



Special points of interest:

- Student Eyecare Program
- A Big Day In Careers
- Exciting Sky High Report
- Beacon Breakfast
- Faculty Reports
- Great Community Corner report
- Football results
- Library Readers results
- Bullying No Way information

Inside this issue:

Student Support Services	2
Yr 12 Business Studies Excursion	
Careers Report	3
Sky High Excursion	
Beacon Foundation	4 & 5
Peer Support	6
Science Report	
Creative & Performing Arts Report	7
Community Corner	
Football Report	8
Library Report	9
Boot into Bullying Information	
Sexting Information	

ASHCROFT ACTION

Ashcroft High School
 Centre of Excellence in the Performing Arts
www.ashcroft-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
 Maxwells Ave , Ashcroft
 Phone: 9607-8011

Fax: 9607-6562

Principal Report - Mr T Noon

Developing a K-12 (Ashcroft) School Community

Imagine the Ashcroft school community where there is a seamless transition between pre-school all the way through to Year 12. Such an idea may seem a distant reality, with far too many obstacles in the way for that to actually happen.

We have nevertheless been working on gradually moving towards such a reality by working on little steps over time. We realise that for students to be successful by the time they leave Year 12, the number of variables that distract student achievement along that journey need to be minimised. Ashcroft High School (AHS) has an ethos that espouses the whole-child, which also means that young people have to have all the basic elements of human survival in order to achieve fulfilment. Without food, shelter, love and belonging, humans falter in their ability to achieve a successful life with a positive sense of self-concept.

To that end, AHS has been developing over the last few years a number of important K-12- type programs:

1. An AHS teacher works as an assistant in each of the five feeder primary schools, with a focus on also sharing the learning that takes place

in a primary context back to the high school.

2. An AHS dance/drama teacher takes dance lessons in the primary schools, to help students familiarise with movement and a high school connection.

3. AHS has provided a highly skilled Clinical Coordinator (Registered Nurse) to screen and refer any outstanding undiagnosed health issues. Her work was initiated in AHS three years ago, and we commenced in Kindergarten in 2014. Getting in early allows educators to focus on combining this knowledge of addressed health issues with a much less unencumbered focus on learning minus many of these other issues getting in the way. Our hope is eventually that a health and academic profile will travel with the child through to high school.

4. The knowledge we have gained from this research continually informs our more recent thinking on ways Year 7 classes operate, where we are able to refine the transition from Year 6 into 7 much more smoothly over time than has been traditionally the case in schools.

Congratulations to the Beacon staff and students

One of the most successful Beacon Business Breakfasts

and Year 10 Charter signing took place on Friday March 13. A large group of visiting business people, educators, community members, students and staff were in attendance for the breakfast at 7.30. Perhaps the best way to summarise this day was captured by the NSW State Manager for Beacon Steve Armstrong (in part):

"This morning's event was absolutely amazing from the moment I was warmly greeted by your students at the front gate until the time we all walked away feeling so inspired."

The hospitality was incredible and the fact that students and teachers were up in the middle of the night preparing for the day is amazing! Congratulations again."

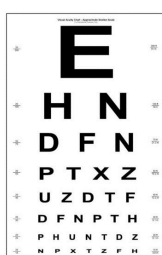
It was great to see such a full room at both events and certainly lots of positive energy from all your key stakeholders present."

The amount of effort, dedication and passion put into today was very obvious and I am completely in awe of you all at Ashcroft HS including students, teachers, executive team, community and business representatives."

In particular, congratulations to Jaclyn Thompson, Kelly Armstrong, Teena Haslehurst, Carol Fenton

Good Luck!

Congratulations!



KOMATSU®



Principal Report continued.....

and to the many Beacon Ambassadors, Hospitality students and staff.

Good Luck and Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jaclyn Thompson (PDHPE) in

gaining a position at Heathcote HS, and Georgina Bennett (Maths) gaining a F/T position at Northmead HS. Staff, students and community will surely miss you, and hope that you take wonderful memories with you of your time with us, as we

most do of you. We also warmly welcome our new Aboriginal Education Officer Moses Alone, following a competitive panel decision recently. Moses commences on Monday March 23.

Student Support Services - Mrs A Canobra

Sometimes the learning of our students is impacted by problems with their sight. The **Student Eyecare Program** will begin this year. An optometrist will be onsite during school hours to provide students with a **free comprehensive eye examination** that is covered

through **Medicare Australia**. **1 in 6** students have eye conditions that go undetected. This is due to the high level of visual demand on their eyes from books, laptops, tablets and smartphones. Every student will receive a full report about their eye health and a

prescription will be provided if glasses are required. The prescription can be taken to any optical store to get the glasses made. Please take advantage of this worthwhile health program. If you have any questions please contact Anna Canobra or Michelle Roberts on 96078011.

Year 12 Business Studies - by Ms V Xue

In Week 6 of this term Year 12 Business Studies students were fortunate enough to be provided with an opportunity to tour the Komatsu plant at Fairfield. The purpose of the tour was to deepen students knowledge of the HSC Operations unit as it provided students with an in-depth knowledge on the application of theory to a successful business like Komatsu. The

two representatives from Komatsu that provided a guided tour of the Komatsu plant were Cameron and Matthew. They were both very thorough in explaining the different key business functions in Komatsu and made every effort to make explicit links between the Business Studies Syllabus and its link to Komatsu. A healthy and hearty lunch was

also provided upon which students asked questions to further their learning. Overall, it was a great day and we would like to thank the team at Komatsu for arranging this tour in particular, Wafaa, Cameron and Matthew. A special thank to Mr Cross for driving the students to Komatsu.

Wishing all our students and staff a

Happy and safe Easter/school holidays

and remember

Term 2

Starts on Tuesday 21st April 2015

for all students

A Big Day In Careers Excursion - by Harrison, Saenz & Melinda

On the 5th of March, we attended The BiG Day In at UTS. It is an IT careers conference, designed by students for students and organised by the ACS Foundation. The event was sponsored by companies like IBM, Westpac, Woolworths and Microsoft.

We went to UTS to participate in this function. We learnt about so many interesting things, such as;

1. WiseTech Global's system to unlock innovative talent,

and strategies to help shape our futures.

2. The amazing work that went into making the movie that we know and love such as Happy Feet, The Lego Movie and Harry Potter.

3. And the amazing careers that we could be part of in the future.

We also had the opportunity to speak to the companies' representatives.

The BiG Day In had a prize draw. Some of the prizes were an Xbox One, HP Tablet and Gift Cards. Sadly, we didn't win anything. But overall, it was a great day and we're grateful to Mr. Dakash for taking us.



Sky High - by Tristin, Aimee & Jasmine 8S

Last Friday some Year 8 students participated in an excursion to the city for the Sky High program. We travelled by train to St James, where we met up with a group of students from other schools around western Sydney. We had a scavenger hunt around old government buildings that were built in early convict days. We started out at the Hyde Park Barracks where we saw a gaol cell where convicts used to be held. Amazingly, it was used as recently as 2001 to hold people who were about to be judged for their crimes. Our next stop was the Sydney Mint, the Sydney Hospital and the famous Sydney warthog.

The State Library was next,

with a library that looked like it was right out of Monsters University. The retro comic exhibition was extraordinary and something we didn't expect to see in a serious library. No superman comics though. What a disappointment!

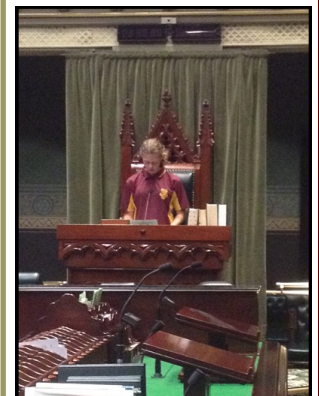
At the Sydney Museum we walked over glass covering the Old Government House drain which had interesting artefacts from 200 years ago; even toothpaste in a round container.

Lunch was brilliant! We were 40 stories in the air and we pigged out. We played pool and had lunch over the beautiful view of the harbour.

The most interesting part of the day was

passing a bill through the Legislative Assembly, where Jasmine got the chance to wield her power as Speaker of the House. Tristin and Aimee were on opposing sides of the House and presented persuasive arguments about banning smoking. Tristin's party won the argument, and the bill was passed.

It was such a great experience with Sky High and we're looking forward to the next one.





Beacon Foundation Report by Ms J Thompson

The Beacon Foundation is up and running again this year. Ashcroft High School has now been involved in the Beacon Foundation program for three years.

The Beacon Foundation is a non-profit organisation that aims to inspire and encourage students to further their education and training.

The program encourages self-help in young people before they leave school in order to develop the skills and confidence needed to achieve personal success for themselves and their community. The programs key focus areas for student self-development are self-awareness, motivation, personal responsibility, positive psychology, goal setting, and emotional intelligence.

Additional positive student outcomes associated with the program include an increase in knowledge of work culture and expectations, an increased understanding of the diversity of potential

future career paths and the development of employability skills, such as communication and teamwork..

Cummins Information Session for Year 12 Students

On the 24th of February Cummins South Pacific spoke to year 12 students presenting a range of post school career options for students. Cummins South Pacific sells and services diesel and natural gas engines for use in heavy equipment in the following industries: Agriculture, construction, mining, defence, marine, oil and gas, truck transportation and rail. Cummins also sells and services power generation equipment that includes diesel and alternative-fuelled electrical generators, alternators, transfer switches, switchgears and generator set controls. Students from this presentation now have the opportunity to apply for work experience in this industry.

Beacon Ambassador Training Day at Calmsley Hill City

Farm

On the 27th of February the Beacon Ambassadors and community guests attended the Calmsley Hill City Farm at Fairfield. The day involved developing student leadership and public speaking with the assistance of community members. Students and community were also involved in a tour of the farm. The tour involved watching animal shows, feeding the animals and a tractor ride. Well done to Sabrinba Abbas, Mostopha El-Dennaoui, Cody Franks, Taleshia Halep, Eulambia Kassiotis, Logan Kendall, Hayley Gunning-Mason, Tara Thode, Jessy Baines, Ibrahim Chaffei, Rhiannon Dunley, Dylan Edwards, Ned Fukofuka, Dean Glennie, Cynthia Nguyen, Tooa Leiataua, Marina Pastuovic, Jasmine Thode, Tiesha Jago-Payne, Bryan Kohari, Tasi Borg-Taveuveu, Konstanin Malikov, Maddison Canham-Cribbs, Montilina Fepale, Ramzey Kataieh and Yasmin Taha. Special thanks also goes to Ms McNamee's community group who assisted with students



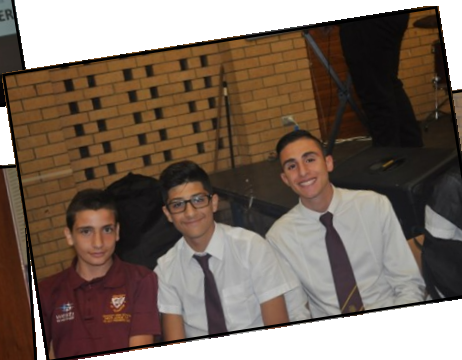
Beacon Foundation Report continued....

Beacon Business Breakfast/Charter Signing

On the 28th of March two important events were combined, the Business Breakfast and the Year 10 Charter Signing. The Breakfast showcased Ashcroft High School to the community through a delicious breakfast put on by senior hospitality students. The morning also

encompassed motivating speeches presented by staff, students and distinguished guests including the showcasing of Ashcroft High School through Indigenous arts, dance and musical performances. The Charter Signing assembly focused on year 10 students signing a Charter Board and taking a Pledge in order to make a commitment to furthering

their education and training in front of business guests, parents and community whom students will be working alongside throughout the year. Distinguished business guests, staff community members also joined students to sign the charter board, making a commitment to assist students and share the journey with them.





Peer Support 2015 by Mrs E Dickson

Over the past eight weeks Year 7 and selected Year 11 students have been involved in the Peer Support Program. Every Tuesday during Pastoral Care the Year 11 students have been working with the Year 7 students on a range of activities that focus on values. The aims of these sessions were to help each student clarify their personal values, respect themselves and others, recognise the importance of integrity and discuss ways of serving their school community.

Each session focused on one of the following five aspects:

Respect – students learnt that respect involves showing care and consideration for yourself and others. They discussed the many ways they can show respect. Students were encouraged to realise others feel valued and

accepted when they are being respected.

Responsibility – students learnt that behaving responsibly means doing your best to meet our commitments. They discussed the many different responsibilities they have in their lives. Students were encouraged to recognise that as they get older their responsibilities change.

Diversity – students discussed the similarities and differences within their Peer Support group. They were encouraged to embrace diversity as a means by which they can improve the quality of their relationships and enrich their experiences.

Inclusion – students were encouraged to show others they are important by including and encouraging

them. They had practice in supporting each other and learnt they can achieve more when they recognise the value of working together.

Integrity – students learnt they are acting with integrity when their choices consistently reflect their values. Students were shown how sometimes the choices they make are influenced by the people who are important to them and how they need to decide to what extent these influences are supporting their values. Students were taught to realise what they say and do is a reflection of who they are.

In addition, the Peer Support Program allowed students the opportunity to build positive relationships within the school and to help them successfully transition from primary to secondary school.

Science Report by Mrs D Azzi

Term 1 was extremely busy for the science department. We had over one hundred and fifty primary school students' visit from our local primary schools. These schools included Mt. Pritchard, Heckenberg, Mt. Pritchard East, Sadlier and Ashcroft primary schools.

The students participated in hands on science activities with the help of student mentors from Ashcroft. Both the primary students and the senior students acting as mentors found the days highly valuable and it was an excellent way to see our students leading learning.

We also had our travelling science show visit Ashcroft, Mt. Pritchard and Heckenberg primary schools with amazing science demonstrations to all of the students at the primary schools. The teachers were Mrs Armstrong and Mr Raja with the help of Manoug Kaakadjian and Ghasan Yagoub.

We also had chickens visit from Henny Penny Hatchery. Students had the experience of watching chicks hatch from the fertilised egg stage and

grow into some lovely chickens.

Year 11 attended an excursion to Penrith Lakes as part of their requirements for the preliminary course. The students were able to see science research in action and to help make their studies more relevant to the outside world.

On behalf of the science staff I would like to wish our students and families a safe and enjoyable holidays.



Creative & Performing Arts by Mrs K Weeden

Dance

Term one has been busy. We have started the year strongly with many new faces in Dance Company and Dance Ensemble. Mrs. Penny Stevens has returned from her maternity leave break and has been busy choreographing new sequences for School Spectacular auditions and Regional Dance Festival. Ms. Laura Campbell has also been busy choreographing and working towards Dance Ensemble pieces. Both teachers are working in unison to bring out the strengths in our Dance students.

Music

Congratulations to our students who performed strongly for the Ashcroft High School Beacon Breakfast and Charter Signing. You were wonderful! Well done to the following students:

Melody Carney
Lola Vai
Lupe Tionisio
Tamotu Taupau Tito
Dean Glennie

Visual Arts

On Monday 23rd February, 2015, Mrs. Brady-Barlow and I organised an early excursion for our senior

Visual Arts students to the *Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA)* and *The Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW)*.

We had a very busy schedule, seeing *three* art exhibitions in the one day. Students saw *Chuck Close*, *Pop to Popism* and *Artexpress* exhibitions. All three exhibitions were 'eye-opening' for our students. We, as a faculty, value these important opportunities for our students in seeing *actual* artworks in *real-life*. Students were able to witness the materials used and creative practice of a range of artists in our art world.



Community Corner by Mrs C McNamee

Welcome back to school for Term 1 2015. It has started as a normal busy year with new Year 7 students and parents settling in. I would like to thank all my parents and community members for all their support throughout the term.

In Week 5 we enjoyed an excursion with the Beacon Students to Calmsley Hill Farm. A great day was had by all and it is important to involve Parents and Community in the students learning.

In Week 7 it was an early rise to enjoy a yummy breakfast prepared by Hospitality students to celebrate Beacon students with our fellow staff, Business Representatives, Parents and Community

members. Excellent presentation by the students, followed by the Charter signing by all Year 10 students making a commitment to further studies and careers. This was finished off by morning tea again by Hospitality students.

Mondays walking group is up and running once again. There is always room for more parents to join in. It's a fun morning from 9:30am to 11:30am and it's FREE!! I drive the Ashcroft school bus to the nearest Gym park and we make good use of the equipment plus we walk the walking track. It has been good for all of us as it starts the week off on a positive note.

Getting TAFE started up again has proven to be a

struggle as now with the new charges and fees to be paid it is making it harder on our Community. I haven't given up hope and we are working on a program for Women to commence next term. Anyone interested please give me a call on **9607-8011** as numbers are always a problem in getting classes started. The classes will run 9:30am to 1:30pm Wednesday and Thursdays.

Friday is Sewing and Knitting classes from 9:30am to 1:30pm in the school library. So come along and join in the fun it's FREE!!!

Hope to see you all there.





Our new football jerseys

Football Report by Ms K Hodsdon

So the Ashcroft High School Rugby League year started on March 11th with the Open Boys Schoolboy Trophy. Plenty of positives to come out of our first two games against Lurnea HS & Casula HS. In these games we adopted a positive attitude and did a good job of following the game plan, coming away with two good wins.

Against Thomas Riddell unfortunately we let ourselves down. We weren't committed in defense, we made too many simple errors, we strayed from the game plan and got too distracted by wanting to put on big hits rather than making good solid tackles and simple hit ups.

As we move forward into the next game and beyond it's important that all players recognize where we went wrong against Thomas Riddell and address these issues because we have the potential to do well this year.

Friday 20th March 2015

Great day out at the SSW Touch football Central Venue Day with our girls & boys open touch teams. The girls improved heaps as the day went along & never stopped trying, pushing some very good teams all the way in their pool matches. Thanks to Ms Mose for coaching the girls.

The boys were very impressive in each of their pool matches. They defended well & scored some great tries. Finishing top of their pool they moved into the Sydney South West semi final against a very strong & experienced Picnic Point team. The game was very tight but we eventually went down by 2 tries. I need to congratulate the boys on their efforts today. For a group of boys, most of whom are more at home playing tackle footy, they showed great skill, maturity & teamwork in all of their games. I'm very proud of you all. It was a pleasure to take you out today.



Term 2

Starts for ALL students on

Tuesday 21st April 2015

Library Report by Mrs H Valenzuela

This term has seen many different groups make their way into the library. We have had the Beacon Breakfast event, which transformed our library into something that resembled a fancy function hall. With the year 7 cohort receiving their iPads this term, the library has been buzzing with iPad fever. Students have also been flocking to the library to use a variety of devices to complete school work as well as play social games. On many occasions this term the library welcomed up to 65 students at any one recess/lunch break. Additionally, we have had an overload of classes wanting to use every library space so students and teachers have access to the wide range of quality resources available to them.

Readers

As per usual first term has been extremely busy with over 350 books being borrowed this term alone.

Congratulations to our school top readers for this term whom are listed below. Keep up the good work!

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Year 7, 2015	Angela Duong	Fou Titio	Aiden Annetts, Lucas Streuli, Rhys Cooley, Adrian Luong
Year 8, 2015	Angela Pane	Majed Ayyash	Angela Huynh, Otelesavaii Iosefa
Year 9, 2015	Bradley Sutcliffe	Make'dde Retford	Mulintuu Lilomaiaava
Year 10, 2015	Kirilee Graham	Tori Tucker	Amanda Esapournoori
Year 11, 2015	Wayne Brennan		

Books

With the large amount of books borrowed so far this year, it is no surprise that we need to continuing to build up our collection with new and up to date books.

Come and check some out some of our new titles! Here are just a few:

Avengers Academy: Final Exams by Christos Gage, Tom Gummett & Andrea Di Vito

Banana Kick by Billy Slater

One Minute's Silence by David Metzenthen & Michael Camilleri

Revise in a Month: HSC Physics and many more by various authors

Monitors

Lastly, a special thank you to the library monitors Amanda Esapournoori, Bryan Kohari and Cody Kohari who all work so hard to keep the library in order.

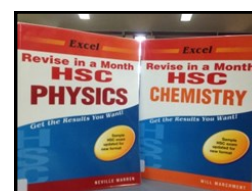


Library Hours

Before School	8.00am	-	8.40am
Recess	10.56am	-	11.26am
Lunch	1.30pm	-	2.00pm

Closed Wednesday and Thursday at recess

Keep your ears and eyes peeled for more exciting news from the library!!!





Wishing both

Ms J Thompson

and

Ms G Bennett

all the best at their new schools

next term.

Ashcroft High School

will miss you both!!!!

School starts for all students

On

Tuesday 21st April, 2015

Have a safe and happy holiday!!!

