During week 2 of this term, the English Department whipped the school into a literacy frenzy! Students and teacher alike celebrated the week-long event with activities, competitions and a character dress up day. Our celebrations kick-started the week with a daily word find and quote quiz activity in student notices. Students could not get to the A block staffroom quick enough to submit their answers! The week continued to gain momentum with a game of Taboo, the Great Ayr High Spelling Bee, an A-Z relay race, Riddle Mania, culminating in the Amazing Literacy Race around the school at the end of the week. Nobody can deny the hype that surrounded the week with many positive affirmations from students and staff. A huge thank you to the English Department who worked diligently to organise the daily activities and ultimately setting the exuberant tone in the school. Congratulations to all who won prizes and thank you to the school community for supporting us on our literacy journey.

As part of our literacy week celebrations, some of our Year 8 students were rewarded with a visit to the Prep class at Ayr State School, to show off their reading prowess, by reading storybooks to the young students. These Year 8 students are currently participating in our newly established ‘Back on the Right Track’ Reading Programme. Our students interacted extremely well with their little prep buddies and were not only involved in reading but also interactive sound games. We would like to thank Ms Pattinson for welcoming us into her classroom.
From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No. 14 28/10/16

Last week was a very busy week at Ayr State High School. Our Year 10 students were out doing work experience. We have received wonderful reports from both the employers and the students themselves on how productive the week was. This is an important step in the students developing a better understanding about their possible career pathways. It also gives our students the opportunity to showcase their talents and enthusiasm to our local employers. I would like to thank those employers who again supported us in developing the youth of the Burdekin.

Our Year 11 students went to Kinchant dam for their Camp. On camp students are engaged in a number of challenges and learnings that are designed to help build resilience and self-worth in each student whilst bring the cohort together by building relationship and teamwork skills. From all reports the camp was a great success with staff and students all coming back tired but very positive about the experience.

This week we had our Academic Awards night on next Thursday night. This is a time to acknowledge excellence in academics, leadership, citizenship and effort. This is always a great night as it really inspiring to witness the talent that we have here at Ayr State High School.

This week has been Mental Health week and our School-based Youth Health Nurse Cassandra has organised a number of activities throughout the week. This year’s message is about “Valuing everyone’s mental health”. Cassandra organised a range of lunchtime activities that included exercise classes, musical performances and BBQ lunch. A big thanks goes to Cassandra as well as Andrea from Nrgize fitness and all the students and teachers involved in the musical performances.

Whilst there are many extra events happening it is important that we keep our eye on the ball with our academic studies as all students will be beginning to come into their final assessment period for the year. As I have said before our preparation needs to be more than just the night before but a steady build-up of rereading notes, developing graphic organisers that best suit your individual learning styles and managing time to enable you to produce your best effort on each piece of assessment.

Looking ahead we have our Academic Awards night on next Thursday night. This is a time to acknowledge excellence in academics, leadership, citizenship and effort. This is always a great night as it really inspiring to witness the talent that we have here at Ayr State High School.

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 the Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Island people who have lived, worked and contributed to the cultural heritage of our community.

Academic Awards
Thursday 3 November 2016
Burdekin Theatre
7.30 pm

P&C Meeting
Monday 7 November 2016
7.30 pm, Resource Centre
All welcome.

Music Support Meeting
Thursday 17 November 2016
5 pm, A14
New parents/carers welcome.

Yr 9, 10, 11 LIP Leader Day
10 November 2016

Loud Shirt Day
by Giselle Le Feuvre and Demi O’Shea, Year 7 Students

Loud Shirt Day was a Free Dress fundraiser organised by Year 7 to support deaf kids of Australia. Students at Ayr State High School were able to wear their most impressive shirts and be involved in amazing games. The School raised a total of $170 and the day was a remarkable success. Brendan Kolb was brilliantly dressed to suit the theme and was the lucky winner of the best dressed competition as well as Grace Bach and William Rawiri who won the ‘design-a-loud-shirt’ activity. Great job to all those in Year 7 who helped out with donations, posters and games. Overall, Loud Shirt Day had a tremendous turn out and an extraordinary event that will be looked back on in future, fondly.

Left: Amy Webb and Kahlee Lennox competing in the design-a-loud-shirt activity.

Craig Whittred
Principal

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It’s not OK to be away
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Relay For Life
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Co-ordinator

This year Ayr State High School participated in the Burdekin Relay for Life with a team of 22 - 12 students and 10 staff (and Hurricane), with students from Year 7, 9 and 11. Relay for Life is an overnight experience that raises vital funds for the Cancer Council's research, prevention and support services. It is a way of supporting and recognising those who have battled or are battling, cancer, as well as the people who care for them.

Teams participate in a relay-style walk, challenging themselves to stay on the track overnight. Burdekin's Relay for Life was held on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 October at Burdekin Rugby League Grounds in Ayr. Team mates arrived at 2 pm on Saturday for the opening ceremony (at 3 pm) which started by celebrating survivors and carers as they walked the first lap. The next 17 hours were spent walking around the track. A member from each team had to be walking with the team baton at all times. Members took turns at walking the field and while on rest breaks either socialised, ate or tried to sleep (very few of our team slept, with most doing an all-nighter).

As night commenced, team members paid tribute honouring those battling or who had battled cancer by writing messages of hope, love and support on their 'Hope' bags. Candles were lit inside and placed along the edge of the track as a sign of remembrance and motivation.

Ayr High supported Burdekin's Relay for Life by donating $1660, largely due to our school Interact club and Relay participants. Overall, the Relay was a great experience for students and staff and a great way to have a positive impact in the wider community, whilst making a vital contribution to the Cancer Council. Although extremely exhausted on Sunday, every Ayr High participant walked away fulfilled.

From the Year 12 Co-ordinators
by Mrs Maree Milne and Mr Chris Milne, Year 12 Co-ordinators

Matthew Stanley Foundation

On Thursday, 20 October, the Year 12s went to the SMC, and were shown a news report of Matthew Stanley, a victim of a violent, alcohol fuelled attack in Brisbane. As the lights were turned on, the students watched as a grey haired man entered the stage, and introduced himself as Matthew’s dad, Paul Stanley. For the next hour, the students listened intently to Paul, talking about the way his life had changed after his son was killed in a cowardly violent attack at his friend’s party. The 12s were immersed in Paul’s talk, as he was speaking from the heart about a true event which affected his and his family’s life so suddenly. The Matthew Stanley Presentation was relevant at this moment in time for the 12s as they begin to move along their path to responsible adulthood. It is a timely reminder for them since many of them are looking forward to their Schoolies adventures and turning 18.

Graduation Preparations

Graduation is fast approaching. The students have allocated themselves a table, and have finalised their ticket allocations. Tickets are available now from the office, at $40 each. Please finalise all purchasing of tickets by the Wednesday 2 November so final catering numbers are required. Also ensure you let the office know of any dietary requirements for catering purposes.

Graduation Week

With Graduation approaching, so too is Graduation Week. The week we conduct at school is an alternate to the regular school timetable. Rather, the students participate in preparation lessons for Graduation, seek final results and ladder positions from their teachers, as well as participate in community minded events. As already stated to the students by Mr Whittred, they are to be at school for the usual school hours, unless otherwise stated on their Grad Week timetable. The day of Graduation, Thursday 17 November, the students will be able to leave school at 1.10pm for their Graduation preparations. No students will be able to leave before this time, and it is asked that parents/carers support the school on this expectation.

Year 12 Grad
17 November 2016
Burdekin Memorial Hall
6.00 pm

Yr 12 Farewell Parade
18 November 2016
12.15 pm, MPS
Followed by BBQ Lunch
From 17-21 October our Year 10 cohort took part in a work sampling programme. Students applied for work in the areas previously identified in their SET plans in order to clarify their future career plans. Businesses in our local community (including Townsville) were again very supporting of this programme, providing placements in areas including physiotherapy, veterinary science, childcare, hairdressing, engineering and a range of trades. Much credit rests with Mrs Vartuli, whom works in the school office, who worked tirelessly to place students in their preferred areas and therefore ensuring the success of the programme.

Each workplace was visited by a teacher during the week, who gained valuable and very positive feedback about the experiences of employers and students alike. The experience was a particularly rewarding one for students, who gained valuable insights into the world of work during their week in “the real world”.

Breanna Grabbi - Ayr State Primary School (Year 2/3)
“I most enjoyed working with small groups of children to help them improve their story writing.”

Katelyn George - Wulguru Vet Clinic
“The highlight of my work experience was being allowed to give needles to the dogs. I also got to observe a range of surgeries, including an operation on a dog with an eye ulcer that was extremely interesting. I learned a lot in the week that I was there and think that working in that industry would be something that I am interested in.”

Tayla Gimson - Lower Burdekin Home for the Aged
“I undertook general care for residents that have varying care needs. Teamwork, time management and the ability to follow directions are just three of the many qualities that were needed in this role.”

Caleb Guiney - Ferguson Plumbing
“The highlight of my week was being able to offer a hand in the laying of a new water main to a house, where we also refitted the external taps as well as running new piping under the house.”

Jack DelleBaite - Pacific Reef Fisheries
“One of the highlights was a trip to Guthalungra to transfer prawns from the hatcheries to the farm in Ayr. I was also involved in the Cobia harvest, which involved jumping in the water to net a portion of the pond, then using a backhoe implement to pick up the fish.”

Elliot Spinaze - Ayr Anzac Memorial Club (kitchen)
“A highlight was the friendliness of the kitchen staff. They made me feel comfortable in the workspace and overall made my work placement a positive experience.”

Ronan Cowper - Snap Fitness
“The highlight of my week was learning about different exercises/stretches and how they help the body to increase the general fitness level.”

Will Quirk at Mark Hudson Engineering

Elliot Spinaze at Ayr Anzac Memorial Club

Katelyn George at Wulguru Vet Clinic

Tayla Gimson at the Lower Burdekin Home for the Aged

Lower Burdekin Home for the Aged 9A - 27A Clippendale Street Ayr
Upcoming Events

2 Nov  Academic Awards Rehearsal (S4)
3 Nov  Academic Awards Night (7.30 pm, Burdekin Theatre)
7 Nov  P&C Meeting (7.30 pm, Resource Centre)
9-11 Nov  Yr 12 Assessment Period
10 Nov  Yr 9, 10, 11 LIP Leader Training Day
15 Nov  Yr 8 Free Dress - Wildlife Warriors
17 Nov  Yr 12 Graduation
18 Nov  Yr 12 Last Day
         Yr 12 Farewell Parade (12.15 pm) followed by BBQ Lunch
21-24 Nov  Yr 11 Assessment Period
25 Nov  Yr 10, 11 Last Day
         Yr 7, 8, 9 Big Day Out (12 - 3 pm)
         Yr 11 Big Day Out (12 - 3 pm, Ayr Pool)
1-2 Dec  Yr 6 Orientation Days
5 Dec  P&C Meeting (7.30 pm, Resource Centre)
8 Dec  Yr 7, 8, 9 Reports Issued (S4)
9 Dec  Yr 7, 8, 9 Last Day
12 Dec 2016 - 20 Jan 2017 - Summer Holidays

Congratulations to all Sports Awards winners!
Full wrap-up in the next edition of Ayring.