



ASHTONFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Phone: 4934 3584

Email: ashtonfiel-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



GUMNUT NEWS

Week 7, Term 4

Thursday, 20th November, 2014

WEBSITE:

www.ashtonfield-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

SMS student absences
0427 016 460

SCHOOL HOURS:

Supervision from: 8.25am
Classes begin: 8.55am
Classes finish: 2.55pm

NOTES SENT HOME:

- End of Year Party notes—
Years 1—6

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Year 3 “day camp”,
Tuesday, 25th November.
- Kinder Reptile Park,
Thursday, 27th November.
- MGHS Gala Day,
Thursday, 27th November.
- P&C Christmas Carols,
Friday, 5th December.
- Presentation Day,
Tuesday, 9th December.
- Year 6 Farewell,
Wed, 10th December.

OUR POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL) focus for this week

“Be Cooperative” and
“Ask First”

WEEKLY ASSEMBLIES:

Year 3—6
Thursdays,
12.40pm—1.30pm

NEXT P&C MEETING:

Tuesday, 16th December

CANTEEN OPEN:

Mondays & Fridays

UNIFORM SHOP OPEN:

Monday
8.30am—9am &
2.30pm—3pm
Friday
8.30am—9am

Principal's News

SAFETY Unfortunately even though our students are largely being caring and polite students at school we have had some concerning behaviours on their way to and from school which have been dangerous. After talking to the students we think some of these are misunderstandings particularly around the crossing on South Seas Drive. Can you please reinforce the information we have given the students.

- Don't stand too close to the edge of South Seas Drive until you are sure no cars are in sight.
- Go straight across to the middle island (don't stop and go back).
- Repeat the procedure from the island before crossing the next section.
- If in doubt don't walk out. Do not start, stop and start again as this can make it very difficult for cars to know what you are doing.

Although this is a 40km zone you can't assume that all cars are doing this speed. Cars should not stop at this crossing so please wait for them to pass. Big students please help our younger students keep safe.

YEAR 5 & 6 2015 CANBERRA EXCURSION will take place from Tuesday, 3rd March to Friday, 6th March, 2015. Due to bus, accommodation and venue availability numbers have been strictly limited to 120 students on a first in basis. **The excursion is now full.** Please note that the \$70 deposit is now overdue. If you have returned your child's interest in attending but have not paid the deposit as yet, please pay this by next Tuesday, 25th November or your child's place may be offered to students on a waiting list. Remember that it may take up to 3 working days for the school to receive online payments. For planning purposes please advise the school office if you know your child will not be attending. Please advise the office if you would like your child to be placed on the waiting list.

MGHS GALA DAY notes are due by next Monday, 24th November. The gala day is on Thursday, 27th November.

YEAR 6 FAREWELL is on Wednesday, 10th December. Year 6 payment is due by Thursday, 27th November.

STUDENTS LEAVING ASHTONFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL If your child will not be returning to our school next year (other than Year 6 students going to high school) please contact the school office as soon as possible.

P&C QUEENSLAND HOLIDAY RAFFLE will be drawn on Friday, 5th December at the P&C Family Picnic and Disco. Please sell your tickets to family, friends and work colleagues. All ticket stubs and money must be returned to the school office by next Friday, 28th November.

P&C FAMILY CHRISTMAS PICNIC AND DISCO will be held on Friday, 5th December. A flyer has been sent home today. Tickets for the ham raffle are included in this newsletter.

Have a successful week, Narelle and Staff.

Uniform Shop News

The P&C is investigating changing the sport shirt. It had been recommended by many people that the shirt be changed to a similar design as the Year 6 shirt of 2013. A sample shirt was created and approved by the P&C to be put forward for approval by the parents. The cost of the shirt will be \$33 (the existing shirt costs \$30).

The sample shirt is available for viewing in the school foyer. A ballot form is on the sheet below and is also available from the school office. Please place your votes in the box in the school foyer (next to the shirt). Please note that this shirt is a different, cooler material to the previous Year 6 shirt.

Could all parents please complete our survey for the proposed change to the sport shirt. Your action and feedback is appreciated. Regards, P&C Association.

P&C ASSOCIATION—SPORT SHIRT VOTING PAPER

Approval of the new sport shirt:

YES

NO

(PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR OPINION)

Class Awards

	Class Awards	Shamrocks		Class Awards	Shamrocks
KA			3F	Sam / Matthew	Adam / Jessica / Indiana
KB			3M		
KJ			3P	Hayley / Lockie	Harry
KN			3/4H	Stephanie / Milan	Caitlyn / Hayley
1M			4E		
1S			4J	Hannah / Brock	
1T			4S	Chloe / Luke	
1W			5C		
2B	SWIMMING SCHEME		5G	Mehtab / Leah	Ryan / Samantha
2O			5K	Tamara / Adaleice	
2P			6H		
2S			6J		
Sports Awards			6M	Ethan / Jasmine	

Bradley (3P) / Kate (3P) / Hannah (4J) / Athul (3/4H) / Jessica (3F) / Luke (3F) / Tallon (5K) / Kaitlen (5C) / Tesha (6H)

Canteen News

A reminder that the canteen is now open on Mondays and Fridays. If you are able to assist in the canteen on a Monday or a Friday, please contact the P&C on 0403 385 283. Volunteers are requested to have hair tied back and wear covered shoes. It would be appreciated if volunteers could arrive as close to 8.30am as possible.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR FRIDAY, 5th DECEMBER.

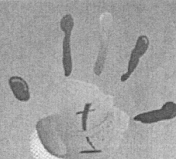
Please note: banana flavoured milk is no longer available at the canteen due to suppliers.

CANTEEN SPECIAL: From 21st November while stocks last ... Rice Stix 50c and Chocolate Billabongs \$1.20.

CANTEEN ROSTER—NOVEMBER 2014			
Friday, 21st November	Monday, 24th November	Friday, 28th November	Monday, 1st December
Jen.A Mezz.F Annette.C Anona	Cheryl.L Rena Wendy	Irene.T Tracy Lee.H Jen Mezz	Cheryl.L Rena Wendy

YEAR 5 AND 6 KIDS INTERESTED IN PLAYING BASKETBALL NEXT YEAR

Do you have a child going into Year 5 or 6 next year who would like to play basketball? The team plays every Friday afternoon/evening at Maitland Federation Centre. The idea is to have fun in a team environment. Experience is not necessary. If your child is interested please contact Joanne on 0410 404 852. Children are able to try out to see if they like it before the season starts.



Vacation Care

Maitland Baptist Church Child Care Inc.

PROVIDER APPROVAL NUMBER: PR-00007689

Ph 49391840 83 - 85 Weblands St Rutherford 2320 Fax 4939 1849 ABN 94 288 377 301

18th & 19th December 2014 - Rutherford & Thornton Centres Only. 22nd & 23rd December 2014 - RUTHERFORD ONLY

5th - 9th January 2015 -Metford, Rutherford & Thornton Centres Open

12th - 23rd January 2015 - Ashtonfield, Metford, Rutherford & Thornton

Pupil Free Day Tuesday 27th January 2015 - Ashtonfield, Rutherford, & Thornton Centres Open

Open 6.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Closed Jan 26th Public Holiday

Quality care for Children 5-12 years, who attend infants or primary school.

Organised activities such as Craft, Sports, Indoor & Outdoor Games, Movies and Excursions.

4 convenient locations - Ashtonfield, Metford, Rutherford & Thornton

"Child Care Benefit(CCB)" and Child Care Rebate (CCR) is available pending eligibility

Full fees will apply until CCB and/or CCR is authorized by "Dept of Human Services" (adjustments will then be made)

Daily fees after CCB range from \$5.92 (1 child with 100% CCB) to \$45.50 per child

Plus excursion fee if applicable. Fees to be paid on first day of care each week.

Bookings can be made at our centers and Main office from Monday 10th November 2014.

Please remember a 2015 yellow enrolment form and a vacation care booking sheet must be completed before acceptance of any bookings

Sorry no phone bookings

Please note: Bookings are essential and 5 FULL WORKING DAYS (Working Days are Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm excluding Public Holidays) written notice must be given to book out or else full fees will be charged.

Supported by Community Services, Department of Family and Community Services NSW



Term 4 2014 Calendar

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8	24	25 Year 3 "day camp"	26	27 Kinder excursion to Australian Reptile Park MGHS Gala Day	28
9 Dec	1	2	3 Year 7 High School Orientation Day	4	5 P&C Carols Reports home
10	8	9 Presentation Day Venue: Hunter Valley Grammar School	10 Year 6 Farewell	11 Year 1 Party Day: Hunter Valley Zoo Year 2 Party Day: Reading Cinema Yr 6 Party Day: Surf Fun Safe	12
11	15 Yr 3 Party Day: Reading Cinema	16 Yr 4 Party Day: Glendale Sports Centre Yr 5: Moonshadow Dolphin Cruise	17 Students last day	18 Staff Development Day	19 Staff Development Day



Beresfield Swimming Club Inc. and Beresfield/Tarro/Woodberry

Neighbourhood Watch invite members of the public to join us for

"RESUS SUNDAY"



Basic CPR is a skill everyone should learn.

An introductory CPR activity presented by a qualified instructor

Beresfield Swimming Centre – Anderson Dr, Beresfield

Sun 23 November 2014, 9am to 11am

Free pool entry for participants.

Please register by sms to 0413 337184 with your name(s)

For further information contact Sharon on 0412 660 557

PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

Ashtonfield COMPUTER SERVICES

68 Chisholm Road, Ashtonfield

Phone: 0466 289390

New computers
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Virus and malware removal
Network setup and trouble shooting
Broadband setup and fault finding
SPECIALS ONLINE - New computers under \$500



EAST 'N' HOLMES AUDIOLOGY

Our audiologists at East n Homes Audiology can do a range of hearing tests to rule out a hearing loss or Central Auditory Processing Disorder.

Call for more information or to make an appointment

PH: 49671511

Address: 7/57 Crescent Rd, Waratah, 2298

www.enhaudiology.com.au

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All Natural 100% SOY wax
Hand Poured, locally made in Ashtonfield

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info@happinesscandles.com.au

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We are offering:

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***Free access to any of our 30 class group fitness timetable including Zumba and Pilates**

If you have been thinking of kick starting an exercise regime or need to better your health NOW is the time to get started at ANYTIME FITNESS GREENHILLS! CALL 49331000 or come into club with a coupon to redeem this offer!

OPEN THE DOOR TO A
NEW CAREER IN

Counselling AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

With a Double Diploma of Counselling and Community Services from Careers Australia, you can be qualified in as little as 18 months to start making a difference in the Newcastle community.

Courses are starting soon, so contact Careers Australia on **02 4967 9200** to get started.



PH: 4967 9200

School Bag Tags

\$5.00 each

School & sporting groups
Personalised up to 5 lines
Large range of colours


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in our newsletter?
Contact the school
office for details.***



CHRISTMAS HAM RAFFLE



Please return tickets to school office in a sealed envelope with correct payment and child's name and class clearly on the front. Please keep raffle tickets separate from other school payments.

Please return by Thursday, 4th December, 2014. Drawn at P&C Family Night on 5th December, 2014.

\$1 – 3 tickets

\$2 – 8 tickets

\$5 – 20 tickets

It would greatly assist us if you could cut the tickets along the lines before sending in.

<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Class or Phone	Class or Phone	Class or Phone	Class or Phone	Class or Phone
<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Class or Phone	Class or Phone	Class or Phone	Class or Phone	Class or Phone
<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Class or Phone	Class or Phone	Class or Phone	Class or Phone	Class or Phone
<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>	<i>APS Xmas Ham Raffle</i>
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Class or Phone	Class or Phone	Class or Phone	Class or Phone	Class or Phone

PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to those families who replied (10%). Unfortunately compared to our paper surveys the percentages of replies was quite low this year. However we still remain committed to using them to plan for the next three years.

Parents feel welcome at APS	62%
Parents are informed at APS	51%
Parent participation, talking with a teacher two or more times	81%
Parent attending meeting two or more times	89%
Parents involved in committees	78%
Parents support learning at home	64%
Time spent doing homework - average	20 mins/day
On average parents want approximately 5 minutes less homework each day.	
School supports learning	68%
School supports positive behaviour	74%
School is a safe place	69%
School is inclusive	63%
Parents felt prevalence of bullying - verbal	11.8%
Parents felt prevalence of cyber bullying	2%
Parents felt prevalence of physical bullying	5%
Parents felt prevalence of social bullying	10.2%
Parents felt if child was excluded it was largely because of appearance or low grades.	
Parents felt if their child was treated unfairly it was likely to be because of low grades or low income.	
Type of homework parents prefer – 47.8% is revision and a further 41.3% prefer revision to be mixed with projects.	
For communication the majority (37.5%) prefer text messages if technological communication is used.	

There were 52 individual respondents who added comments to our survey. Most points were only mentioned by one respondent and these will be looked at on a case by case basis. Some of the suggestions have been tried before and others are new and worth considering. Those that had multiple respondents will be addressed in both day to day planning and where appropriate through the strategic plan.

The feeling of a lack of welcome by staff and in particular the principal is of concern even if it is only a few people. While we are all very busy and do ask that you make an appointment for specific purposes we do try to make the time for every parent or carer who makes a request. I also certainly personally take on board that I could be more visible and welcoming but please if you feel that I can participate with you or interact with your child more, let me know. We are always open to suggestions. However, things such as knowing what class a child is in on the first day is rarely possible as we cannot be 100% sure which children are returning or enrolling. In fact in the past we have had to change classes for a few children the following day. We do not like doing this and hopefully most changes occur during the first day so students can go home excited to tell their parents about their new classes.

The issues that three respondents mentioned are:

- Take no out of zone enrolments.
- More classes for gifted and talented students.
- More fundraising for smartboards, permanent buildings and updated facilities such as the hall.
- Class teachers having less time away from class.
- No support to attend activities if you can't afford them.
- Need more time on literacy and numeracy.
- More focus on technology.
- More times for parent/teacher meetings and regular student progress communication with parents.

There were also many positive comments. The following were mentioned more than three times:

- Teachers are fantastic/enthusiastic/hardworking.
- Small group work is fantastic.
- Communication from school is easy, especially SMS.
- Overall atmosphere is positive.
- Like that students are learning to mingle with other grades.
- Students are well disciplined and safe.
- Staff go above and beyond, staff deserve so much recognition from the parents for all the extra things they do.
- Teachers keep us up to date with children's progress.
- Great school band, choir and extra activities.
- My child loves school.
- Staff are prompt to reply to concerns.
- We enjoy attending all the activities – fair, picnic lunches, carnivals, fun days, concerts.
- Ashtonfield is a credit to the whole staff and the way the team works together.
- Very comfortable approaching the principal or teachers to discuss my child.
- We are very happy with Ashtonfield school.

We thank you all for your contributions, they are very much valued and will be used to help us further improve our school. We will work with the P&C also to do this.

STUDENT SURVEY

Years 4 to 6 completed this on-line with the following results. These results will also be considered in our planning process (except perhaps the repeated request for a pool which is beyond our budget).

The most notable difference between the parents and the students is the type of homework that is preferred.

82%	students have a high sense of belonging
86%	of students have positive relationships
40%	of students valued school outcomes.
65%	of students said they had positive attitude to homework
88%	believe they don't ever get into trouble
67%	said they were interested in school
84%	said they tried hard to succeed
50%	felt highly challenged and 27% more still felt confident
15%	were not confident in either English or Maths
21%	of students felt anxious
79%	students rated effective teaching time
78%	students rated relevance
78%	felt that classrooms were well organised, there was a clear purpose with immediate and appropriate feedback
78%	always felt safe attending school
75%	felt they have very positive teacher-student relations
72%	felt rules and expectations were clear and a high standard
83%	felt teacher had high expectations that they would achieve
60%	felt they had someone at home or in the community who provided encouragement
64%	preferred projects for homework and another 10% at least wanted some projects
86%	said they were able to use technology for homework

There were a further 485 comments which were largely positive with comments such as "enjoy my friends, my favourite subjects, I learn a lot". A pool was the most common request.