Mr Baxter’s Ute Plays a Starring Role in Ayr High’s Musical

Mr Shane Baxter, one of the Physical Education teachers at Ayr State High School has driven his ute to school and parked in the same spot for the past 20 years. It was this year that Mr Baxter came to the realisation this piece of history needed to be retired. But instead of sending it to the wreckage yard, he donated it to Ayr High’s musical for 2012; *The Great Australian Rock Musical*. Over 100 students, including band members, performers and backstage crew have been working tirelessly for the past three months preparing, rehearsing and creating this year’s musical which will follow their 2010 production. They have a lot to live up to, as the last production was a big hit with the three shows selling out.

The Great Australian Rock Musical gives the students an insight into the great Aussie classics their parents grew up with, such as; Eagle Rock, Working Class Man and April Sun in Cuba, the voice of John Farnham and the guitar riffs from Angus Young.

Director Miss Maree Longworth has said ‘the musical has been a whole school effort, with all subjects and teachers being able to help in some way’. The musical has united students and allowed them to form new friendships as they spend two afternoons and one full Sunday together.

Performer Pia Robinson says ‘we are getting heaps of new friends and we are learning new skills. It’s always been funny every time we rehearse, and the food is good!’

The students take to the stage from the 3rd to 5th August at the local Burdekin Theatre. Tickets are on sale now through the Theatre Box Office and are selling fast, so don’t miss out! Tickets are $30 for adults, $20 for concessions/students and $90 for a family pack. The Friday and Saturday night shows begin at 8 pm, with a Sunday matinee beginning at 12 pm.

Watch out for the appearance of Angus Young as well as a piece of Ayr State High School history in the form of a bright pink ute!
We have returned to school this term with heavy hearts with the loss of our two young boys Liam and Jack. As to be expected the news impacted on all of us at Ayr State High School. On the return to school we provided students and staff access to our Student Support team and also extra support personnel from regional office.

A number of our students including our Student Executive attended Liam’s funeral and on Thursday morning we showed our respect as a whole school with a minute’s silence. I encouraged the students not to dwell on why this incident had happened but rather to use it as a tragic reminder of how fragile life can be and to be sure they make the most of all opportunities with friends, family and education.

The school is planning a memorial for Liam with input from his schoolmates and parents. When we have confirmed a date we will notify the school community.

Term 3 is an extremely busy term in our school with many events on our calendar. The first major event looming is the school’s musical production. Teams of staff, students and parents are working feverishly on all facets of the production and from what I have seen so far it will be an outstanding success.

I encourage all students to focus on their studies and to make the best of the opportunities presented to them. Year 12 OP students will complete the QCS exams this term as well as some of their most important assessment pieces. Year 12 VET students need to be ensuring that they have completed almost all of the competencies required of them prior to the holidays and should be working with teachers to plan out their work load for the rest of the term. Year 11 students are now entering a semester that can set them up for either a relatively stress free Year 12 or to be starting 2013 behind the eight ball. Year 10 students will be completing SET Plans and looking to make very important subject selection decisions which will affect their career pathways. And Year 8 and 9 students continue to lay the foundations which they will need to use as they enter senior school.

I have written earlier this year about attendance and its importance in being able to achieve a quality education. Missing days due to illness are unavoidable but regularly taking days off impacts on anyone’s ability to achieve quality grades. The regular days add up to weeks then terms then years of schooling missed, which lead to feeling left behind and not understanding the work. This can lead to low self-esteem and poor job prospects, two things as a parent we do not want for our children.

Everyday counts, utilise our teachers, get the great marks, get the great job, get the great life!

Yours in Education

Craig Whittred
Principal

---

Student Photos for Graduation

by Miss Deanne Ruge, Year 12 Co-ordinator

Year 12 students are asked to provide a range of 10 photos for the multimedia presentation to be shown at Graduation. These photos should show the students from babies to Year 7 (Ayr SHS ID photos will be used for secondary school photos), and should clearly focus on the student in question so that they are easy to identify. Photos that are humorous or are a clear reflection of the nature of the student in question are the best ones to provide. Please provide either very high quality scans or the originals of the images as soon as possible - photos must be provided by the end of Term 3 at the latest, but the earlier they are submitted, the more time I will have to work my magic!
Term 3 Interhouse Rivalry Continues...
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

The Interhouse Athletics Carnival will take place this term in week 5, with events being split over the week. The 3000 metres will be the first event taking place on Monday 6 August at 11.20 am (girls) and 1.10 pm (boys) and the 1500 metres will be run on Wednesday 8 August at 1.10 pm. Field events will be performed on Thursday 9 August at 12.00 pm, while the all day carnival will be held on Friday 10 August. Students nominated in their Houses on Thursday for the following events: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1500, 3000 metres, 4 x 100 metre relay, long jump, triple jump, high jump, javelin, discus and shot put. Parents and families are welcome to attend the carnival to support their children. Good luck to all competitors.

Students vs Teachers Netball Game
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

Last Friday the Year 12 girls netball team taught the teachers a tough lesson in netball winning the latest student versus teacher contest. The game was closely contested with one point separating the final result. Mrs Perry was outstanding as goal shooter and Mrs Vartuli’s defence kept the teachers within reach. This leaves the contest at 1-1 with the teachers taking out the mixed volleyball in Term 1.

WEP Student Exchange – Memories and Skills for a Lifetime!

Give your child the opportunity to gain international experiences and language skills to kick-start a future career. Along with distinct language benefits, exchange students mature, gain confidence and develop a more worldly approach upon their return to Australia.

Experience the wonderful world of WEP!
Choose from over 100 programs to over 20 countries around the world to live and study for a summer, semester or year. Applications are closing at the end of August for programs departing in Jan-Feb 2013. WEP is also offering Early Bird Specials for programs departing in July-Sept 2013!

Find out more!
• Visit www.wep.org.au and request a free information pack
• Attend one of WEP’s information evenings
• Call 1300 884 733 (for the cost of a local call)

Upcoming Information Evenings
Townsville: 14 August 2012
Kirwan State High School / Hudson Street / Kirwan
Metropolitan Motor Inn / 106 Leichhardt Street / Spring Hill
Ayr State High School presents:

*The Great Australian Rock Musical*

Tickets on sale NOW!!

Tickets purchased at the Burdekin Theatre
- $30 for adults
- $20 for students/concession
- $90 for Family (2 adults and 2 students)

Show dates and times:
- Friday 3 August, 8 pm
- Saturday 4 August, 8 pm
- Sunday 5 August, 12 pm

*Don’t miss out!*

---

**Interschool Chess Competition**

*by Mr Andrew Kos*

On Tuesday 19 June, seven keen chess club players from our school competed against Burdekin Catholic High School in a 7 game tournament. Chris Whittia, Jarrod Langford, Sam Row, Matt Gudge, Bradley Wood and Zane Holt all played very well with Sam leading the afternoon with 7 straight wins. However, to be fair, Sam was the oldest there, with most students being part of the junior school. Nevertheless, the afternoon was filled with “checks” and checkmates” and the opportunity for students to make new friends and learn to play chess better. A big thank you goes to Dr Heather Row from Burdekin Catholic High School for organizing students to attend and to Mrs Buffa for the use of the Resource Centre. The Chess Club usually meets once a week and new chess players are always welcome.

---

**Tips for Parents - How to tell when your kids need help**

If a teenager’s behaviour suddenly changes it is important that you seek advice, especially if they show some of the following signs:
- Their school work gets worse suddenly
- They don’t seem to cope with problems and day to day activities
- They begin having problems eating or sleeping
- They complain of lots of physical problems
- They become aggressive and start getting into trouble like wagging school, detentions, maybe even stealing/vandalism
- They become worried about their weight without actually being overweight
- They become depressed and are negative for a length of time
- They begin to use drugs or alcohol

If you are concerned in any way there are plenty of people to talk to at the school; The School Health Nurse, Year Co-ordinators, School Guidance Officer, Support staff.

You can also seek advice from your GP. Stay healthy.

_Cassandra, School Based Youth Health Nurse_

---

**Upcoming Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 Jul</td>
<td>Music Support Meeting</td>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>A12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Jul</td>
<td>10 BMA Finance Day</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Jul</td>
<td>FOGS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Jul</td>
<td>Vibe Alive</td>
<td>3.30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 Aug</td>
<td>Interschool Basketball</td>
<td>3.30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Aug</td>
<td>School Musical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Aug</td>
<td>Interschool Touch</td>
<td>3.30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Aug</td>
<td>House Meetings (S4)</td>
<td>1.10 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Aug</td>
<td>Field Events (12 pm to 3 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Aug</td>
<td>Interschool Basketball</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14 Aug</td>
<td>Yr 10 Mathematics Camp</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Aug</td>
<td>Yr 10 &amp; 11 Careers Expo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Aug</td>
<td>Mathematics Competition</td>
<td>3.30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interschool Touch</td>
<td>(3.30 pm)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 10 into 11 Subject Selection Info Evening</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Astronomy Evening**

Wednesday 15 August 2012
7.00 pm - approx 9.30 pm
Ayr State High School Oval
(Meet at the bus drop off area at Hanell Lane)

- Guided by local astronomer Rob Black.
- _Gold coin donation welcome_

---

**Music Support Group Meeting**

Monday 23 July 2012
7.30 pm, A12

---