Narrow Victory in Year 7/8 Maths Quiz

by Mr Rod Williams, Maths Teacher

A team consisting of Westley Darwen, Sarah McDonnell and Kelly Meinickie scored a narrow half-point victory in the Burdekin section of the Year 7/8 Maths Quiz. Year 7 students were involved for the first time this year in this state-wide competition.

Two teams were selected to represent the school this year.

The two teams were:

Team A: Westley Darwen (Captain Yr 8), Sarah McDonnell (Yr 7), and Kelly Meinickie (Yr 7)

Team B: Keagan Flynn (Captain Yr 8), Ryan Kastner (Yr 8), Dylan Collins (Yr 7)

Matthew Schifilliti and Hayden Doyle acted as reserves for the two teams.

All of the students involved gave freely of their lunch hours to prepare for this competition and their performances were a credit to themselves as well as Ayr State High School.

Student Council’s BBQ Donation to Assist Chappy’s Brekkie Club

by Mr Rod Williams, Teacher

The Student Council has kindly donated the funds needed to buy an extra six-burner BBQ for school use. An increase in school numbers combined with a growing involvement from the student body has seen Chappy’s Brekkie Club go from strength to strength this year. The new BBQ was needed to ensure that the extra food needed for the Brekkie Club every Wednesday morning was cooked on time.

LtoR: School Captains Liam Shannon and Tayla Heiur and School Vice Captain Sofia Palombi christen the new BBQ with a pancake breakfast.
From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal

Welcome to Ayr State High School
Our school acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land. Today, they are still the custodians of the cultural heritage of this land. Further to this, our school acknowledges there are other Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Island people who have lived, worked and contributed to the cultural heritage of our community.

Last week our school took part in an External School Review. This process saw three experienced Principals from around the state visit our school over three days. During their time here they spoke with staff, students, parents and community representatives to gain understandings and views about the school. This will culminate in a report being presented to the school providing feedback in nine key areas as outlined in the National Schools Improvement Tool. This report will form the basis of the development of our new four year strategic plan. A summary report will be posted on the school’s website and I will share the full report through the P&C to the school community. Overall the comments from the reviewers were very positive. Essentially they said that the school was heading in the right direction but acknowledged that we have some continuing work to build on a strong foundation that has already been built.

This week our school’s focus is being bought back to our Learner Code. The three main areas of the Learner Code are SAFE, RESPECT and PERSONAL BEST. Over the next period of time we will be focusing in on the RESPECT part of the Learner Code. We are starting to remind students about school expectations around following a reasonable direction. When we look at our school behaviour data we have seen almost triple the amount of behaviour incidences involving students not following reasonable instructions. Examples of reasonable instructions include sitting in seat allocated in a seating plan, stop talking in class when asked to, following safety instructions in a workshop, kitchen or lab, completing a set task in the class or leaving the room when asked to by a teacher. On Thursday this week we will be taking time out to deliver an explicit lesson to all students about following reasonable instructions. We will discuss expectations and possible consequences - warnings, detentions and possible suspensions. We are committed to providing the best possible learning environment for all of our students. We understand that this needs to be done in collaboration with both the teachers and the students to fully operationalise our Learner Code. Next week our OP eligible Year 12 students will sit the Queensland Core Skills test. They have been involved in a rigorous preparation program that has run over the last 12 months. The students are feeling very confident which is a good sign. I wish them all the best next week I’m sure they will all do a great job!

Yours in Education
Craig Whittred
Principal

Awards Evenings Abound in Term 4
Cultural Awards
Thursday 22 October 2015
A Block Gardens
5.00 pm

Sports Awards
Thursday 29 October 2015
Ayr Showgrounds Hall
7.30 pm

Academic Awards
Thursday 5 November 2015
Burdekin Theatre
7.30 pm

A wonderful showcase of the depth and breadth of talent in Ayr State High School.

P&C Meeting
Monday 7 September 2015
7.30 pm, Resource Centre
All welcome

Music Support Group Meeting
Thursday 17 September
5.00 pm, A12

Download the free QSchool App to stay connected to news and events.
Access to newsletters, calendar events, news feeds, forms and documents.

Flag Duty

On Saturday 1 August, our Indigenous Students proudly held up the Torres Strait Islander flag in front of a crowd of 16 000 at the recent Cowboys vs Canberra Raiders game whilst the National Anthem was sung.
Interschool Athletics Carnival
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

On Friday 21 August 120 Ayr High students descended on Home Hill to participate in the Interschool Athletics Carnival. At the carnival, hosted by Burdekin Catholic High School, students competed in various track and field events. Ayr High finished second overall with a total of 1173 points behind overall winners Burdekin Catholic High School. In the aggregate trophy (which takes into account overall school enrolment numbers and overall points on the day) Ayr State High finished in third place. Congratulations to Sharni Wight (U15), Wesley O’Rourke (U15) and Nathaniel Roxburgh (U16) who were Age Champions.

Two records were broken by Ayr High students:
Sharni Wight (U15) 800m 2:35.56 (2:38.44; 2010)
Noeleen VaeVae Pare (U16) Shot Put 11.09 m (10.15; 2014).

A squad of 29 has been selected from this carnival and will represent the Burdekin district at the North Queensland Track and Field Trials on Friday 4 September. Eight members of this squad are from Ayr High. Congratulations to all students.

Community vs Student Game
by Natalie Holt, Sports Captain

On Friday 14 August Ayr State High School hosted a touch game against Community Services Personnel. The Year 12’s participated in the game against volunteers who were willing to play from our local Police, Ambulance and Fire Departments. Unfortunately, the Year 12’s were defeated 5-3. This was the second touch game for the Community Shield this year (the first ending in a draw), with a third game to be held during the last week of school for the Year 12’s. The Year 12’s will need to win the last game in order to retain the Community Shield. A big thank you to the community personnel for volunteering their time.

A Way to Study in Maths and Science
by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Science & Maths

In subjects like mathematics and science it is important that students not only do set homework but also review lessons regularly. This reviewing of lessons is what we commonly call study. For students, it is difficult to know how to do this study. They often just sit at their desk and stare at the work. Study needs to be a more active process than this. The following technique maybe a useful practical strategy for students to follow:

Equipment: designated notebook for study
Technique: “321RIQ”
Write down 3 Recalls (facts/content/ideas/rules) from the lesson
Write down 2 Insights (“I now realise that…..”; “I now see the link between….. and ……….”)
Write down 1 Question (something still not understood or a student generated link “I wonder if ……….”)

Students who are then having difficulties or want their questions answered, can bring along their notebook to their teacher to seek further clarification.

Sport Scores

Interschool Touch 18/08/15
U13 Girls: vs BCHS Win 5-0
U13 Boys: vs BCHS Win 10-1
U15 Girls: vs BCHS Win 7-0
U15 Boys: vs BCHS Win 5-3
Open Girls: vs BCHS Loss 2-3
Open Boys: vs BCHS Win Forfeit
Early this term, four of our Year 11 students attended the annual engineering camp along with approximately 100 students from across North Queensland at James Cook University. Daniel Holmes, Shaun Johnson, Nathan Massato and Liam Vitale enjoyed the opportunity to test-drive possible engineering choices. The students spent three days working with engineers on small scale problems. The students had a choice of sampling different types of engineering including Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Environmental. In this way, the boys were able to get a true appreciation of what attributes you need to be a good engineer. All boys came back with renewed commitment to their career aspirations and reports from the organisers were very positive about the engagement and maturity of our students on the days. Well done.

Recently the Year 11 Chemistry class set off to the annual excursion through Inkerman mill. The tour included a walk through the lab to see how the sugar content of the cane is measured and how the mill tests their products at various stages to monitor the processing of the sugar. Then it was off to walk through the actual mill. This is a very special event for this class as the mill does not perform public tours anymore and we were very privileged to be able to do this. We saw the various stages of processing and could see the link between the theory we had covered in class and the practical processes of the use of flocculants, evaporation under partial vacuum, the use of centrifuge and diffusers, etc. We are most grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank Wilmar Sugar and our tour guide Mr Colin McLean. Thanks must also go to the parents who helped transport us over to the mill and back again. The tour was very educational and worthwhile.

What better way to spend three days than solving maths problems. This is what awaited five of our Year 10 students a couple of weeks ago when they attended the Maths Camp at Magnetic Island. Kacee Bromham, Shona Scalia, Kelsey Heuir, Danika Ley and Lyam Loring met with other like-minded students from across the North Queensland region to apply their minds to a range of maths problems - some on paper, some in the real world. All students thoroughly enjoyed the camp and made new friends even though some of the maths was hard.

The tour was very educational and worthwhile.
This term Mr Fitzgerald’s Year 11 Legal Studies class have been studying Family and the Law covering topics such as: marriage, divorce, polygamy, surrogacy arrangements, same-sex marriage, as well as last wills and testaments. Family Law is one of the fastest growing and developing areas of law in Australia. To enhance the learning the class recently had a visit from Carol Porter, a local and very experienced Civil Marriage Celebrant. Carol informed the class she has married an amazing 800 couples! She is aiming for 1000 couples before she retires.

Carol gave the class a fascinating overview of her work and some valuable insights into the process and legal requirements of a marriage. Carol’s talk has greatly assisted the class with their upcoming assessment presentations, extending and reinforcing their knowledge of marriage, in particular, and the area of Family Law generally.

As you may be aware, Ayr High is a PBL school. PBL is an acronym for “Positive Behaviour for Learning”. A key aspect of being a PBL school is reviewing data and feedback on both learning and behaviour. While we acknowledge that there have been a number of challenges and disruptions facing the broader community and also our school community this year, we have also recognised there is a strong case to be made for dealing with the disruption.

Research conducted in Australian schools reveals more than 50% of class learning time is lost to management of behaviour. Our school behavioural data overwhelmingly reflects that the single issue at the heart of over 90% of all behaviour incidents recorded relates to students failing to follow reasonable teacher directions.

In short, students’ failure to follow instructions is the most significant issue for managing behaviour in the classroom. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that students want teachers to manage classrooms effectively so that they can have a safe, respectful, and effective learning environment.

Our school Responsible Behaviour Plan already contains detail about this specific issue. Our focus is a recognition that this issue needs to be addressed to create more productive classrooms for all students through supporting teachers and students by reinforcing positive behaviour and clearly outlining consequences.

We can acknowledge that it is a legal obligation that students must follow all reasonable teacher instructions, but clearly, there is more to this issue than a simple legal position here. There will be a number of measures introduced in the coming days and weeks which will include:

- Feedback to students, staff and families (including further articles in ‘Ayring’) to keep the school community informed.
- Week 7 (24/8) - Staff meeting including specific professional development on a school wide approach to instruction giving and reinforcement of expectations for both Staff and Students.
- Thursday (27/8) - Whole school lesson for all students, explicitly outlining the importance and processes of following instructions, and what we will do to follow through with those needing extra support to meet our expectations.
- Positive reinforcement through the Hawk Point system.

In short, after all students have been reminded about their responsibility to follow instructions, we will follow up with all students who have not met expectations with a reflection lesson. Once it’s clear that this is a basic requirement of being part of a school community, those who continue to disrupt classrooms and ignore instructions will be suspended from school.

We will continue to offer the high degree of support to students that we always have, but we are also acting on behalf of all students who deserve to make the best of the outstanding staff we have at Ayr State High School, and to enjoy learning in a safe, respectful environment.
**Year 11 Camp**

*by Hayden Menso & Alix Leckenby*

From 4 to 7 August, the Year 11 cohort attended their Senior Leadership Camp at the Kinchant Outdoor Education Centre near Mackay.

The aim of the camp was to build new skills of leadership, develop trust between each other and shine light on people’s different talents. Student did this by participating in numerous activities including the 20-metre high G-Swing, High Ropes, Run the Gauntlet, Trust Falls, Low Ropes and Fashion Design.

The highlight of the week was the Interhouse Survivor Challenge, where each house completed team activities before venturing into the bushland to locate their teacher. Despite a 30-minute headstart from Cook, Banks proved triumphant winning first place, returning their teacher to base first. They were followed by Phillip, with Cook and Macquarie coming in at a tie, crossing the line together.

The camp would not have been possible without the amazing organisation of Mrs Milne and Ms Scott, and we thank Mr Pickersgill, Ms Scott, Mr Ballin, Mrs Vollema-Creek, Mrs Brock, Cassandra and Megan for being part of the experience with us.

With fears faced and lessoned learnt, new friendships made and old ones rekindled, the Year 11 students are now eager to confront their future senior leadership endeavours.

---

**Senior Schooling News**

*by Mrs Lesley Olsen, Senior Secondary Deputy Principal*

Students in the Senior School are heading into a busy few weeks.

**Year 10**

All Year 10 students need to attend an interview with a parent or carer to confirm their subject selections for Year 11 and 12. The timetable blocks have been determined and issued to the Year 10 students. Please visit the school website www.ayrshs.eq.edu.au and select the parent interview tab to book a “confirmation of subjects” interview time.

As well Year 10 students will shortly receive confirmation of their placement for Work Experience which will occur during week 2, term 4 12 - 16 October.

**Year 11**

Besides managing the busy end of term assessment load many Year 11 students will be entering into the application and selection process to determine student leadership positions for 2016.

**Applications for the student executive positions:**

- School Captain, School Vice Captain,
- Community Service Vice Captain,
- Cultural Vice Captain,
- Indigenous Students Vice Captain and Sports Vice Captain will close on Wednesday 16 September.

**Year 12**

The important QCS Test will be held on 1 and 2 September. Not only are students engaged in the final preparations for this test but also assessment in every subject will fall due during the Year 12 Assessment Block in week 10, 14 - 17 September.

All students need to be focussed on ensuring all assessments are completed to the best of their ability in order to firm credits towards the Queensland Certificate of Education. Year 12s are weary and ready to move into the next phase of life but it is vital they stay engaged for the few remaining weeks to consolidate their successes.

---

**Term 4 Disco**

*Theme: Toy Box*  
*Week 2 Term 4*  
*15 October, 7 - 10 pm*  
*Showgrounds Hall*  
*Last disco for 2015*  
*Let’s make it the best!*