832
or jenny.rolfe-wallace@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered across Wages Wages and surrounding districts by The Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

Primary Awards Week 4 Term 1

3P: Rhianna Leverton, Kunjara Kennedy, Shaelah Black
3/4S: Brooklyn Pettit, Jason Green McGowan, Cheyanne Reid
4/5H: Toriarna Honeysett, Sarah Parker, Chloe Griffiths
5M: Sky Barker, Tylar Allen, Chloe Corbett
6L: Ryelei McKenzie, Tamara Crampton, Jack Lanyon

Art Awards
Zaden Hall
Jason Green-McGowan

AWARDS - Term 1 Week 4:

Merit Awards
KB: Tyrhys Glass-Goldstraw, Kyra Gordon
KR: Kaiden Gibbons, Hope Hardman
1J: Rhys Crampton, Jett Lyons
2G: Chase Grosvenor, Leah Little
1/2S: Niarla Robbins

Blinky Bill Award
KB: Oliver McPherson
KR: Wil Neilson
1J: C-Jay Phillips
2G: Chase Grosvenor
1/2H: Jacob Miotti

School Office hours
8.30am to 3.45pm