24 Hour Human Powered Vehicle Race

by Mr Peter Jensen

The weekend of 14 and 15 September saw ten of our students board the Sunlander, nervous in knowing they were the guinea pigs for our first attempt at the 24 hour human powered vehicle race in Maryborough. What this group of students lacked in training and experience, they made up for in enthusiasm and persistence, completing an impressive 505 km. While the team was placed as high as 42nd, a racing incident during Saturday evening saw the team re-joining the field almost an hour later in 76th position. To their credit, they battled through the field to finish midday Sunday in an impressive 53rd place out of a starting grid of 120 cars.

Local business people have strongly supported the 2013 campaign, with the fibreglass products for the body being donated by Peto’s Marine in Home Hill. A big thanks goes to the contribution of Mr Dave Huckett from Prostart Automotive who spent heaps of time, talent, and goodies in producing the body of our car in a remarkable three weeks.

Year 8 Science Robotics Workshop

Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Science and Mathematics

On the last Friday of Term 3 approximately 70 Year 8 students attended a series of introductory Robotics Workshops run by CSIRO here at school. In groups, students spent an hour learning how to program robotics to attempt a range of different challenges involving moving around obstacles. Much fun and laughter was heard as the robots did what they were told to but not what students wanted them to do!!! The CSIRO staff were impressed by the engagement and behaviour of our students and it was a great way to finish the term. The workshops were offered free to our students courtesy of James Cook University funding scheme. We appreciate the kind support over the last two years by JCU in funding these programs.

Invitation

Ayr State High School Music Support Group Invites you to our 25th Anniversary Bingo Celebrations on Saturday 26 October 2013 Anglican Church Hall Wickham Street, Ayr 1.30 pm Entertainment by School Choir, Raffle and Lucky Door Prizes

Getaway Before The SILLY SEASON begins!

Daydream Island Resort and Spa

Only from $99 per person per night twin share!

Includes: Accommodation in a Garden View Room, return luxury transfers from Abel Point Marina, scrumptious full buffet breakfast daily, children stay & eat breakfast FREE of charge, FREE shell necklace & mocktail on arrival, FREE WI-FI in the atrium 24hrs a day, FREE HOLIDAY portrait & 20 FREE Guest activities For bookings contact Pierina, Timmone, Susan, Rosanne or Katarunya or contact us now via Facebook!
Welcome back to Term 4. This term is an extremely important term for students right across the school. For the Year 12s it is the culmination and graduation of the formal schooling part of the lives. This is often a joyous time and signifies the student’s next journey into the adult world of employment or further study. The Year 11s are consolidating their development for their final year of study. The Year 10s have developed a SET plan and selected subjects and will now experience the workplace to ensure their career goals are on track, and the Year 8 and 9s are selecting electives with an eye to their own future in the senior school and beyond. For all of these students and their families Term 4 is an important time to ensure quality engagement with the school through high levels of attendance. Sports Awards night was held last week and it was great to see the talent we have across the school in a wide variety of sports. The encouraging thing also is many of these same students recognised last week will be recognised at our upcoming Awards night for their academic talents as well! Congratulations to all those students who were recognised at the Sports Awards.

I have had the pleasure over the last few weeks to interview a number of our aspiring leaders for 2014. All of the applicants have been high quality and are a credit to themselves and their families. I am confident that they will be able to fill the very large shoes left by this year’s leaders who have done an outstanding job.

We continue to focus on our key areas of a high attendance, high engagement, and high levels of positive behaviour. With these three things we can all achieve high outcomes for all our students. Let’s maintain this focus over the next eight weeks and we will have achieved a great 2013 and be looking towards an even more outstanding 2014.

Yours in Education

Craig Whittred
Principal

Commemorating World War One

Just before the September holidays, Mrs Vollema-Creek’s Year 9 History class walked down to ANZAC Park to examine the war memorials. Even though they were starting at the end by investigating how Australian commemorate war, these war memorials are typical of one way Australian people remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Using the ANZAC Spirit/Legend as the focus of the unit, Mrs Vollema-Creek’s class now is investigating Australia’s role in World War One and how the ANZAC Spirit originated. During the unit they will be examining the development of the ANZAC Spirit throughout the war and debate whether it is still relevant today. For assessment they will be selecting images that represent the ANZAC Spirit during World War One and will analyze them and compare them to a modern day war image to determine if it still relevant or indeed exists in the military or Australian society today.

From the Principal

by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal

Editorial - Newsletter No. 12 22/10/13

Welcome to Ayr State High School

Our school acknowledges the Bindal and Juru communities as the first owners of this country. 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.

Music Support Group Meeting
Monday 28 October 2013
7.30 pm, A12. All welcome.

Ayr State High School Music Support Group

Bingo
Saturday 2.00 pm
Anglican Church Hall
Jackpots $400, $300, $200

Year 8 and Year 9 Choosing Electives for 2014

by Ms Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

This week Year 8 and Year 9 students were given information about elective subjects for next year. Both grades will be continuing with the Australian National Curriculum in core subjects; English, Mathematics, Science, History and Physical Education. Students will be able to indicate their preferred subjects for the remaining two (2) subjects. The 2014 timetable will be based on student preferences and whilst we will endeavour to allocate students to their preferred options there will be constraints. Students will have the best opportunity to be allocated their subjects of choice by returning the preference form promptly. Other considerations will include effort and behaviour in class.

On Tuesday 22 October there will be a parent/student information session in the Resource Centre. Parents and students will have the opportunity to be informed about the process and to talk with Heads of Department and teachers of elective subjects. The evening will commence at 5.30 pm with a discussion in the Auditorium and will continue with specific subject information in the Resource Centre.

Ayr High Awards Night
Thursday 31 October 2013
7.30 pm
Burdekin Theatre

Year 8 and Year 9 Awards Night

Thursday 31 October 2013
7.30 pm, A12. All welcome.

Year 8 and Year 9 Awards Night

by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek, Teacher

Congratulations to all those students recognised last week will be recognised at our upcoming Awards night for their academic talents as well! Congratulations to all those students who were recognised at the Sports Awards.

By Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek, Teacher

Awards.

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QCS News
by Mrs Teresa Gemellaro, Teacher

Our Year 12s are photographed with Ms Olsen giving a final group cheer before entering into their all-important QCS tests late last term. As a group, they worked very hard in the lead-up, to ensure they were as well-prepared as possible.

Now it is time for our Year 11s to begin focussing on preparation. This term, they will have several lessons with both Mrs Gemellaro and Ms Olsen, who are both experienced QCS markers. Ms D’Ilario will also provide students with techniques for coming up with outstanding ideas for the Writing Task component.

As part of Year 11 block exams, students will undertake a complete Writing Task paper, in which they write a story or essay of approximately 600 words in a two hour period. Next year, other part and full practices will be conducted, along with general and targeted practice.

Parents can assist at home by encouraging their child to read widely from quality newspapers and literature, as well as watching and discussing documentaries or programs that enable students to gain a wider viewpoint of the world around them.

It is important for students to attend the full program of lessons conducted for QCS. If an unavoidable absence occurs due to illness, the student needs to make arrangements to see their teacher to catch up on missed aspects of the program.

Science @ JCU
by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Science & Mathematics

Once again this year we had a number of our Year 9 students attend the exciting four day Science Experience at JCU over the September holidays. Students participated in an intense but exciting series of workshops, lab experiments and lectures in a range of areas from the ‘Physics Show’, marine biology, robotics, fish dissections, fossils and everything in between.

Students found the experience both rewarding and fun.

Congratulations to the following students who represented themselves and families with distinction: Rachael Zani, Nathan Masatto, Tyler Northwood, Dean Webber, Daniel Holmes and Chris Ordorica.

Senior Schooling News
Year 10 – Subjects for 2014 and Work Experience
by Ms Lesley Olsen, Senior School Deputy Principal

There are some issues associated with the timetable for Year 11 in 2014 which have necessitated a minor change to the way TAFE will be offered.

The Year 10 students who are affected have been provided with information about this so that the green subject selection form can be completed and returned to the school as soon as possible. The students who have indicated an interest in TAFE were also given information about costs associated with this.

Please contact me, at school, if you have any questions about this change.

The Year 10 students are, albeit nervously, looking forward to their week of work experience. Many students have been given the documents requiring signature so that their placements can be confirmed. Some students have yet to receive theirs. Mrs Vartuli has done and continues to do an amazing job of matching students to their preferred placements.

Please assist by ensuring documents are returned promptly. Work Experience takes place from 4 - 8 November. All students are expected to participate.

Year 11 - Leadership, QCS preparation and Personal Best, for many Year 11 students are currently applying for leadership positions for 2014. This can be a difficult time as, inevitably, some students will be disappointed. We thank all applicants for their offers of assistance with leadership and wish them well in the process.

Students who are OP eligible have commenced formal preparation for the QCS test with myself and Mrs Gemellaro (both trained and experienced QCS Markers). These sessions are critical. We have impressed upon the students the importance of applying their usual diligence and commitment to this preparation.

For Year 11 students not involved in these aspects of school life their focus needs to be on making improvements in their Semester 1 results.

Year 12 Transition
by Ms Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

Year 12 students have only four weeks remaining before 12 years of schooling comes to an end. Year 12 Co-ordinator, Ms Ruge, has organised a range of guest presenters to work with Year 12 students not only about ensuring a safe end to the school year, but also about making a successful transition into the next phase of life.

It is important that every Year 12 students leaves school with a plan. Some plans will be about accessing further education and training and some will be about entering the work force.

Students are working on the final units of work in all their school subjects and we would hope they continue to make every endeavour to achieve the best possible result.

The final assessment for Year 12 will be held from 6 - 8 November.
Canberra turns 100!
by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek, Teacher

During the first week of the holidays the Ayr High Year 12 Legal Studies class and their teacher, Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek, visited Canberra. Over four days, the students visited nine institutions as well as Floriade. In its 25th year, Parliament House was the first port of call for the six Year 12 students. They partook a tour of the house and particularly enjoyed the view from the roof. At the National Archives, the girls were privileged to view the original Constitution Act passed by the British Parliament and the Royal Commission of Assent signed by Queen Victoria on 9 July 1900 in the Federation Gallery. They also enjoyed the Memory of a Nation exhibition.

Floriade was a highlight of the trip and the students also enjoyed the entertainment provided at the Floriade Nightfest. At the National Electoral Education Centre they learnt the ins and outs of the Australian voting system whereas the Museum of Democracy program, Decision 3sixty, gave the students the chance to learn about the role of conscription in Australian history. Seeing how our coins were made at the Royal Australian Mint was also of interest as well the Authentic Insights program undertaken at the National Portrait Gallery. The tour of the High Court of Australia, established in 1903, gave the girls an understanding of the role of this court in the legal system and some were lucky enough to hold Volume 1 of the Commonwealth Law Reports from 1903/4. The girls were impressed with the facilities at the Institute of Sport and even tried their hand at some of the sporting challenges in the fun room. The tour of the Australian War Memorial was another highlight as the girls tried to absorb everything on display about Australia's military history. They were also lucky enough to lay a wreath on behalf of Ayr High at the Pool of Reflection during the Last Post Ceremony held at the Memorial at the end of each day.

It was an amazing opportunity for the students and a nice break from school and exams. They now look forward to the final four weeks of Year 12 with the memories of a fantastic excursion.

Chemistry students visit sugar mill
by Mrs Teresa Gemellaro, Teacher

The Year 11 Chemistry class recently visited the Inkerman Mill as part of their studies of the chemistry in various industries. Mr Colin McLean again generously gave of his time to conduct a tour of both the laboratory and the mill, explaining the science behind all of the processes in each section. This has given the students an insight not only into a local industry, but also an appreciation of where the study of chemistry may lead in their future.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<td>22 Oct</td>
<td>Yr 10 RE (S3) Interschool Softball/Cricket</td>
<td>3.30 pm</td>
<td>Resource Centre</td>
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<td>Yr 8 Arts/Technology Rotation (No.5 Starts)</td>
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<td>Yr 11 Vice Captain Interviews</td>
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<td>Yr 8 into 9 &amp; Yr 9 into 10 Subject Evening</td>
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<td>24 Oct</td>
<td>Music Night</td>
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<td>Yr 10 RE (S2)</td>
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<td>Yr 8 &amp; 9 Subject Selections Deadline</td>
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<td>25-29 Oct</td>
<td>Yr 11 Workplace Practices Work Experience</td>
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<td>26 Oct</td>
<td>Music Support Group ’25th Anniversary’ Bingo</td>
<td>1.30 pm</td>
<td>Anglican Church Hall</td>
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<td>28 Oct</td>
<td>Music Support Meeting</td>
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<td>29 Oct</td>
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<td>Awards Night Rehearsals (S4)</td>
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<td>31 Oct</td>
<td>Awards Night</td>
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<td>1 Nov</td>
<td>Students Ball (Memorial Hall)</td>
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<td>4-8 Nov</td>
<td>Yr 10 Work Experience</td>
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<td>5 Nov</td>
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<td>7-8 Nov</td>
<td>Yr 12 Assessment Period</td>
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<td>14 Nov</td>
<td>Yr 12 Graduation Dinner</td>
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P&C Meeting
Monday 4 November 2013
7.30 pm, Resource Centre