Principal’s Report

It is with much pride that I write to say that the year has begun successfully once again at Ashley School. The school continues to operate well and generally reflects a high level of engagement and achievement by our students. It is with pride that I say our students value their schooling whilst they are with us. This is evident by the way they treat school staff, school buildings and use our resources. Visitors to our school continue to be enlightened to see our well maintained facilities valued which in turn indicates our students have real ownership and pride in our school and therefore a good environment that fosters student learning.

A welcomed visitor this term was our Minister for Education, Nick McKim. Nick spent much of his time in the classrooms chatting with staff and students. Students valued the experience to chat with Nick and as usual represented the school by displaying excellent attitude, respect and manners.

Swimming Carnival  Our annual swimming carnival was held this term with great success. Our sports carnivals continue to get better each year. This year was no exception with students displaying a high level of participation and we saw many records broken. The fair play and sporting aspect displayed by all students was obvious with encouragement given by all students to others who were lesser swimmers. This ‘encouraging culture’ is something that all school staff have worked hard on over many years to achieve and is now firmly encompassed in our school culture. A keen interest was shown by students in vying for the coveted ‘Craig Sullivan Have a Go Award’ which is given out each sports carnival to the student who displayed great commitment in having a go in every race and whom did not win a winning medal.

ANZAC Commemoration  An ANZAC Commemorative Service is now firmly cemented into our term one program. Unfortunately, it was raining at the time of the service and we had to hold it indoors which was not kind to taking good photos. This year as in the past, students studied the effects of war and participated well in class discussions around the implications of war on mankind. They produced some thought provoking posters and moving poems dedicated to the spirit of the ANZACS. Once again a keen interest was shown to participate with reading their poems aloud for others who attended our service. Congratulations to all of those students and staff for making our service a success in recognising those who have gave so much to help shape our great country for what it is today.

In holding with the great tradition of the ANZACS we held a sports afternoon following the commemorative service in the morning. Students participated in an awesome entertaining football match where the spirit of mateship and fair play was upheld throughout the game. Players demonstrated a keen interest to be awarded the trophy for ‘best on field’ for upholding and displaying the traditional spirit of an ANZAC. The lovely trophy was made by Bruce O’Toole and his students in woodwork. After much deliberation by school and Ashley staff we eventually decided on the worthy recipient. It was with much pride that Ashton was awarded this trophy and a fantastic encouraging display of empathy and mateship by all players for Ashton was evident. Well done to Allan O’Sign for continuing to umpire, coach and encourage very entertaining sporting activities to take place here.
Principal Report cont.

School reports: I have just completed writing principal’s comments on student end of term one reports. As usual the reports are filled with praise of the many achievements of our students. Well done to our students on your successes and to our teachers and support staff who continue to bring out the best in our students.

Polytechnic Courses: We welcome our new Polytechnic teacher Nathan Holland who is delivering units from the certificate 1 and 2 in Building and Construction. Nathan has settled well in our unique environment and is engaging our students well. Currently we have three students undertaking this program and much is planned for them to experience in this course over the year. Students have produced some scaled models of house framework construction to a high degree. We hope that over the coming months that students will complete some concreting projects onsite.

To date it would appear that any Polytechnic automotive and horticulture units will not be delivered here during 2012. This is very unfortunate as our school has invested a great deal in resourcing our automotive area. As a result of no horticulture units being delivered, Bruce O’Toole is keen to grow more oriental lilliums in our raised garden beds. This will be welcomed by all at AYDC as previous students enjoyed having fresh flowers in their rooms as well as supporting our ‘giving theme’ which resulted in fresh flowers being provided to the local hospital and aged care facilities during 2011.

Save the Children Foundation: The ‘Save the Children Foundation’ has been working with the school and the AYDC Professional Services Unit to offer their assistance with the School’s Student Transition Program. The Foundation provides two skilled workers who work with students at our school for one full day per week. The rest of their time is spent supporting our students with pastoral care, their learning and work commitments when in the community. Positive data to date indicates a high degree of success and aims at reducing the youth offending and re-offending rates for the southern region of the state.

The quantitative program data at this stage would suggest that the:

Supporting Young People on Bail Program
Clearly has a significant impact on supporting young people to reengage with educational/vocational opportunities (78%)
Helps to divert them away from the juvenile justice system as evidenced by the very low reoffending rates (8%).

Transition from Ashley Youth Detention Centre Program
Validates the need to provide “through care” working with young people both in detention/remand and in the community with 68% of young people continuing to engage with the program upon release.
Supports young people to reengage with pro-social activities in the community with 54% reengaging with educational/vocational opportunities and 92% engaging in positive recreational/social activities.

School Improvement Plan 2012:
Teaching staff are beginning to develop and refine a new school plan under the guidance of the Department’s Teaching and Learning School Improvement Framework.

National Curriculum: Our school is working towards implementing the Australian Curriculum.

NAPLAN Testing: Well done to the three grade nine students who attempted all five tests during NAPLAN testing week.

RADAR visit: All teachers and some of our support staff had the opportunity to attend a late night session at RADAR last Monday. RADAR provides alternative education support to ‘at risk’ students in the Launceston area. We commonly share some of these students throughout the year. It was a valuable experience for all who attended whereby we discussed teaching positive student engagement strategies, shared concerns and barriers to learning as well as sharing school resources. We will reciprocate the invitation to RADAR staff in late term 2 this year. It was a highly valued experience for all who attended.

Pass on a Book Conference and Educators in Juvenile Justice Schools Network meeting.
Renee Kostiuk and I recently travelled to Sydney to attend both meetings. Renee also spent a day in a Girls Juvenile Detention Centre School. Both of us will report back in future newsletters on the positive aspects and initiatives that we gained and will now introduce into our school.
Throughout term 1 students have been engaged in a wide variety of activities in all areas of health and wellbeing. The commitment students have been engaged in most tasks and making the most of their opportunities whilst at Ashley School.

The swimming carnival was a great spectacle this year which was held in early March. Students showed good sportsmanship throughout the day and the competition was fantastic, with some very close finishes. It also must be mentioned that this year there were many different medal winners in each age group, in the past we have had 2 or 3 students winning most events, but this year it was an even spread of winners. The Have a go award was also a hard task finding a recipient, after having 8 possible students in contention for it. In the end we could not go past Ashley who showed all the right qualities on the day to receive the converted award. Overall it was a good day with the winning house being Ben Lomand and Ashton accepting the trophy as the captain of the team.

At the beginning of the year students took part in a lifesaving program to make them more aware of themselves and others surroundings when near water, and what to do if there is trouble in the water. Some examples of this could be jumping into a dam and landing on a solid object, or a struggling swimmer at the beach. Students enjoyed and learnt some important factors.

Students who have participated in team sports this year have done so with real competitiveness and have shown great determination to be successful in the sport they are involved in. In the coming months students will be creating their own games to play in theory time and testing it out during team sport time. It will be interesting to see what they come up with.

It has also been encouraging to see students make the most of their opportunities in the fitness room. It seems that students are working harder and harder every time I write a newsletter article. I tell the students that they get out what they put in, and they are putting in a lot of hard work, so hopefully they have some personal reward in fitness.

Throughout the theory side of health and wellbeing, students have been studying what it means to have a good sense of worth, and creating strategies to have a fulfilling life.

A date to remember is the cross country, this will be held on Friday July 27th, which will put the students endurance on display.

Allan O'Sign
HPE Teacher
Well where do I start? I suppose one way to say it is “that we have had an interesting start to the year”. Our metal work program has been closed for a substantial part of this term due to some safety concerns. As a result of this our students have been busy with a variety of other programs and educational activities. So, a major focus has been numeracy and through this we have ventured into some CAD (Computer Aided Drawing). This is a skill development based program centred around measurement, scale, spatial and visual awareness using Google Sketchup. The students were required to design a house floor plan and then add measurements to their rooms and this was aided by measuring and comparing it to classroom size etc., Once this sketch had been completed, students then added these rooms and measurements into Google Sketchup. Components such as cars, furniture, vegetation and fixtures were added on completion of design.

As stated previously, our metalwork program has had a major overhaul. This program now operates as an elective on three afternoons a week. Students are approved through a ‘risk assessment’ process to gain access to this program. Our metal work program is a “hands on” skills based learning program. Every student will need to complete a range of projects before they are able to manufacture an item of their choice. The projects are numbered and will need to develop in order; however, there is a choice within each project number. Before the students start manufacturing their projects they complete an induction which includes health and safety and participation expectations. Also included in this unit are some tool worksheets, check lists and evaluation sheets.

Above are some completed projects to date and I look forward to some great outcomes for our students over this year.

Mr MacKenzie

Metalwork Teacher
This term seems to have passed by very quickly! Groups four, five and six have been fairly stable in their population with many of my students attending school for the whole term. This has meant that we have been able to complete lots of great work and students are demonstrating an excellent level of improvement in their literacy and numeracy skills.

Students have been working hard to achieve their individual educational goals as well as studying and celebrating different themes as whole groups. This term we looked at what it means to be an Australian. Students engaged in a geography, SOSE and history based unit investigating Australia and our place and identity as a nation. As part of our unit of work on Australia We celebrated Australia Day with a cricket match and BBQ, met some deadly Australian reptiles firsthand. (With great thanks to our very own youth worker and reptile rescue specialist Darron Cameron - who did a great job of keeping our visiting snakes contained!)

We celebrated being a multicultural nation by recognising Harmony Day, we "played, engaged and inspired" in an inclusive volleyball match with mixed students and staff teams - I was able to help everyone look like awesome players with my complete lack of co-ordination on the court! We commemorated ANZAC Day with a moving service where students read aloud their poetry they had written about our diggers. Our service was followed by a sporting match as tribute to our soldiers who in the Australian spirit of fun and mateship in the face of adversity, played sports on the beaches and behind the trenches. For the first time, we presented a trophy for displaying outstanding sportsmanship. The award went to a student who played the game in the spirit of the ANZACs, showing great heart and giving their all.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognise and congratulate the hard work of one of my students in particular. Who is making the most of his educational opportunities and is currently studying his year 12 through a partnership with Newstead College Open Learning and Polytechnic Tasmania. He always works very hard and achieves excellent results. He recently gained the outstanding result of all A’s on an assignment presented for pre-tertiary Health Studies.

We have been doing a great deal of creative writing in class with some excellent poetry being written on all kinds of subjects, war, soldiers, mothers, love, life and even about rap. I am so pleased with the way that students have all been engaging, learning and growing in maturity. I am proud to work with such individual young adults.

I have included some of my students poetry for you to enjoy.

**Sarah Mott**  
Teacher - Senior Secondary

**Glory**  
**DANGEROUS**  
**Anzac legends**  
**INSPIRATIONAL**  
**Landing on the beach**  
**GLORIFIED**  
**Long suffering**  
**GUTSY**  
**Infection of wounds**  
**ENDURANCE**  
**Patriotic**  
**REST IN PEACE**  
**Obtaining the higher ground**  
**Indigenous soldiers fought too**  
**Loaded weapons**
Term 1, 2012 is drawing to a close and again we have had a very productive and engaging time in our woodwork lessons. A continuation of specialty timbers being used for furniture pieces and jewellery boxes, clock stands and crib boards has resulted in work that our students’ can take a great deal of pride in. A number of jewellery boxes were completed just in time for Mother’s Day and I can only imagine them being very well received. Well done to each and every student for making the most of their woodwork/technology lessons.

Term 2 will start with a student teacher attending our school for three weeks whilst completing his 2nd year Bachelor of Education studies, majoring in technology (Vocation and Applied Learning). We look forward to him working with our students and introducing some new and fresh ideas. It is comforting to know that this strand of study is taken so seriously and reinforces the insight that Vocation and Applied Learning is an area of learning that is designed to prepare each and every student with the skills and concepts needed in order to negotiate and enjoy their lives beyond school. It is clearly documented that this area of study presents the opportunity for concepts to be challenged, a purpose for learning to become apparent and give direction to potential career pathways. So not only is woodwork/technology an enjoyable subject to study, it also has significant benefits to the academic growth of our students.

Bruce O'Toole.
Teacher
What a great first term with some fantastic things happening. Sadly we farewelled one of our favourite youth workers, with a lovely BBQ, some great speech's and some lovely handmade gifts. All students enjoyed Suzie's time here and will miss her dearly.

Students have been extremely motivated this term making some great educational and vocational goals, preparing themselves for future endeavours. Lots of students have been producing resumes and doing coffee courses, getting Learner Licences, engaging in Online Courses and working through Pre Apprentice booklets preparing them for their career choices.

Recently students spent some time in the classroom producing a number of great creative writing pieces to coincide with the well-known Australian Poet Mr Geoff Goodfellow who visited the centre. As his visit was between ANZAC Day and Mother's Day Students were keen to produce some well thought out pieces of poetry for Mr Goodfellow to critique. I believe most students were amazed at the difference in their poetry to some of the styles in poetry that he had produced. Students were amused and encouraged by the life stories he told and his fantastic style in poetry writing.

Earlier this term we had Mr Cameron come into the classroom to deliver an informative Reptile show. During the show Mr Cameron showed a great power point presentation as well as some of Tasmania's most deadly reptiles. He demonstrated to students how to milk the venom from a snake, the correct handling of a snake, the dangers and what to do and what not to do when you see a snake. He was also able to show students the correct first aid on how to bandage a snake bite.

Term two is shaping up to be even more exciting and motivating than term one as we have some more great online courses in the pipeline to start early next term. Students are eager to start and can’t wait to update their work skills.

Mrs Kostiuk
Teacher

Soldiers marching night and day
Once there was another way
Lakes and rivers or even rain
Determined to do something great
In the trenches they sit like bait
Earth beneath them is like muddy paste
Rifles blaring they don’t feel safe
So thank the soldiers its Anzac day
Swimming Carnival March 5th

Polytechnic Projects 29th May - Building a scale house

D and A REPTILIA Snake Demonstration