**Principal’s Report...**

Dear parents, carers, students and members of the community, WELCOME to the 2016 school year. I hope you have all had a relaxing holiday and are refreshed and ready for the busy year ahead. A special welcome to the students who join us for the first time in 2016, particularly our new Kindergarten students.

I wanted to share with you all our students and teachers have been very engaged in the teaching and learning process so we successfully meet your child’s learning needs. We have high expectations of ourselves and our students and will be continually striving to best support your children. This way we can increase their achievements, as highlighted in our ‘shared school vision’.

Our vision at Ashcroft Public School is underpinned by strong commitment from our teachers who continuously engage in professional learning so they can deliver an excellent public education to your children. This will support our students to become ‘independent, responsible lifelong learners who respect themselves, others and the community’. Another priority we have is to build positive, supportive relationships with all our families and community members as this is a vital component within the educational process which enables us to work together to increase our students’ outcomes.

We also welcome two new teachers to our teaching staff - Miss Dias and Miss Heymel. With our staff allocation we have established 12 classes this year and our students will be provided with and supported through, implementation of evidenced based programs, interventions and practices. We are all looking forward to a year of learning and sharing of our whole school achievements and celebrations.

*Ms Bull - Relieving Principal*

**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16th February</td>
<td>Meet the Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 1 (years 1 &amp; 2)</td>
<td>Mrs Lazar’s Classroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 2 (Years 3 &amp; 4)</td>
<td>Mrs Birkett’s Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3 (Years 5 &amp; 6)</td>
<td>Mr Moore’s Classroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24th February</td>
<td>GVPSSA Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th February</td>
<td>Stage 3 Science Day AHS</td>
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**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. We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your child’s learning and wellbeing.

**Enrolling NOW for Preschool 2016...**

We still have places available in our Preschool – If you have a child who is turning 4 before 31st July 2016 they are ready to enrol in Preschool for 2016.

**School Information**

Notes and Newsletters are available from the office or you can download them from our website at www.ashcroft-p.schools.nsw.edu.au in the Notes Home section.
Meeting with teachers and the Principal

We ask all parents and carers to be considerate of all students and teachers at our school. Please closely supervise toddlers before and after school to ensure the safety of everyone. Our teachers are always prepared to meet and speak with you but they do need some notice. It is not appropriate for parents to be attempting to meet with teachers once the morning bell has sounded. At this time teachers need to be attending to all students and not attempting to conduct parent meetings. We thank you for your understanding and know you will support us as we ensure the safety of our students. If you would like to make an appointment to meet with your child’s classroom teacher or the Principal please contact the Office to arrange a convenient time.

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. All you have to do is complete a payment envelope with your child’s name, class, size and the item required. Please place it in the payment box at the Office with the correct money enclosed.

Your order will be filled on the next uniform day and your child will be called to the Office to collect it.

Student Medical Information

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important to let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if new health conditions develop. Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes and other health care related issues should be provided to the school by parents.

Please contact the office to request the necessary paperwork. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing. Over the next week we will be organising meetings with the Principal, classroom teachers and parents of students who currently have severe asthma, allergies or existing Health Care Plans to be reviewed and updated.

Our uniform 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 Uniform tab.

$ 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.
Meet the Teacher

Our 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon will take place next week on Tuesday 16th February. All parents are invited to come and meet their child's teacher and find out about their class program for the year.

The times are as follows:

- **Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)** 3.15pm
- **Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)** 3.45pm
- **Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6)** 4.15pm

Staggered starting times will provide an opportunity for parents with children in different classes to meet all their children’s teachers. We look forward to seeing all of you on the day.

Scripture

Our Scripture classes are held every Wednesday. The following religious groups may offer instruction to students on this day: Anglican, Catholic, Islamic. Non scripture supervision is provided to students not attending scripture classes.

Children are placed into scripture groups based on the information provided to the school by parents. If you wish to make changes to your child’s scripture class, please advise the school in writing.

Please discuss with your child appropriate behaviour expectations during this session.

Students and Medication

When a student is prescribed medication that needs to be administered during the school day, parents are responsible for:

- Bringing this need to the attention of the school and ensuring that the information is updated if it changes.
- Supplying the medication and any 'consumables' necessary for its administration in a timely way.
- Collaborating with the school in working out arrangements for the supply and administration of the prescribed medication.

*MOST short term medication such as antibiotics etc. can be administered at home before or after school - this is the preferred method.*

OOPS

Yes it’s that time again. We have lots of new students and they are often too excited playing with their new friends or a little bit nervous to ask teachers for permission to go to the toilet. We experience more little accidents this time of year as our younger students settle in.

*It would be appreciated if our Kindergarten and Stage 1 students have a change of clothes in their bag every day to help make those little OOPS moments less uncomfortable.*

Assembly times for Term 1

The K-2 school assembly will be held every Friday from 2.00pm in the Hall. The 3-6 school assembly will be held every Thursday from 2.00pm in the Hall.

Whole school Assemblies for Term 1 will be held on Thursday 18th February at 10.20am and Friday 29th February at 11.20am.

*Please note when there is a whole school assembly the K-2 and 3-6 assemblies will not be held.*

We encourage our parents to come to our assemblies to celebrate the achievements of our students. We ask that during the assembly all mobile phones be switched to silent or turned off and younger siblings be supervised at all times.

Visiting the School

Just a reminder, all visitors must report to the Office when they enter the school grounds. This includes parents who are delivering lunches for their children, passing on messages or for any other reason. This is a WHS issue and we need to know who is on the school grounds at all times. Parents are to bring their children’s lunches to the office prior to recess/lunch and Office staff will call the children up to the office at the appropriate time.

Attendance at Ashcroft

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she attends school on a daily basis and arrives on time. The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement is well established. Obviously, the more time children spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success. When children miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work, they often miss important interactions with their peers.

*Note: If your child misses 12-15 days per school year, this adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.*
Our New Kindy students

Our Kindergarten students have settled in very well to their school environment, with so many of the students lining up beautifully. We ask that all parents allow their child to stand in the lines with their class and allow the teacher to maintain class order. Parents are also asked not to walk their child to class or take the time to talk to the teacher as this causes distraction to all. At this stage the teachers need to focus on all the students in their class to assist in developing the essential routines.

Our New Preschool students

Our new Preschool children are settling in well. We have had very few tears and as you can see there are lots of smiles. Everyone is enjoying making new friends and exploring their new learning environment.

Congratulations to our first PBL Canteen voucher winner...

Well done Junior!