Dear All,

It is with great excitement that I announce that the Camp Quality Puppets are visiting our school on **Monday, 30th March**. The Camp Quality Puppets are part of an interactive educational program for pre- and primary schools. Through the use of state-of-the-art puppets, children learn how to be supportive of children who are living with cancer and their siblings. The program informs and educates, resulting in greater sensitivity and support for children who face medical challenges.

Although the puppet show is free, Ashcroft Public School has decided to use this event as the basis of a charity fundraiser for Camp Quality. Our aim, as a school community, is to raise $500 to donate to the charity on the day. In order to help us reach our goal, we have organised three fundraising events:

- **Crazy Hair Day** – Friday 13th March,
- **Cake Stall** – Friday 20th March,
- **Sausage Sizzle** – Friday 27th March.

Individual notes for each event will be distributed to all families. I urge the whole community to support these events.

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**Principal’s Report...**

“One of the most beautiful qualities of friendship is to understand and be understood”

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**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13th March</td>
<td>Crazy Hair Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th March</td>
<td>Milo Indoor Cricket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Best Start parent feedback morning tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th March</td>
<td>Preschool Picnic Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20th March</td>
<td>Cake Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd March</td>
<td>National Young Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>3-6 Sport Gala Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th March</td>
<td>Sausage Sizzle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 30th March</td>
<td>Camp Quality Puppets</td>
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</tbody>
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**Canteen Rules**

- All lunch order must be placed **before 9.30am**.
- **NO** lunch orders will be taken at recess or lunch.
- **NO** credit will be given so please do not ask.
- Please use PLEASE and THANK YOU.
- Please line up nicely and wait your turn.

**Remember: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner**

Our Canteen price list is available from the Office or you can download it from our website [www.ashcroft-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ashcroft-p.schools.nsw.edu.au) in the ‘Our School’ section and then just click on the ‘Canteen’ tab.

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**Places still available in our Preschool...**

We still have places available in the afternoon session of our Preschool. If you have a child or you know someone with a child who is turning 4 before 31st July 2015 they are ready to enrol in Preschool for 2015.

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**School Information**

Notes and Newsletters are available from the office or you can download them from our website [www.ashcroft-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ashcroft-p.schools.nsw.edu.au) in the Notes Home section. You can also keep up to date by checking out our Ashcroft Public School Facebook page.

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**Like us on Facebook...**
From Mrs Birkett...

Listening to your child read on a daily basis is one of the most important and rewarding activities you can do with your child. It gives your child the chance to demonstrate their reading skills and talk to you about what they have read and learnt. Over time, you can see just how much your child has grown in their ability to read with expression and fluency and simply enjoy reading for the sheer pleasure of it. Please take the time to read the attached article on "Does Reading Aloud Really Matter?" You may be surprised with what you find out!

From Mr Augustine...

Important Changes to the State Government Student Attendance Policy

Regular attendance at school is essential for all students to achieve their potential. The Education Act 1990 requires that children attend school each day the school is open. Schools are required to keep data relating to full day absences, late arrivals and early departures. This information is recorded on each child’s pupil record card. At Ashcroft Public School, all students are required to arrive at school ready for lessons before 9:00am and remain in class until 3:00pm.

The School Attendance Policy and related procedures sets out the requirements for the attendance of students in NSW government schools. The document has recently been revised to reflect the new National Standards for Student Attendance Reporting. A summary of changes to the NSW School Attendance Policy is listed below:

- Principals may request a medical certificate for students who have a history of unsatisfactory attendance for each occasion the child has been reported to be “sick”. Parents are required to state the specific illness the child has suffered rather than stating the child was just “sick”.

- Parents are required to explain the absence of their child within 7 school days beginning from the first day of the child’s absence.

- Holidays taken by students outside of school vacations will now be included as absences. A certificate of Exemption will no longer be granted for this purpose. It will mean parents who choose to holiday during school terms will have their child’s absence recorded as “Leave”. A Certificate of Extended Leave may be issued. If the period of absence is in excess of 50 days, the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education.

- Principals must ensure that for students with attendance issues, the learning and support needs of the student are addressed with parents. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure their child’s school attendance is regular. Both whole day and partial absences must have a justified reason.

Some examples are listed below:

Reasons that would be justifiable absences

- The child was unwell. In this instance, an explanation of the illness is required in a note
- Misadventure or an unforeseen event
- Medical appointments, unable to be scheduled outside of school hours
- Attendance at funerals
- Recognised cultural or religious events
- Necessary travel that will be approved as “Leave” such as to attend a long distance wedding.

Reasons that would not be justifiable absences

- Birthday celebration
- Shopping
- Hair appointments
- “Sleeping in”
- No food at home for lunches
- Relatives visiting
- Attending the cinema /shows.

Working with students and their families is the best way to support regular student attendance. I am happy to discuss NSW DEC policy and procedures with parents. Please contact the office to make an appointment.
Our 3/4 students are learning about...
Stage 2 students are learning about Australia, Living and Non-Living Things and Persuasive Texts in Term 1. Stage 2 students are enthusiastic about learning multiplication and division in their Maths Groups.
Year 6 Science Assessment Program

Yesterday, the whole of Stage 3 watched people from Ashcroft High School do Science and show us really cool, fun experiments. First, the lady said she was going to get a genie out of a bottle. We said "No!" but her assistant proved us wrong. They put a type of liquid in the bottle and smoke came out just like a volcano. After that, the guy had a garbage bin. He put smoke in it and then little circles came flying out when he hit it. Also, we saw a rocket launch and people almost passed out because of how fast and scary it was. They also made mini explosions.

Brandon Vailanu 5/6A

Liverpool Legends NRL Gala Day

Congratulations to the students who participated in the recent Legends rugby league competition. Our junior team performed strongly but narrowly missed out on the finals. Our senior team were undefeated in the preliminary rounds, reaching the grand final where they played another undefeated side – Greenway Park. We started the grand final slowly, falling behind on the score line. An inspiring half time talk by our coach Mr Grech got the team firing in the 2nd half where we dominated. Unfortunately when the final whistle blew we were beaten by the better team on the day.

Seniors: Suni, Brandon, Nishi, Billy S, Mitchell, Raby Perenise, Junior T, Billy L, William

Juniors: Rieley, Paea, Junior L, Wayna, Kye, Brandon, Amin, Josephine, Justin D, Tony

Congratulations boys and girls you all played great!
Newcombeball 2015

The 2015 Newcombeball season has begun with a bang for both the juniors and seniors winning the first two rounds convincingly.

The juniors defeated Middleton Grange Public School 2 sets to nil (11-1, 11-1) in the first round and defeated Mt Pritchard Public School 2 sets to 1 (6-11, 11-8, 11-1).

The seniors were just as successful defeating Middleton Grange Public School 2 sets to nil (11-1, 11-1) and also beating Mount Pritchard Public School 2 sets to nil (11-1, 11-0).

Last week we had a bye round so we were practicing in preparation for Round 4 against Sadleir Public School.

Great Work Ashcroft, we are very proud of you...

Pupil Information Card Update

Reminder: If you have not yet returned the Pupil Information Card for your child. It is extremely important that we have this updated information as soon as possible.

Please fill in all the information required (Don’t forget to complete the back of the Pupil Information Card) and return it to the Office as soon as possible.

Change of contact details

Please remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

Uniform Shop

Our school uniform is required to be worn on a daily basis. Our Uniform Shop is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30am to 9.30am. If you are unable to attend during these times you can pre-order through the Office.

$ Make a payment

POP, EFTPOS and Credit Card Payments

Remember you can pay for uniforms, preschool fees, excursions etc. via any of the above payment methods at the Office or online via POP (Parent online Payments) on our Website.

Reminder: When paying with cash, please write your child’s full name, class, payment reason and the amount you are paying on the envelope. Please also insert the correct money then place the envelope in the payment box located at the Office.