



Ashby Primary School

Newsletter

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Issue 24

Tuesday 11th August 2015



Our Ashby Master Chefs

In Term 4, Years 5 and 6 students are following a cultural theme in cooking (DCT). Expert chefs have organised the first two sessions.

Zavier directed the preparation of the Egg and Bacon Pie (Kiwi style) and Mila brought along her family's favourite ricotta gnocchi recipe from Italy. We had great fun with dough.

THIS WEEK(ish) AT ASHBY

Thursday 13th August
Whole School Excursion
GPAC—*The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*.



Monday 17th August
School Banking

Wednesday 19th August
School Council (Staff room 7pm)

Monday 24th August
School Banking

Monday 24th—28th August
National Book Week

German - Ein Hundert Tage in der Schule!



Stop the press! Great news! Our Lily gained 6th place in the Grade 5 AGTV State Finals held last weekend. Congratulations to all who participated.



Have your details changed?

Have a new mobile or home number? Changed your email address? Please let the office know if your contact details have changed. This is especially important if we need to contact you urgently.

Before School Care

A reminder to those using Before School Care to ensure you book in the night before to avoid missing out.

Ashby Achievers

Congratulations to all the Ashby award recipients for last week.



	Prep A	Prep/1A	1/2 A	1/2B	1/2C	3/4A	3/4B	5A	5/6A
TERRI	Xander	Kiah	Julian	Tim	Rosie	Charli Siddarth	Evie	Sascha	Lucinda
WOW	Rose	Tom	Brayden	Zara	Josh		Bailey	Makenzie Mila	Daniel

School Council

If you have anything you'd like to discuss with the School Council, please feel free to contact schoolcouncil@ashbyps.vic.edu.au. Emails be forward to the relevant subcommittee Convener/ Chair.

Message from the Principal



It has been great to see **students engaged** in their learning within classrooms over the past few weeks. The teachers have spent time planning and implementing lessons with rigour within and around the classroom. Many classes are using iPads as a tool to support their learning. Mr Dowling is working with particular staff around effective technology integration and it's positive to see student confidence grow around the use of new apps and programs, and 'Striving to Excel' in all areas of their learning.

It's **The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe** week... Woo Hoo! Can I remind all parents that we'd like students to bring their lunch in a plastic bag on Thursday as we'll plan to have lunch in Johnstone Park if weather permits. Children will need to be in full Ashby school uniform with no variations of jumpers, leggings etc. Please ensure children bring a coat on this day.

Thank you to the families that have donated **decks of cards** to the school. Natalie Biscan, in her role of Acting Numeracy Coordinator, along with staff are in the process of further improving the numeracy resource shelves in each classroom, making them practical, inviting and bright. We are still happily accepting these, so please pop into 1/2 Biscan/ Trupkovic if you are wanting to drop any off.

I just want to again thank the **volunteers** that adorn our halls on a daily basis here at Ashby. From supporting in classrooms, assisting with mounting artwork and displays, undertaking nit checks, managing lost property, cutting up and delivering fresh fruit platters, coordinating school banking to mowing the lawn on the ovals. The support to your children and the students of Ashby is greatly appreciated.

I am currently in the process of auditing attendance and lateness and am finding a large number of students are consistently arriving late to school or missing regular days throughout each week and these absences have a dramatic impact on their learning. It is imperative that students are arriving prior to school commencing at 8:50am. Students arriving anytime after this are missing the introduction to lessons and key information to support them in their learning. If this is happening consistently, students are potentially missing up to 3 hrs a week or a day a fortnight. Students that are absent a day a week are missing more than two weeks a term and close to 10 weeks, or a term each year. Following this audit, we will be contacting specific parents/ carers of students to discuss these concerns.

The **Ashby Art Show and Open Air Bush Dance Extravaganza** is coming. Staff have commenced organisation for this family event to take place later in term 4. We are combining these events to create a fabulous family afternoon/ evening in celebration of our students here at Ashby. You will receive information regarding this in term 4, but a simple rundown of the evening will read; Art Show, art auctions and raffles, novelty sporting activities with students, staff and parents, classes performing bush dances to families and friends, followed by a BBQ picnic on the lawn. We will inform you of the confirmed date once this is finalised.

As you are aware **Teal Aakhut** recently won the State Cross Country and is preparing to compete in the Para (AWD) Australian Cross Country at the end of August. We are all very excited for Teal and what is ahead. The expense associated with participating at a National level is high and Teal will be selling raffle tickets over the next two weeks in conjunction with the Australian Sports Association to support him and his involvement in this. Please support this cause by purchasing a raffle ticket from the office or from Teal at various times throughout each week, including following Assembly on Fridays. Prizes include a Suzuki Swift, \$10,000 travel and accommodation package, home entertainment packages and a bottle fridge.

Cat Tales is an initiative by GAWS in which children of school age visit the shelter and read to a cat. This program provides an opportunity for children to practise their reading skills in a non-evaluative environment to a cat who is in the process of learning valuable social skills that will help them get adopted. According to research performed by Tufts University (USA): 1. Pets can be considered a source of support; 2. Human-animal interaction can make the learning process more comfortable and enjoyable for children; and 3. Animals can be a non-evaluative presence that can provide support and comfort to participants without judging them.

The Cat Tales program will be initially run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 2pm and 3pm. Each child participant must be of school age and must be supervised by a person over the age of 18. Bookings must be made at least one week in advance and sessions are for a duration of 30 minutes. Book your preferred day, date and time (either 2pm or 2.30pm) by email at cattales@gaws.org.au

Have a great week everyone.

Meg Bone

Acting Principal

Seven Steps to Writing

Dear Parents,

This week's focus for our 'cross age' writing for the Seven Steps was 'tightening tension'. Please find a couple examples of students' work below... we'll have more next week! There is also some information at the back of the newsletter with some parent tips that you might like to try out at home.

Regards,

Staff of Ashby

"I can hear all the people around me screaming. I'm shivering with fear. My body is frozen. I can feel a drop coming up. I'm starting to want to get off this lunatic ride".

By Charli-Rose (2W) and Lucinda (grade 5/6S)

"AHHHHHHHH!!" I scream.

I can hear the clack, clack of the cart on the rails. I get a shiver down my spine as I think I'm going to die.

"BANG!" We stop.

As I get off I feel as cool as a cucumber".

By Josh (2W) and Xavier (5/6S)



Want to help your child write better?

SEVEN STEPS WRITING TIPS

Don't just check the spelling! Authors use seven main techniques to make their writing interesting. So do join us for the Seven Steps 'quick tips' and fun writing ideas, for you to try at home.

How easy are the Seven Steps techniques? Try our quiz on 'The Bear Story'.

Step 2: Which story start is more interesting?

a) I woke up that morning, got dressed and ate breakfast.

b) The lock on the bear's cage looked ok, and the bear looked cross.

Step 4: Which is the better dialogue?

a) The teacher told us to stand back from the cage as the bear was growling loudly, but Jeremy didn't listen.

b) 'Stand back,' said the teacher, but Jeremy didn't listen. Suddenly the bear growled loudly. 'Jeremy!' cried the teacher, 'get away from the bear. NOW!'

Step 5: Which sentence 'tells' and which 'shows'?

a) I was really scared.

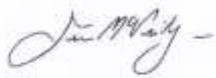
b) My heart was thudding loudly in my chest and brain.

See, simple isn't it? (Hint, answers are all B!)

What ARE the Seven Steps?

1. Plan for Success
2. Sizzling Starts
3. Tightening Tension
4. Dynamic Dialogue
5. Show, Don't Tell
6. Ban the Boring Bits
7. Exciting Endings

Wishing you all creativity, confidence and success in writing.



Jan McVeity



- National Literacy Champion
- Intercultural speaker
- Churchill Fellow
- Author of over 20 books

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Step 3: Tightening Tension

SEVEN STEPS WRITING TIPS

Series One

The tension scene comes just before the big climax ending. In movies this is the scene of the soccer final, the exciting car chase or the heroine fighting for her life in a raging river.

TOP TIP:
Emotion always takes time to build up. So in tension scenes, show kids how to start small and 'escalate' to a powerful climax.

We all know Little Red Riding Hood's classic tension scene. Red RH arrives at the cottage and the wolf is in bed in granny's clothes. Red RH, who obviously needs glasses!! says:
'Oh, grandmother, what big ears you have!'
'All the better to hear you with.'
'Oh, grandmother, what big eyes you have!'
'All the better to see you with.'
'Oh, grandmother, what big hands you have!'
'All the better to hold you with!'
'Oh, grandmother, what big teeth you have!'
'All the better to eat you with!'

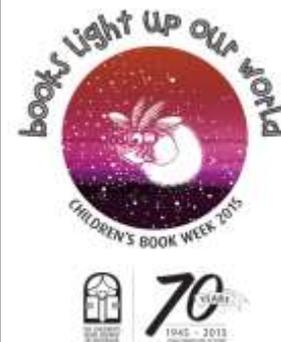


ACTION ACTIVITY:
Read picture books with your kids and look for the tension scenes. Picture books are short, so it's easy to find where the all-important tension builds before the ending.

See how the scene slowly builds up to be more and more dangerous - and thus frightening? We don't start with the teeth, we start with the ears - and the wolf trying to coax Red RH to come nearer and nearer.

Geelong Food Relief Centre.

From 17 August, we will be participating in the annual Toucan Appeal. This is the major food appeal to help those in our local community. If you can help by donating any of the following, we will have a box at school for donations: cereal, crackers, pasta and sauce side dishes, cake mix, powdered milk, flour, sugar, foil, Cling wrap, toothbrushes, toothpaste. All donations, whether cans, boxes or packets, will be gratefully appreciated.



**National Book Week
24 to 28 August 2015**

National Book Week is coming!

Stay tuned for more details.

Decks of cards

To assist with maths classes across the school, if any families are able to donate a spare deck of cards they may have laying around at home, this would be greatly appreciated. Could any cards please be dropped off to Ms Biscan. Thank you.



Friends of Ashby 2015

Building the Ashby Primary School community and enriching the learning environment for the school's children through social events, fundraising and the engagement of volunteers.



Visit the [FOA Facebook](#) page to stay up to date—it's a great way to find out what's happening.

SCHOOL BANKING

Congratulations to the following School Bankers who received certificates this week - Nate, Rose and Isabella N received their Bronze certificates (10 deposits in 2015) and Isabella T and Zara received their Silver certificate (20 deposits).



FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY

Fresh Fruit Friday is back in full swing. More helpers are required, so if you are available on Friday from 9am and enjoy a chin wag with other parents please come along. You don't have to commit to coming every week and it only takes an hour at the most. There are other children and toys to play with for the smallest helpers.



Ashby Skoolbag app... update

Skoolbag is now available for Windows Phones running version 8.1 of Windows, and Windows devices running Windows 8.1 or 10 (e.g. Surface tablet, Laptop, PC etc.). This makes the app even more accessible than before, with the ability to receive messages directly to a PC, Laptop, or Surface Tablet running Windows 8.1 or 10.



To install Skoolbag on your Windows device, look up "Skoolbag" in the Windows Store, and install it. Once installed you can find your school, and pin it to your Windows Home Screen. Please note: You must be running at least Windows 8.1 on your device for the app to function.

ASHBY PRIMARY SCHOOL CALENDAR TERM 3, 2015

TERM 3 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUG	Term 3
13th	Whole School Excursion 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' GPAC, 1pm
17th	School Banking
19th	School Council Staff room 7pm
24th	School Banking
24th —28th	National Book Week
25th	Music Performance Lara Primary School
28th	Basketball / Volleyball day
SEPT	
16th	School Council Staff room 7pm
18th	Term 3 concludes
OCT	Term 4
5th Oct	Term 4 starts

School Council Fundraising Subcommittee update

The fundraising subcommittee has been developed to oversee and coordinate the fundraising calendar at Ashby to ensure we can achieve our targets as identified as part of the budget process.

This committee is not responsible for the organisation and implementation of fundraising events, just to ensure that they are timely and spread out over the year, so parents, families and community members are aware of what events are coming up and can plan for and decide the level of involvement they would like to have in each event.

The fundraising subcommittee is currently in the process of developing a 2 year plan for fundraising events to potentially take place at Ashby. This will include the 'big ticket' events and more regular smaller fundraisers that take place throughout each term. They are also complimenting this with feedback from staff in relation to the essential items that we should fundraise for, to best support student learning here at Ashby.