Nysha and Mrs Ormerod, along with students, have been working very hard to get our garden to a stage where we have lots of things to use for cooking. It is looking wonderful however there has been considerable damage by vandals. This is very disappointing. We are going to do a letter box drop explaining what the garden is for and we will put signs that also send that message. We are hoping the community will help us to protect our garden. We had a few parents join our working bee which was great. We are hoping we will have more next time.

Next term we will be able to appoint one AST and one full time staff member in addition to our current staff. This is due to our numbers increasing to 465. We will manage this with the least disruption to classes as possible. This will increase our capacity to provide more assistance with Literacy and Numeracy. We are hoping that the teacher we employ will offer our teachers, who have large classes, some additional support for student learning and help to improve outcomes.

Naplan is in May next term. Teachers of grade 3 & 5 students will be working on familiarising students with the test format and the suggested genres for the writing task. We are hoping that students can go into the test with confidence and do the best they can. Teachers have ongoing assessments throughout the year. Parents are always welcome to follow up on these at anytime.

It is pleasing to have so many parents at our assemblies. The students look forward to sharing their work with adults. Also I would like to thank parents for attending our Breakfast and Parent Information session. It was great to see so many students and parents here early to be part of the morning. Also a big thank you to Chris Dand and his team of willing helpers for making it all happen.

Nysha and Mrs Ormerod, along with students, have been working very hard to get our garden to a stage where we have lots of things to use for cooking. It is looking wonderful however there has been considerable damage by vandals. This is very disappointing. We are going to do a letter box drop explaining what the garden is for and we will put signs that also send that message. We are hoping the community will help us to protect our garden. We had a few parents join our working bee which was great. We are hoping we will have more next time.

Our whole school focus area next term, from the cross curriculum links and our School Improvement Plan, is Aboriginal education. Mrs Westerhof and Jessica have some exciting things planned! If anyone in our school community has anything they could contribute to this please let Jessica or Deb know. Teachers will be planning integrated units of work that will complement the work done in our Aboriginal education program during the year.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday break.

Anne Douglas
Principal
Nut Aware School

Just a reminder that Austins Ferry Primary is a Nut Aware School. A number of our students have a severe allergy to nuts and products containing nuts. Please do not send nuts or nut related products to school in your child’s lunchbox.

Levy Payments

We would like to thank those parents who have taken up the option of part payments of their school levies, using BPay or Service Tas.

It is so much easier to pay small amounts rather than struggle to pay the full amount all at once.

Once again thank you for your actions.

Kiss and Drop

Parents are reminded that the Kiss and Drop area is for dropping off children only.

Cars are not to be left unattended or with the driver of the vehicle missing.

It is very difficult for parents to drop off students when that area is parked out.

If you need to walk your child to class the best option is to park your vehicle in the top car park.

Disabled parking is provided in the school car park.

School Association News

Sausage Sizzle

The canteen will be closed on Monday 4th May.

The School Association will be holding a sausage sizzle at lunch time.

Students will need to bring their own food for recess.

Bar-be-que

The School Association is holding a bar-b-que this Friday (27th March) at Bunnings Warehouse, Derwent Park.

If you are in the vicinity why not call in and have a sausage to support the school.

Mothers Day Raffle

Tickets for the Mother’s Day Raffle will be available shortly.

Cost will be $1.00 each or 3 for $2 and the raffle will be drawn on Thursday 7 May.

Tickets will go out on Tuesday 31 March.

Easter Hat Competition

Thursday 26th March

Parade at 2.15pm

Two prizes for each Pod

Entry by gold coin donation

Resources worth approx. $2000 purchased for the school by reward points from Scholastic Books.
Spring Carnival

Make a note in your diary.

Austins Ferry Primary is having a SPRING CARNIVAL on Friday 11 September.

There will be lots of activities happening.

A representative from the Claremont Fire Station will also be in attendance and accepting donations of lollies for the Santa Lolly Run

This run is conducted through the suburbs of Chigwell, Claremont, Austins Ferry and Granton just before Christmas day.

Story Dogs

Story dogs are accredited companion animals who volunteer with their owner as a team to help children read.

Mrs Brown has introduced her Story dog, Lollipop, to our school. Lollipop has been temperament and obedience tested by a certified dog trainer, so that she can hear a child read in a non-threatening session of around 15 to 20 minutes.

Lollipop is at school usually on Thursday mornings. Look for her in her orange Story Dog coat.

Uniform Shop Hours

Due to a change in circumstances Uniform Shop hours will be the following as from Monday 23rd March.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8.30 to 9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8.30 to 9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2.30 to 3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>2.30 to 3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The uniform shop will only be open outside of those times for an emergency uniform (eg torn pants etc)

Boom Gate Reminder

Boom gate closes at 2.20pm and reopens at 3.15pm, even on Assembly days.

Garden

Volunteers Wanted! Please leave name at office.

Garden Volunteers Wanted! Please leave name at office.

RYUKYU SHOTOKAN KARATE
NEW DOJO OPENING
17TH MARCH

CLAREMONT MEMORIAL HALL
(NEXT TO KYO ON THE MAIN ROAD)

Sensai Chris Cousins
0409 359 369

TUESDAY
4-7 YEARS 4:30-5:00
8-12 YEARS 5:00-6:00
SENIORS 6:00-7:30

 Ryujo Karate Club West Perth and Suburbs.

Join us on Facebook.
What is Autism?

From the support teacher:

Have you ever seen a child in a shopping centre flopped face down to the ground, hands covering their ears, sobbing and refusing to move? What were your thoughts?
Did you think "Mmm, it's noisy in here" or "the lights are too bright" or "there are strong food smells today"?
Well, please read on ...

What is Autism?

Autism is a life-long developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It affects how they make sense of the world around them. (National Autistic Society, UK).

There are many people in Australia who have Autism. You cannot tell a person has Autism just by looking at them. It is their actions that will give you a clue. No two people with Autism are the same or show exactly the same characteristics, but there are some things which are similar. People with Autism may have some or all of the following characteristics:

- Difficulty with social interaction
- Difficulty with verbal and non-verbal communication
- Restricted and repetitive behaviours
- Sensory difficulties

Just like everyone else, people with Autism have many strengths and can learn strategies and skills to adapt to the world around them. Should you have any queries about your child and Autism, please contact me at the school.

Green Pod End of Day Routines

To help establish settled routines for our students in Green Pod, could parents/carers please wait until the first bell at 2.45pm before they go in to collect their child.
Lessons are still in progress until this time. When students see family members during this time they become easily distracted. Thanks
Green Pod Teachers

Lost Property

There have been several instances of children being unable to find their jumpers and jackets. These articles have their names on them.
Could we please ask parents to check the jackets and jumpers that your children are wearing just in case they have picked up the wrong ones by mistake.
Lost clothing is kept in a container at the entrance to each Pod.

School Photos

Photo packages have been sent home. Photos will be taken on Tuesday 31 March and Wednesday 1 April. Students have been advised of the day their photo will be taken.

If your child did not receive a package or if you have mislaid yours, please contact the office.

Envelopes are available for family photos. These photos are usually taken during recess and possibly lunch depending on requirement.

Payment by credit card is only available on line. Exact money is to be placed in the envelope as change is not available.

If you order online you must still return the envelope.

Entertainment Book

2015-2016 Entertainment Books are now available for purchase. Purchases before 22 April receive an extra $200 in Early Bird Offers (while stocks last).
Every membership (book) we sell raises $13 towards our fund-raising for our school.

The website is—
Inter-School Athletics Carnival

On Monday the 16th of March Austins Ferry Primary School competed in the inter-school athletics carnival held at the domain athletics track.

Our school competed against a number of other schools and the day proved very successful as we finished third overall. There were a number of special efforts throughout the day, such as our Grade 5 boys relay team as well as our Grade 4 girls relay team who both placed first. Peter Lawson and Emily Self both had successful days often winning their races by a clear margin.

I am pleased to report that our students were exceptionally respectful to all competitors and all our runners tried their best, with runners often pushing hard all the way to the finish line.

All who competed on the day should be congratulated on their efforts and sportsmanship shown on the day.

Also a big thank you to Leanne Cooper and Sally Cockshutt for their assistance and marshals on the day and to Mr G for organising the whole day.

SAFETY ISSUES

There has been a report of some students throwing stones at cars driving along Malabar Road on the other side of the highway.

This is a safety concern as someone could have an accident. Parents of children waiting in this area are asked to speak to their child about safety issues.

REMINDER

Student Free Day—Thursday 2 April

Term 2 commences on Monday 20th April

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2015

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) commenced in Australian schools in 2008. Each year, all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in common national tests which assess:

- Reading
- Writing
- Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- Numeracy.

The scheduled dates for the tests in 2015 are Tuesday 12 May, Wednesday 13 May and Thursday 14 May.

The benefits of participating in NAPLAN testing:

- NAPLAN tests the skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy.
- NAPLAN results provide valuable information on how your child is progressing against national minimum standards of literacy and numeracy skills expected for each year level.
- The NAPLAN tests provide you as parents with an individual report that shows your child’s results and a comparison of your child’s performance against all other Australian students in their year level.
- Teachers use the NAPLAN results to determine your child’s areas of strength and where future focus is required and how best to provide support or extension activities.
- School teachers use the online NAPLAN Toolkit to analyse your child’s results. The Toolkit provides detailed information right down to the individual question with links to teaching strategies.
- Principals, senior staff and others use NAPLAN results to inform school planning and to allocate resources and support including informing decisions around targeted programs and initiatives for individuals and groups.

The best way you can assist your child is by helping them to feel comfortable about the nature and purpose of the tests, and assure them that the tests will give them an opportunity to show what they have learned in class.

For more information about the national tests, please visit the national NAPLAN website at: http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/naplan.html

Banking

There will be a banking representative at the Assembly on 25 March and also on 1 April to speak to the students about banking.

Dogs

A reminder that dogs are not permitted on school property.
TERM DATES 2015
Term 1
Wed 4 Feb to Wed 1 April
Easter break Fri 3 Apr—Tue 7 April
Term 2
Mon 20 Apr—Fri 3 July
Term 3
Mon 20 July—Fri 25 Sept
Term 4
Mon 12 Oct—Thurs 17 Dec

Student Free Days
Thursday 2 April
Friday 23 October

Public Holidays
April 3—7—Easter
June 8—Queens Birthday
Dec 25—Christmas Day

Assembly Roster
Assemblies commence at 1.45pm

Wed 25th March
Blue Pod - GLA 1 JC, GLA 2 KB, GLA 6 EL
Red Pod - GLA 3 VNB, GLA 4 LM, GLA 5 CR/JT
Green Pod - GLA 1 SF/CM, GLA 2 RH, GLA 6 DW

Wed 1st April
Blue Pod - GLA 3 RS, GLA 4 HW, GLA 5 RQ
Red Pod - GLA 1 JO, GLA 2 DM, GLA 6 PK
Green Pod - GLA 3 GCG, GLA 4 AP, GLA 5 AC

Special Events
School Photos—Tuesday 31 March and Wednesday 1 April
Learn to Swim (Yrs 3—5) Monday 20 April to Friday 1 May
Spring Carnival - 11 September

Hot Shots Tennis Glenorchy City Club
Monday 27th April
Start 4.00—5.00pm
5 years to 12 years
For more information please phone Paul Hart on 6228 5812 or 0429409870

Contact details
PRINCIPAL: Anne Douglas
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: Kerrie Riewoldt
ADVANCED SKILLS TEACHER: Aaron Guilliamse
ADVANCED SKILLS TEACHER: Carolyn Murray
ADVANCED SKILLS TEACHER: Chris Raspin
SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER: Graham Hyde

Address  13 Brodie Street, Claremont, 7011
Ph 03 6275 7222 - Fax 03 6249 2349