Dear Families,

Thank You to the Parents

Teachers, Office staff, the Support Staff, Julie and I would like to acknowledge the care and consideration parents have shown throughout the year. The level of parent commitment and belief in our school is quite exceptional. Many studies have shown that one of the greatest influences on student achievement is parental involvement and an alignment of expectations between the students, teachers and parents. Parental involvement comes in many forms. Parent Helpers programs and co-ordinating events around the school are the more obvious examples of parental involvement. But equally, parental involvement also means having regular bed times, reading nightly to your children, praising their achievements and letting them learn from their mistakes. It is also about modelling ways to behave and solve problems, allowing them to take risks and demonstrating how acts of kindness can make a difference. One of the sweetest moments between parents and children is listening to your child laugh. Take the time over the holidays to reflect on all you have achieved as a parent. Whilst it is inevitably rewarding, it is also not without its challenges. Savour the moments over the Christmas holidays.

Thank You to all Our School Volunteers

No school can function effectively without the time and capacity of volunteers. The whole school community would like to thank Christina Lambourne and her team for running the Uniform Shop. Also parents assisting with student excursions, swimming, Parents as Helpers program, student banking, Book Club, Kids Hope, CRE and the huge job Classroom Representatives do.

Thanks to our two parent bodies the School Council and the Parents’ Association for their tireless efforts in 2014. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the following School Council subcommittees and their teams of volunteers for all of their hard work this year: Finance, Strategic Plan, Curriculum Policy and Development, Fundraising, Publicity and Marketing. Sub committees and class representatives have also been heavily involved with organising the Student Disco, Chocolate Drive, Parent Night, Fathers’ Day Breakfast and Mothers’ Day Stall, Twilight Picnic, Christmas Canteen, Cupcake Stalls and prep transition activities.

The Grand Fair was a huge success for not only our school community but for the Ashburton community in general. It is always a welcome event on the calendar. We would love to acknowledge every contributor who has assisted in some way with the Fair. Instead we would like to acknowledge volunteers who have assisted for many years and who will no longer be with our school community. Thank you for your years of dedication, hard work and time you have put into organising stalls, developing rosters and many other tasks associated with the Fair. I am sure you will be back next year and will enjoy just wandering around. Janine Mowat did a remarkable job in 2014 as the Fair Convener. We thank her for her time, effort and expertise in organising such a huge event.

Year 6 Graduation

A fantastic night was had by all. The room was superbly decorated with new coloured lanterns. All year 6 students spoke eloquently and the night flowed smoothly. Thank you to Mrs Bevis, Mrs Roberts and Miss Simon for their time and effort organising Year 6 Graduation. Once again the food was delicious for both the students and parents organised by the Year 5 Class Representatives and their team of volunteers. They did an amazing job. Thank you to Sarah Quin (School Council President) and Holly McLaren (PA President) for their inspirational words to the students. We wish all the Year 6 students a great break and smooth start to their secondary schooling. Don’t forget to light those lanterns and hold them proudly in front of you.

Christmas Canteen

Students munched their way through a delicious Christmas Canteen. Thank you to Holly Barker and the team of Year 2 parents, for preparing and organising the lunch. Staff and students very much appreciated your efforts.

We Say Goodbye To...

Thank you to Melissa Thomassen and Blake Sahlstrom for all your hard work and passion in working with our students. We wish you all the best on the next stage of your careers.

Congratulations to...

Miss Georgia announced her engagement this year. Elyse Grant was married this year and will be known as Ms Mazza in 2015. Kate Geddes will be known as Ms Anderson in 2015 (she is still married, but has just kept her maiden name). Mr Ross is expecting twins next year (not him, his wife of course!) Kristy Price, Emma Parlour, Erin Maloney, Jane Gunstone all had babies this year and Lyrissa Spriggs is due early 2015.

Cont. over page...
**Diary Dates**

**TERM 3**

**Friday 19 December**
End Term 4 at 1.30pm

**Friday 30 January 2015**
Years 1-6 Start Term 1

**Monday 2 February 2015**
Preps Start Term 1

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**ASHBURTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We welcome into our community...

Amanda Callahan will be teaching Prep. Amanda has been teaching in the junior school at Eastwood Primary School for a number of years. Sarah Wreford will be teaching Prep. She has been a Casual Relief Teacher with us for six months. Emma Thickett will be joining us in Year 1. Emma has been teaching at Hawthorn West Primary School. Deb Simpson will also be joining the Year 3 team. Deb has been teaching in the senior school at Eastwood Primary School for a number of years.

Kevin Terrason will join us in Year 5. Kevin has been working for many years. Scott Bent will be teaching Physical Education and Miss Georgia will be teaching dance/drama two days per week.

**Christmas Break**

Action has certainly been abundantly evident at Ashburton Primary School this year. Your children have been exposed to a variety of enriching and challenging experiences that have helped them to question and grow as learners. Have a lovely Christmas break with family and friends. Relax, unwind and soak in the summer sun (don’t forget to Slip, Slop, Slap). See you all bright and chirpy in the New Year.

**Last Day Assembly**

Last day assembly will be held in the gymnasium at 1:15pm. Students will be dismissed from the gym with their bags.

**Term 1 2015**

Students return on Friday January 31 for Years 1-6 and Monday February 2 for Prep students.

**Natalie Nelson**
Principal

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**On Friday 19th December**

There will be a farewell Assembly at 1.15pm in the gym to say a final goodbye to our Year 6 students.
**Concert DVD’s**

The DVD’s for the School Concert will be arriving this week and will be distributed via the eldest child.

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**Missing Watch**

Watch went missing from Prep 1MG/SR area in the last week of November. SEKONDA Brand. It has a purple face, pink elastic wrist band. Purple flowers with yellow centres and green leaves are woven into the band.

It was named on the back of the watch face. Please return to the School office if found.

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**Volunteers Needed**

The School Uniform Shop needs your help. If you can spare time on the first and third Tuesday of each month then please come and join our friendly team. Please contact Christina Lambourne via email at: sqwelch@exemail.com.au

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**Classroom Cuisine**

There will no Classroom Cuisine available on the last day of Term, Friday 19th December.

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**Graduation Thank You**

The Grade 5 Class Reps would like to thank all the volunteers who helped to make the Grade 6 Graduation a wonderful night for the exiting Grade 6 students and their parents.

*Grade 5 Class Reps*

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**Book packages collected from the School Office on the following days:**

- **Term 4 2014** – Tuesday 2nd December to Thursday 18th December between 8.30 am - 4.00 pm
- **Term 1 2015** – Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd January between 8.30 am - 4.00 pm
- **Tuesday 27th January** between 8.30 am – 12.00 pm

Please remember to bring the completed School Expenses Form with you with proof of payment.

*Last day for payment of School Expenses (via COMPASS) in 2014 will be Thursday 18th December*
ありがとうございます (Arigato Haruka Sensei: Thank you, Haruka Sensei)
Haruka Sensei is going to leave Ashburton at the end of this week. She helped me for the last 10 weeks. As her university major in Japan is primary education, she has a great chance to see the similarities and differences between Australian education and that in Japan. I hope this experience will help her teaching career in the future.

I also thank to Wong family and Collis family for hosting Haruka in this term. It was their second time to host an assistant. Your contribution was excellent and you supported my Japanese teaching very well.

Please have a read through the following message from Haruka Sensei.

Thank you very much everyone. This week is the last week for me to come to Ashburton Primary School and teach you Japanese. I had a very good time with you for the last two months. Japanese classes were very exciting for me. I taught many students Origami in the last two weeks. It was very difficult for me to explain how to make Origami in English, but I was very happy because a lot of students concentrated their attention on my instruction and made up wonderful items. I hope you enjoyed making Origami.

The most impressive thing in this term was the concert. I went to the concert both nights and saw your performances. Your dances and smiles were amazing. I was deeply moved by your performances.

I have to say big thank you to my host families. First host family was Wong family. I enjoyed visiting the city and a beach and experienced Halloween for the first time with them. Second family was Collis family. I enjoyed watching the girls’ basketball games and playing a lot of games at home with them. The host parents were very kind for me and treated me as a real daughter. I was happy because I got new mums and dads and younger sisters. Thanks to the host families, Every day was full of fun.

Thank you also to everyone. I got a lot of precious experiences in this school. When I become a teacher in Japan in the future, I will tell my students about a lot of great things about Australia. I will never forget the wonderful days I have spent here.

Thank you very much.

Haruka Maeda

上野先生 (Ueno Sensei)
What has been happening at School Council?

It has been a busy and productive year for School Council this year. We are in the final stages of consolidating the strategic plan and look forward to its publication and implementation early next year. We have evaluated the success of the previous strategic plan and were pleased that the goals were met and, in some areas, exceeded. The new reporting and parent teacher interview structure has been finalised and will also be implemented next year.

The process of allocation of maintenance funds is well underway as we work towards finalising the items from which the school community would gain the most benefit.

Next year will also see the completion of the butterfly garden guided by Julie Gilbert. This will provide wonderful educational opportunities for students to explore a unique ecosystem in their own school.

I would like to thank the members of School Council for all the work they have done for the school this year. I would also like to thank the wider school community for their input. Many of you have volunteered your time in different but important ways. We appreciate your involvement and the feedback you have provided.

On behalf of School Council we hope you have a restful and enjoyable Summer break.

Sarah Quin
School Council President
ASHBURTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

5-12 YRS
Team Holiday
HOLIDAY PROGRAM
You’re invited!

Welcome!
All activities from
TUESDAY 30 JANUARY
9:30-3:30pm until close

MUSIC'S ON:
Click! Clap! Stamp!
Music Bonanza!

Summer Holiday ‘Sing and Play Music’
Drop-Off Programs
No Music Experience Necessary!

Camberwell Uniting Church
Tuesday 13 January 2015

Learn More At:
www.CharterisMusicSchool.com
0438 282 288

Our School also offers weekly instrumental music classes through the school year at Camberwell, Mount Waverley, etc.

HOLiDAY PROGRAMS

INTENSIVE TENNIS CLINIC
Korowa Girls School - Monday 15-18 December 9:30-12:30pm
East Malvern TC - Monday 12-15 January 9:30-3:30pm
Monday 19-22 January 9:30-3:30pm
Clinics fast track improvement, covering all strokes. All pupils from 4 -16 years welcome. $75 for full day, $45 half days (weekly discount).

HOT SHOTS
TOURNAMENT
Monday 22 Dec Mini Masters
Friday 16 Jan Mini Auslie Open
Tournaments: $20 per player. For players from 6 to 14 years old

9813 8484

FUTURES Tennis.com.au

RUN READY KIDS

RUN READY KIDS develops & enhances the fundamental skills of running, jumping & throwing.

PRE-SCHOOL: Game based skill development.
PREP - GRADE 2: Develop running, jumping & throwing skills.
GRADE 3 - GRADE 6: Skills training & fitness development.

GLEN IRIS: Monday
ASHBURTON: Thursday & Saturday
BRIGHTON: Friday

For more information visit:
www.runready.com.au or Run Ready
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RAFFLE

With the success of the Raffle for the Grand Fair in 2014 we are proud to advise our prizes for next year valued around $2000. Thanks to our sponsors and Ashburton business community as we have great line up of prizes. Something for everyone.

Early in February we will allocate 2 books per family – We encourage one to keep at home and sell to family and friends and one to take to a workplace or activities.

Ticket price is $2 each. Total book value is $20 per book.

| 1st Prize                      | Apple Ipad Mini 32GB Wi-Fi with Cover and Sharp Mini Audio system - RRP at over $900  
|                               |  
|                               | *Donated by Graham Watt and Sharp Pty Ltd
| 2nd Prize                     | Masport 200 ST Push Lawn Mower - RRP $409  
|                               |  
|                               | *Donated by Ashburton Mowers
| 3rd Prize                     | Flight Centre Ashburton - Domestic Flights valued at $400  
|                               |  
| 4th Prize                     | Electrolux Lavazza Coffee Machine with extra pods - RRP $180  
|                               |  
|                               | *Donated by The Good Guys, Chadstone
| 5th Prize                     | Claude Carré et Fils Champagne with chocolates - RRP over $120  
|                               |  
|                               | *Donated by Burwood Cellars

* Subject to change

Convenor Roles

- 2nd Hand Goods
- 2nd Hand Toys
- Sand Art
- Plaster Painting

If you can help with one of these roles, please contact Janine

Important Dates

- Next Fair Meeting: Thursday 12th February 2015
  7:30pm in the Conference Room
- Fair Date: Sunday 22nd March 2015

Aussie Farmers Boxes

Please save your small Aussie Farmers boxes over the holidays

2015 Grand Fair Co-convenors
Amanda Booker: 0418 748 310
Janine Mowat: 0410 444 228
Sue Syme: 0402 471 503
Email: grandfair.aps@gmail.com
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