

# Ascot State School

LIFELONG LEARNING FOR LIFELONG SUCCESS

# THE Digest

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Issue 24 – Tuesday 9 August 2016

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

It's amazing how much more comfortable it is in a school with a week under your belt. I know my way around, I know most of the teachers and I'm getting to know plenty of students. I have spent the days following up on my goals of having students moving quietly and calmly and wearing the uniform with pride. They see me and start pulling up their socks or slowing down, which is good, but I will only be satisfied when they all do it by themselves without outside input. However, I must compliment all the students on how well they wear their hats on the oval. It's basically 100% adherence to the rules, which is fantastic.

### NAPLAN 2016

The main game of school is the pursuit of academic excellence. The annual NAPLAN tests provide valuable information about how well an individual school is tracking against schools like it, against the state and the nation. Our Year 3 and 5 students were tested on the strands of reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy. They have performed very well indeed.

The two tables below show the "Band" data. The entire cohort of Australian students in Years 3 and 5 have their results calculated in bands. If a student lies above the bottom two bands of achievement, he or she is said to have reached the "National Minimum Standard" or NMS. As you can see, only a few students have failed to do this. Those who have results well above the mean, fall into the upper two bands or U2B. Ascot has many students in the upper two bands, and as the last column shows, this number is well above the national average.

Bands	% National Minimum Standard			% Upper Two Bands		
	Ascot	Australia	Difference	Ascot	Australia	Difference
<b>Year 3</b>						
Reading	100	95	+5	66	50	+16
Writing	97.5	96.5	+1	59	49	+10
Spelling	97.5	94.5	+3	63.6	57.2	+17
G & P	98.3	95	+3	73.6	52.2	+21
Numeracy	100	94.9	+4	56.7	35.5	+21
<b>Year 5</b>						
Reading	98.9	94.2	+5	58	34.9	+23
Writing	97.7	93.3	+4	33	18	+15
Spelling	98.9	92.5	+6	43.2	29.9	+13
G & P	98.9	94.7	+5	60.2	36	+24
Numeracy	98.9	94.5	+4	45.5	28.2	+17

The other way data is presented is by "mean scale scores", with each child's raw test scores calculated as a number between 300 and 600 at this level. The next table illustrates this data. Looking down the columns, you can see that we were steady in four of the ten strands and made large improvements in the other six, compared to 2015. The fourth column in each half of the table represents the comparison of our mean scores with those of schools like ours. As you can see, we come out looking very good in all areas.

These results are testament to the hard work done by our students and the days and weeks of focussed teaching by our staff. The efforts of both groups have paid handsome dividends.

Great state. Great opportunity.



Year 3 Mean Scores	Improvement on 2015		Like Schools Comparison
Strand	Ascot	Change	% Difference
Reading	455	Steady	+8
Writing	431	Steady	+6
Spelling	446	+20 points	+8
G & P	477	Steady	+9
Numeracy	446	+20 points	+11

Year 5 Mean Scores	Improvement on 2015		Like Schools Comparison
Strand	Ascot	Change	% Difference
Reading	545	+10	+9
Writing	499	Steady	+5
Spelling	526	+13	+8
G & P	562	+27	+12
Numeracy	534	+18	+10

## Welcome Back Year 6

Our Year 6 students returned from Canberra on Friday afternoon and by all reports, they had a wonderful time. I believe they had some unpleasant weather, but made the most of their time as they visited the landmarks and experienced the sights and sounds of the national capital. I am very pleased to note that they had exemplary behaviour at all times and represented Ascot State School with pride. Well done Year 6!

Regards



**Mark Fisher, Acting Deputy Principal**

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

### ICAS

The final ICAS assessment is Mathematics. This will be conducted in Week 6 on Tuesday 16 August.

### Some reminders for families that support your child being safe at school

#### Before school options:

Before school options at Ascot State School are supervised from 8.30am Monday-Thursday

- Library
- Oval
- Games Court

Friday: all students are to be in the Games Court to be supervised from 8.30am.

All students are expected to be in the supervised areas before school, not in playgrounds or running around buildings.

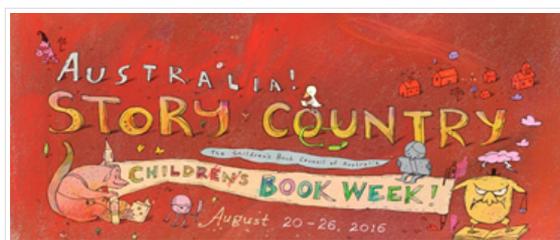
### Helping out in classrooms:

We appreciate all the assistance families provide in our classrooms at Ascot State School. We value even more highly the respectful and confidential way these helpers treat situations they may observe or information they may hear. If you see or hear anything that concerns you whilst in a classroom at Ascot State School we would encourage you to make an appointment to discuss this with the class teacher or sector Deputy Principal.

**Simone Coogan (Years 3-6), Roxanne Smith, (Prep-Year 2)**

## FROM THE HEADS OF CURRICULUM

### Children's Book Week



The 2016 Theme for Book Week is: *Australia! Story Country*. Ascot State School is celebrating Book Week next week, starting on Monday 15 August with our Book Week Dress Up Day on Friday 19 August.

The theme for Book Week is Australia: Story Country. The children have been listening to and voting on the shortlisted early childhood books and the results of the school votes will be displayed in the library.

Throughout Book Week there will be shared reading by 'celebrity staff' during lunch time and all students are welcome to come and listen to the wonderful array of Australian literature. There will also be activities for the students in the library and around the school.

As a culmination of Book Week, the school will be having a dress up day, where the children are invited to come as their favourite book character or can follow the Australiana theme. Please take the time to share a favourite Australian book with your children during this special event.

**PARENT INFORMATION SESSION:  
"READING IN THE UPPER YEARS"  
MONDAY 15 AUGUST, 9.30-10.30AM,  
(STAFF ROOM)**



The Parents as Partners Information Sessions will be held fortnightly on Mondays from 9:30-10:30am in the staffroom.

Join us on Monday 15 August for a *Parent Session on Enjoyment for Reading in the Upper Years*.

This session will be hosted by Ms Rochelle Burton and will provide lots of hints and tips, great websites and apps to keep the enjoyment and love of reading alive in your home for your students.

**We look forward to welcoming you.**  
**Deanne Clark & Rochelle Burton, HoCs**

## BOUQUETS

Thank you to our fantastic year 6 students for the way they represented us in Canberra last week.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Events
Wednesday 10/8/16	EKKA PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Thursday 11/8/16	8.15am: Uniform Shop
Friday 12/8/16	
Monday 15/8/16	8.15am: Uniform Shop 9.00am: Years 3-6 Assembly (Year 6 Camp) 9.30-10.30am: Parents as Partners Session "Reading for Enjoyment" (Staff Room) 10.30am: P-2 Assembly
Monday 15/8/16-Friday 19/8/16	Book Week at Ascot
Tuesday 16/8/16	ICAS Mathematics Test
Wednesday 17/8/16	7.30pm: P&C Meeting (Staff Room)

## ASSEMBLY AWARDS

### Star Students

On Monday 15 August, the following students will receive an award for Working Well With Others. Ascot students know that learning grows and improves when we are challenged and work as a team with others. The following students value the rights of others and can work and play with a wide range of people. They are helpful, considerate and fair when relating and engaging with others. Good work girls and boys!

PA	Holly F, Avighna M	3A	Bardia N, Austyn P
PB	Flynn O'T, Sam B	3B	Iliana A, Hunta T
PC	Ellie S, Macey W	3C	Imogen V M, Bennett H
PD	Sienna J, Samuel J	3D	Millie C, Jackson D
PE	Isabelle N, Poppy S	3E	Gabriella S, Riley B
1A	Jordan H, Georgina D	4A	Hemi J, Tabitha W
1B	Lila M, Benjamin M	4B	Sarah T, Ewan B
1C	Emily J, Frankie C	4C	Oliver T, Daisy S
1D	Josh G, Violet B	4D	Finn McG, Sam E
1E	Mana O, Sophie B	4E	Mayank M, Daisy Q
2A	Lila D'M, Charlotte S	5A	Isabelle J, Tayla N
2B	Lucy D, Cooper-Lee G	5B	Lily D, Luke B
2C	Freddy H, Molly L Mac	5C	Hope J, Ava H
2D	Eloise S, Sarah McD	6/5	Bridie J, Keira T
2E	Emily C, Hunter DeP	6A	Angus C, Maya P
		6B	Ned B, Skye M
		6C	Parker B, Lachlan Mac

## Golden Ticket Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were great citizens in the playground and acknowledged on assembly:

**Kian M** - Prep D  
**Astrid S** - 1A  
**Azzurra V** - 1A  
**Ryen B** - 3D  
**Erem M** - 4D  
**Annabel L** - 6/5.

## MUSIC NEWS

Junior Band commenced last Friday morning. Any Brass or Woodwind beginner instrumentalists who did not receive a note about band should visit the Music Office. Junior Band starts at 7.45am in the Music Room each Friday and is conducted by Mrs Dykes and Miss Howard.

Boys in the Boys Don't Sing Choir who are in the Junior Band will leave band rehearsal at approximately 8.25am to attend choir.

There are still choir commitment forms which have not been returned to school. Please sign the form and either return it at choir rehearsal or post it in the music letter box outside the Music Office.

**Margaret Howard, [mhowa12@eq.edu.au](mailto:mhowa12@eq.edu.au), Debbie Daley, [ddale3@eq.edu.au](mailto:ddale3@eq.edu.au)**

## P.E. NEWS

### Rio Olympics

Well the Rio Olympics are underway and after day 2 Australia leads the medal table with 2 gold medals in swimming, 1 gold medal in shooting and a bronze medal in archery and diving. We would like to encourage families to have discussions about what the Olympics are about and to take an interest in watching some Olympic events and following the medal tally. Each class has predicted what Australia's gold medal and total medal tally will be and the winning class will win a games session. There is also a poster competition. Children can design a poster to advertise the Ascot Olympics on an A4 sized sheet. The poster can include a logo and/or mascot designed by the child to represent Ascot State School's Olympics. The 6 posters that show the most effort and creativity will win those students the special role of 'torch bearer' at the Ascot Olympics Opening Ceremony on Thursday, September 1. Students are encouraged to hand their entry to the P.E. Department asap. Next week children will receive an information/permission form that will need to be completed and returned to the class teacher along with a \$5 fee for participation as payment to the organisation, Be Skilled Be Fit, who will be coordinating the day. We hope all students will take the opportunity to participate on this special day.

### Sporting Schools

We have successfully applied for funding from the Australian Sports Commission to develop our student's sporting skills. Starting on August 16, our year 4 students will participate in a 4 week sport development programme on Tuesday mornings between 9 and 10am. The girls will participate in a 4 week netball programme with qualified coaches from Netball Qld. The boys will participate in 2 weeks of cricket and 2 weeks of baseball, also with qualified coaches. This is a great opportunity for students to develop their skills leading into the term 4 Gala Days.

**Alayne Graham, Prep-Year 2, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs,**  
**agrah27@eq.edu.au**

**Paul Harris, Years 3-6, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri,**  
**pharr17@eq.edu.au**

## 2017 ENROLMENTS

If you reside in the Ascot State School catchment area and wish to enrol your child to start at Ascot in 2017 (or intend to enrol the sibling of a current Ascot State School student to start in 2017) please collect, complete and return an enrolment form to the Office as soon as possible.

Please let your friends and neighbours know that **now** is the time to enrol children residing in our local catchment area to start at Ascot State School in 2017.

## FROM YOUR P&C

Last year I was asked to participate in a survey, as President of Ascot P&C. The University of Queensland and P&Cs Qld (with the support of (DETE)) are working together on a project that will explore the levels of parental engagement (participation and partnering) across Queensland state schools and the school culture around parental engagement within schools. This information will assist all P&Cs in providing improved support with the goal of improved educational outcomes.



Why did I spend half an hour of my time answering the survey? Well, it means our P&C will get access to the results and these may assist us in identifying effective strategies which are employed by other schools with similar profiles that may work at Ascot.

All state schools have been selected (approximately 1,300) and for each school, the Principal and P&C President have now been surveyed and then teachers and parents will be selected to participate in the study, enabling a 360 degree review of engagement within and across schools.

The results will be used to support schools in Queensland to enhance parental engagement and improve learning outcomes. I've said it before – the more parents are engaged with their child's schooling, the better the educational outcomes their children have. However, little is known about which engagement strategies are the most effective. Do you like the workshops on math & reading? Do you want more parent information evenings? Would you like information on how to help your child manage their time and do their homework? Please email me and let me know what your P&C can do for your family, as chances are, other families will want similar information.

Ascot State School has a strong leadership team, great teachers and hard-working parents that make up the P&C. It is why we send our children to Ascot and why Ascot State School is so well regarded. But we can always look to improve. Bright futures with endless possibilities.

If you have any suggestions, please email me at [pandcpresident@ascotss.eq.edu.au](mailto:pandcpresident@ascotss.eq.edu.au).

**Sarah Comiskey, P&C President,**  
**[pandcpresident@ascotss.eq.edu.au](mailto:pandcpresident@ascotss.eq.edu.au)**

## P&C MEETING NEXT WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST 7.30PM (STAFF ROOM C BLOCK)

### Agenda:

- Welcome
- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Matters arising from the Minutes
- Correspondence
- Matters arising from the Correspondence
- Principal's Report
- Treasurer's Report

Subcommittee Reports  
General Business  
New Memberships.

## FRIENDS OF MUSIC NEWS

Thank you to all the parents, staff and senior students who volunteered at the Year 1 Disco. The children had so much fun dancing along with DJ Tamara from Footsteps.

The Prep Disco proudly supported by Amanda Butler (McGrath Estate Agents) is on Friday the 19 August and the Year 2 Disco is on Friday 26 August. A new range of glow products will be on offer. Please refer to the flyer for more details.

The Discos are one of the social highlights of the year which the children really look forward to.

Friends of Music events raise valuable funds that support the excellent and highly regarded music program offered at Ascot State School. To find out more about volunteering, please email FOM@ascotss.eq.edu.au.

**Nathalie Smith, FoM Convenor**

## PREP DISCO: 19 AUGUST

**Doors open:** 4.45pm

**Disco starts:** 5.00pm

**Disco finishes:** 6 pm.

**Venue:** Ascot State School Hall

**Admission:** \$12.00 on entry.

## FoVAD NEWS

### Art Evening: Friday 9 September, 6–9pm

Parents, please book your tickets on Flexischools for the Ascot State School Art Evening on Friday 9 September 2016! If you are a new parent, this is an event that all parents, family members and students attend, so please book your tickets today! You can also get tickets at the gate on the night, but pre-booking on Flexischools helps us a lot. Tickets are \$10.00 per adult and a child's ticket is free. Drinks, hot snacks and nibbles will be available for purchase on the evening.

Art Evening starts at 6pm ending at 9pm in the Games Court, Ascot State School on Friday 9 September.

Your children will proudly show you their individual piece of art on display. One collaborative art piece from each class (your child will have helped produce their class piece) will be auctioned off in the hall. We will publish a timetable for the auctions for each class closer to the event. Proceeds from the auction go towards funding our lovely art teacher in 2017. Look out for photos of the class pieces in coming Digests and in your class parent rep emails.

FoVAD needs lots of parent helpers to produce this wonderful night. Please email FOVAD@ascotss.eq.edu.au if you would like to be involved. Thank you to everyone who has emailed us already – we are very grateful. Friends/parent couples can work on a table/bar/food area together. This is a great idea and we

are happy to roster helpers to work together – just let us know. We also need parents to help on Friday 9 September all day with set-up and on Saturday 10 September with clean-up.

If you would like to be an Art Evening donor, it only takes an in-kind donation of soft drinks/alcohol or snacks/nibbles and FoVAD will be very grateful. If you would like to lend us useful things like tables and bollards, we would also be grateful.

We are also looking for Art Evening sponsors - \$250 or \$500 will get you a great value, high impact, promotional deal on a very big night – and help our school.

Thank you to our kind Art sponsors for 2016, Ray White Ascot.

**Katrina M, FoVAD Convenor**

## FROM THE TUCKSHOP

### EKKA Meal

The Ekka Meal Deal was a great success over 320 orders thanks to everyone who help out on the day and made it such a success.

**Katherine, Yolanda & the Tuckshop Committee**

## TUCKSHOP ROSTERS

Tuckshop - Group 2		Home Bake - Group 2	
<b>Monday</b> <b>15/8/16</b>	Trudy C, Paola B	<b>Monday</b> <b>15/8/16</b>	Ruane N, Steph P, Rama T
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>16/8/16</b>	Louise A, Melanie B, Julie M	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>16/8/16</b>	Suzie C, Jodie R, Karen L, Julie M
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>17/8/16</b>	Di F, Fiona H, Kate S	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>17/8/16</b>	Jane W, Kim H, Beth P, Yocira A
<b>Thursday</b> <b>18/8/16</b>	Mary J, Kerry D, Susie C, Shelli L	<b>Thursday</b> <b>18/8/16</b>	Anna Q, Bianca F, Fiona B
<b>Friday</b> <b>19/8/16</b>	Catherine S-A, Saoirse C, Carol B	<b>Friday</b> <b>19/8/16</b>	Deta D, Nikki T, Joleen H, Natasha S

## UNIFORM SHOP

### Uniform Shop Volunteers Needed!

Sadly, we have several of our lovely Uniform Shop volunteers leaving at the end of the year as their children are moving on. Could you be one of our new volunteers?



All that is required is one hour of your time once a month – and that's it!

Should you think this is something that might interest you, please contact any of our fabulous Uniform Shop volunteers

by popping in to the shop, emailing us at [uniformshop@ascotss.eq.edu.au](mailto:uniformshop@ascotss.eq.edu.au) or phoning on 3862 2476 during our opening hours.

We would love for you to join our team!

Our opening hours are:

Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays - 8.15-9.30am.

We look forward to hearing from you!

**Uniform Shop Team**

## UNIFORM SHOP ROSTER

Group 1	
<b>Monday</b> 15/8/16	Mina AJ
<b>Wednesday</b> 17/8/16	Carla C
<b>Thursday</b> 18/8/16	Adie B

## SWIM CLUB NEWS

Swim Club season is just around the corner and registrations have now opened via Flexischools. Registration is \$125 per family. Register NOW to avoid disappointment. Limited availability. Our first night will commence on Friday 7 October. We look forward to another great season! [swimclub@ascotss.eq.edu.au](mailto:swimclub@ascotss.eq.edu.au).