Peter Pan Musical

by Mrs Maree Milne, Director

Wow! No words can describe the immense pride Ayr State High School is feeling, after taking the Burdekin community to Neverland through the adventures of the Peter Pan Musical. The cast, crew and production committee has had positive feedback from audience members, and were able to share in the excitement of the entire season - in particular Saturday night, where the performance was electric. A big congratulations must go, again, to all of the students who participated in the show. It was their energy, enthusiasm and entertaining skills which won hundreds of audience member’s hearts, and made the Burdekin believe in Peter Pan.

NRL GRAND FINAL PACKAGES OUT NOW!

Package price from $389.00 per person twin share!

Includes: Silver Reserved seating to the 2014 NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final at ANZ Stadium, 2 nights accommodation at a selection of Sydney CBD hotels. Check in Sunday 5 October 2014 and check out Tuesday 7 October 2014.

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From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No. 12 21/08/14

As predicted, the Ayr State High School Musical, Peter Pan, was an absolute hit! Congratulations to all the staff, students and parents who were involved. There has been an exciting buzz about our community about the musical. I have received many letters and emails congratulating our school on what an outstanding production it was and how it showcased what wonderful, talented and respectful students we have at Ayr State High School. Well done team! As the Musical showcased our performing arts talent we will be showcasing our visual arts talent in our upcoming Visual Arts exhibition entitled Identity. The opening will be held on Friday 29 August and the collection of student work will be displayed at The Loft at the Burdekin Theatre. This is always an extraordinary night and a chance to admire the artwork of our talented students from all year levels. This week we unpacked the second stage of the Success For All Students policy. The first stage has focused on improving attendance and the second stage is focused on students following instructions. Many hours of valuable teaching time is spent focusing on managing student behaviour rather than on teaching the curriculum. We have discussed this as a staff and have explicitly unpacked this with every student in the school. There will be a process put in place that will include possible suspension of students if they are not following instructions. We are committed to ensuring that every student successfully completes secondary school at Ayr State High School and if students are attending every day, every lesson and following instructions they are putting themselves in the best possible position to reach their career goals. NAPLAN results are being sent to schools and the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority has sent some preliminary data. I am very pleased at how our students performed; matching the state in many areas. We will continue to unpack this data and utilise it to inform the teaching and learning of those students as they progress through Years 9 and 10.

Yours in education
Craig Whittred
Principal

P&C News
LAST DAYS TO BUY YOUR MONSTER RAFFLE TICKETS.
Winner of DRAW 1, Kylie O’Keefe and three friends will be off to the next Cowboys home game. Thanks to WILMAR for their sponsorship.

Support our next fundraiser:
Look out for our stall with TORTELLINI AND DRINKS for sale at the Water Festival - Saturday 6 September.
Offers of assistance/donations would also be gratefully accepted.
Contact Ann asockhill@live.com or phone 0400536113.

Congratulations to all involved in Peter Pan – you should feel proud!
LIKE us on FACEBOOK
AYR SHS P&C ASSOCIATION

Welcome to Ayr State High School
Our school acknowledges the Bindal and Juru community 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.

P&C Meeting
Monday 1 September 2014
7.30 pm, Resource Centre

Year 8 - 12 Art Exhibition
Friday 29 August, 6 - 9 pm, The Loft, Burdekin Theatre

ASHS Music Support Group
Bingo
Saturday 2.00 pm
Anglican Church Hall
Jackpots $400, $300, $200

Download the free QSchool App to stay connected to news and events.

Cowboys Flag Duty
by Mrs Ollie Henaway, CEC

On Saturday 31 May, a group of Ayr State High School students travelled to Townsville to be involved in the Cowboys Flag Duty. As part of the Cowboys Learn Earn Legend Program, reconciliation is taken seriously. It gives students the opportunity to take pride in their culture and represent their families, school and community. The students got to see the Cowboys and Storm game as well as see their sporting heroes take the field.

Back LtoR: Jaidyn Penny, Malcolm McCoombes
Front LtoR: Abraham Heron, Jacinta Pope
Back LtoR: Jemima Sutherland, Caleb Noah, Filly Nai
Front LtoR: John Zaro, Keon Noah

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Continued NYSF Success
by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Science and Maths

The tradition at Ayr High continues again this year as one of our top Year 11 students, Liam Shannon, has been successful in gaining selection to the prestigious National Youth Science Forum in Canberra. We were fortunate to have three worthy applicants this year - well done also to Taylah Pearson and Luke Sockhill who unfortunately missed out.

Liam will attend a two week science experience with other students from across the country in January 2015. Serious work with leading scientists from across a range of disciplines will occur through lectures, seminars, field trips and laboratory investigations. There will also be plenty of time for social events in order to get to know the other participants.

Over the last 19 years, Ayr High has had a very high reputation of gaining selection to this Forum. This is testimony to the quality of our students, parental support and guidance from teachers. Liam follows on from the more recent participants – Ben Brandon (2008), Rohan Watt (2009), Monica Saunders (2010), Genevieve Fahey (2011), Josh Great (2012) and Matt Wight (2013). Congratulations also to Matt Wight who is returning to NYSF as a member of staff - a similar role that Josh Great did in 2013 as well. The Ayr Rotary Club once again has been very supportive in this venture and we thank them for their continued commitment to the young people of the Burdekin.

From the English & LoTE Desk
by Ms Anna D’Ilario, Head of English & LoTE

Wow! Where has the term gone? Over the past five weeks, the English and LoTE staff have been working hard to provide students with many opportunities for enrichment and extension.

ICAS
Recently, we had our largest ever cohort of students sit the English ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) test. It was great to see such a high participation rate, with over 10% of our students having a go. Special thanks go to Ms Attard who co-ordinated the event.

Opti-Minds
Presently, Mr Pickersgill is facilitating an enrichment program for some of our Year 9 students who are participating in the Opti-minds Literature Challenge. Over the past five weeks, our ‘opti-cats’ have been fervently working on their challenge, practising their spontaneous responses and developing their thinking skills. The Opti-minds competition will be held on Sunday 24 August, at James Cook University, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Japanese Club
In LoTE, Ms Irvine has launched Japanese Club for interested Year 8 students. Participants meet every fortnight in A4 at lunch time and explore various elements of Japanese culture, such as manga, cultural customs, and contemporary Japanese fiction. Interested students are encouraged to see Ms Irvine for more details.

Year 11 Mock Job Interviews
Our Year 11 English Communication students are currently preparing for our annual mock job interview event. Mrs Buffa, Ms Scott and Ms Paine have been working with students in developing their résumé writing and interview skills. Mock job interviews will be held in Week 9 of this term, on Monday 8 September. Employers throughout the Burdekin have generously agreed to donate their time in the interests of our students, and we thank them for their continued commitment.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week
As part of National Literacy and Numeracy Week (25 - 31 August), the English department will be running a series of activities to celebrate the role of literacy in learning. All students are invited to participate, and there are some awesome prizes on offer. Finally, don’t forget we have English tutoring Tuesday afternoons in A4 (from 3.15 to 4.15) where our English teachers will be on hand each week to assist students with assessments. Year 12s, especially, are welcome.
Legal Studies Classes Learn About Marriage Laws
by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek, Legal Studies Teacher

Last Friday, local marriage celebrant, Carol Porter, spoke to the Year 11/12 Legal Studies class about marriage laws as part of their unit, “Family Law”. During her presentation to the class, she outlined which relationships were considered to be prohibited by law as well as the legalities for applying for a Notice of Intent. The students had the opportunity to pretend filling out one of these Notices of Intent and ask many questions about the other aspects of the marriage process.

Cooking Classes for Students in Years 8 to 10
by Cassandra, School Based Youth Nurse

We are excited to announce that the popular Diabetes Queensland school cooking program Need for Feed is coming to our school! Students all across Queensland are participating in this hands on program and it is now available for up to 20 lucky students in Years 8 to 10. This hands-on approach to cooking will expose students to a variety of dishes, basic skills involved in preparing and cooking meals from scratch and will improve students’ awareness of healthy eating. The program will be run outside of school hours with the guidance of qualified staff, making the cooking experience both safe and enjoyable.

All participants will receive a Need for Feed program booklet and a chef’s hat for participating in the program. A small fee of $20 in total will be charged for participation in the cooking class that can be paid to the school.

The program will commence on Wednesday 15 October and will run within the school home economics room after school. The program will run for eight weeks, with one session per week. As there are only 20 spots available please contact School Nurse, Cassandra, to register your interest by Tuesday 2 September. Cassandra will then give you a registration form to be completed in order to secure your spot.
SWPBS Focus: Following Reasonable Instructions

As you may recall from last week’s article, Ayr High is a SWPBS school which has seen some specific developments of our school systems. In particular we are developing a focus on reinforcing positive behaviour in a culture of safety, respect and a constant striving to achieve at the highest levels in every area of life.

We will continue to maintain high expectations of student attendance. As we have previously shared, school attendance rates directly impact on achievement and therefore success later in chosen careers.

**This week, our school has introduced a focus on following instructions.** Data has shown that failure to follow reasonable teacher directions contributed to over 86% of all incidents recorded at school. Research shows that in high schools, well over 50% of class time is lost to managing student behaviour unless the behaviour is consistently and systematically addressed.

In addition, we know from anecdotal data that students want to be in well managed classrooms. While our Responsible Behaviour Plan outlines our expectations clearly, we are acting to improve conditions for students and teachers through increasing awareness and support for our core business of learning.

All staff have recently had professional development in relation to this focus and all students will also spend time being reminded about the importance of following reasonable instructions, their legal obligations, and the implications for themselves and the school community.

While we acknowledge that it is a legal obligation that students must follow all reasonable teacher instructions, this is not a temporary “crackdown” on student behaviour. We are simply continuing our development of a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment. We all have a part to play in that.

Students will also be pleased to note that the Hawk Point Draws will now be weekly as a more regular acknowledgement for the vast majority of our students who co-operate in the learning environment.

Students who have struggled to meet our expectations will initially be re-taught about this focus, in an effort to support them in correcting their behaviour. Students who choose to ignore this support with ongoing failure to follow instructions will be suspended and supported again on re-entry.

If you would like more information on the school’s focus on improving student outcomes please feel free to contact the Principal Mr Craig Whittred, or Mr Andrew Ballin (HOD Student Services) on 47904333.

**Will Ayr Heads get Ayrborne?**

**by Mr Peter Jensen, Teacher**

Final preparations are underway for Ayr High’s assault on the 24 hour Human Powered Vehicle Championships in Maryborough, run on the weekend of 13 and 14 September. Following the success of the “Ayr Heads” in 2013, a new junior team called “Ayrborne” have been added to our entry, comprising students in Year 10. Two new cars have been constructed during the year, promising to be lighter and faster than last year’s creation through the generous support of many sponsors’ donations of time, materials and money, including Honeycombes Sales and Service, Wilmar Sugar, Burdekin Motorcycles, Chiropractic Care Ayr, Haller Wealth, Peto’s Marine, The Mango Fundraiser and Prostart Automotive.
Two teams of Year 8 students represented the school in the Burdekin section of the Year 8 Rio Tinto Maths Competition. High schools throughout the state are involved in this competition every year. The two teams were:

Team A: Chiara Ferrando (Captain), Abigail Evetts and Jaydenn Pavone
Team B: Kade Harch (Captain), Joel Horan and Aimee Matthews

Caitlin Holmes acted as a reserve for both teams.

Team B finished in second place just half a point ahead of Team A in third place. 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.

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**Year 10 Interviews - Confirm Subjects for 2015**

Every Year 10 student will need to attend a formal interview with Mrs Olsen to finalise SET plans and subject choices for 2015. The interviews will take place in the last three weeks of this term, 1 - 19 September. The interview times can be booked through the usual system located on the school website.

Go to [http://ayrshs.eq.edu.au/](http://ayrshs.eq.edu.au/) and go to the bottom right hand side under Quicklinks and select Parent Teacher Interview Bookings to book the preferred time or contact the school office for assistance with the booking.

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**Year 8 Rio Tinto Maths Competition**

by Mr Rod Williams, Competition Co-ordinator

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**Maths & Science Tutoring**

Wednesday Afternoon (3.15 - 4.15 pm)
Thursday Afternoon (3.15 - 4.15 pm)

**D1 Lab**

Do you want help with homework? Do you need help with studying for a test?

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**Jack Solves the “Furnace Problem”**

Each and every year for the last fifteen years our Senior Maths C teacher, Mr Rod Williams has challenged his Year 12 Maths C students to attempt to solve a difficult mathematical problem in their textbook about a cooling furnace. Over the years many students have taken up the challenge but none have tasted success until this year. Our male school vice-captain, Jack Vacher, has become the first student ever to obtain a correct mathematical solution to the “Furnace Problem”.

Congratulations Jack - your persistence and hours of effort paid off.

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**Politics and the law**

by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek, Teacher

As part of their unit about the legal system, some of the Year 10 SOSE classes had a visit from local politicians, Mayor Bill Lowis and Rosemary Menkens, our state MP. They spoke about why they entered politics and what changes they have made since they have been in office. Being in politics longer, Rosemary Menkens has been instrumental in her role as state MP in many areas. As a relative newcomer to politics, Mayor Bill Lowis has enjoyed his experience so far despite its challenges. All up the students have gained an insight into Australian politics and gained a greater understanding of what it is like to be a politician and the role of the law in Australian society.