The Final Farewell
12 years of schooling behind them
by Ms Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

With the usual mixed feelings, the graduates of 2013 celebrated the end of school. This year’s exceptional graduates have impressed with a consistent commitment to continued improvement in achievement and safe, respectful behaviour. The transition from school leaders to school leavers was seamless and celebratory for all. Their final week consisted of a number of unique activities with students attending sessions to raise awareness of important issues, including a presentation by the Spinal Education Awareness Team. The traditional visit to the Aged Home was a highlight of the week, with students singing Christmas Carols and spending time talking to the residents. The school service sessions in which students performed activities to assist with school operation were approached positively, with much important work being completed efficiently.

This year’s theme of Willy Wonka provided scope for amazing décor. Thanks to the generosity of Melissa Neilson from Simply Dance, graduation celebrations presented the opportunity to once again showcase the work of talented art teacher, Mrs Lynda Hoey in the backdrops and props, and the name boards completed with the assistance of students. The Year 12s were given the opportunity to set up the hall for their graduation and the result was the usual exceptional quality. The cake (baked by Ty Hancock and decorated by parent Russell Loring) was cut by Taylah Dwyer and Jayden Cranitch on behalf of the graduates. On Friday 15 November the Year 11 students fêted the graduates at the farewell parade with a high quality skit revealing memories from 2009 to 2013 (some that the graduates might prefer to forget!). The graduation song, balloon launch and family BBQ provided the final backdrop to five great years at Ayr State High School.

Ms Deanne Ruge and Mr Jamie Vacher are proud of the Graduates of 2013 and have been honoured to work with them as their Year 12 Coordinators. The entire school community wishes them well and we are sure that the school will feel the positive impacts of their time here for many years to come.

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Wishing you a Merry Christmas! We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!
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As 2013 comes to a close and I look back over what we have achieved throughout the year, 2013 can only be described as a resounding success! We have had students from all year levels show excellence across Visual Arts, Performing Arts, English, Mathematics, the Sciences, Humanities, Technology, LOTE, Physical Education and Sports. Having success across such a wide variety of areas indicates a school that is really meeting the needs of its students and challenging them to achieve at their very best.

In 2014 we are committed to further improvement to ensure improvements in student outcomes for all students. We are continuing to develop ourselves as a whole staff across a wide range of areas including Explicit Instruction, Literacy, focusing on reading and writing and Essential Skills in Classroom Management, all with the intent of being able to provide the students of Ayr State High School with a quality education.

In 2014 we will be focusing on improving the overall attendance of our students. This will be actioned through the Success For All Students Policy. This policy is focusing on improving student outcomes by firstly improving each students overall attendance. We are committed to enabling 100% of our students to be able to successfully graduate high school by achieving a Queensland Certificate of Education. Achieving a QCE is the first step towards successfully transitioning past school into further studies or fulltime employment.

Having a high level of attendance at school gives each and every student the best opportunity of achieving that success. At Ayr State High School we consider 95% attendance to be the minimum standard of attendance.

To maintain 95% attendance a student can only have 1 day away in 20 days. Accepted absences will include school events, sickness accompanied with a doctors certificate or planned and approved family absences.

If a student is not maintaining at least 95% attendance they will not be eligible to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities including sport, camps, discos and performing arts.

I would also like to remind all students and parents that in 2014 we will again be expecting students to be wearing full Ayr State High School uniform. This is made up of our school polo shirt, plain black shorts that are mid-thigh length and laced sports shoes. Canvas shoes of any type do not meet the Workplace health and safety requirements and are therefore not acceptable.

More information will be sent home regarding the Success For All Students Policy and the uniform requirements with school reports at the end of this year.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the staff and students who have made 2013 a successful year. I would also like to thank all the parents for their support of the school whether that is by attending parent teacher evenings, information evenings, P&C meetings, sports and arts events, helping in the tuckshop or with Saturday afternoon bingo, it is everyone’s combined effort that makes Ayr State High School the great school it is!

Have a safe, fun Christmas and New Year and I’ll see everyone back here in 2014.
The Year 9 Business and ICT classes have been studying a marketing unit. Last Monday they delivered their innovative ideas to a huge group of business people, teachers, high school and primary school students, parents and grandparents at their Trade Fair.

The students were required to come up with a product that is new to the market, do market research to confirm their customer profile, produce packaging and promotional ideas and then present to a variety of judges at a trade fair. Among the innovative new products were a revolutionary new carpet cleaning device, a touch screen lock for the fridge, an automatic watering device for cane farming, a solar operated frypan, an iphone app for measuring and identifying fish as well as many, many more fabulous ideas.

Thank you to the judges who gave up their time to attend the Trade Fair and give the students feedback on their work.

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2014 Take-Home Laptop Program

Year 9-12 students in 2014 have been given information about the Year 9-12 Take-Home Laptop Program for 2014. Students currently in the program have the opportunity to keep their laptop over the Christmas vacation if they have:

- Paid all outstanding fees from 2013
- Returned their laptop in good condition
- Have regularly brought their laptop to school during 2013
- Returned the Student NSSCF Charter Agreement 2014 by 4 December 2013
- Paid $100 (includes the laptop fee for 2014) by 4 December 2013

If the laptop is not required over the Christmas vacation, students need to have met the criteria above but only pay $25 by 4 December, with the remaining $75 payable in January, next year to ensure a laptop is reserved for the student for the 2014 school year.

If students are new to the Year 9-12 Take-Home Laptop Program (this includes current Year 8 students) they should pay the $25 holding fee by Wednesday 4 December but attendance at the Induction Session on 11 February, 2014 is required before the laptop will be released to the student.

The student has full responsibility of the use/care of and subsequent damage to the laptop therefore parents/carers need to consider costs involved for damages when making their decision to join the program. Those not in the take-home program, are still able to access computing devices at school.

Year 8 students in 2014 will receive information about the Year 8 Take-Home Laptop Program when they visit the school on Tuesday 3 December and Wednesday 4 December.
Ayr High’s Big Day Out (a SWPBS initiative)
by Mrs Claire Brock, SWPBS Committee Member

The BDO - what a fantastic way to celebrate the end of another year of school for many Year 10 and 11’s and a great day to enjoy being at school for most Year 8 and 9 students!
Friday 29 November saw 220 students invited to the Big Day Out for being great Ayr High Learners by following the Learner Code of being Safe, showing Respect and doing their Personal Best. These students celebrated the day by using their Hawk Points to ‘buy’ into activities.

Side Show Alley offered the Teacher Pie Wall as a hot favourite with our Principal Mr Craig Whittred being a big drawcard! The photo-booth proved that teens can never get enough selfies whilst the tattoo stand, Assassin Creed, egg throwing competitions and attack the lolly-man kept all amused.
Main Stage, with comperes/judges Riley Southwood, Adam Dudley and Mrs Woods entertained us all with a variety of A Factor talent. Many displayed their talents, including the teachers’ band. However, Matthew Kendall who wrote and sang his own song accompanied by Lachlan Holmes, took home first prize of a $300 music voucher whilst Tiffany Anscombe, with her awesome voice, collected second place.
A great day was had by all.

Year 9s go to War!
by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek, Teacher

Last month, the Year 9 History classes visited the RAAF Museum and the Army Museum of North Queensland. The Year 9s have been studying Australia and World War One and the development of the ANZAC spirit. At the RAAF Museum, the students learnt about the role of the Air Force in, not just World War One, but all wars Australia has been involved in. They had the opportunity to climb over decommissioned military equipment and some even got close and personal to some of the items on display – hey Toby!!
At the newly built Army Museum of North Queensland, the history of the Australian Army was on display, where the students viewed trench art and various other military items. The visits were successful and the students learnt a lot about Australia’s role in war.

School Uniform for 2014

Please remember if you are re stocking for 2014:

- School shoes must be lace up shoes firmly attached to students feet. NO CANVAS SHOES.
- School shorts are black cotton blend. NO COLOURED STRIPES (a small logo may be acceptable) and please remember the shorts need to be modest for school (MID THIGH LENGTH).

Student Leader Induction Ceremony
13 February 2014
Year 8 and 9 Career Expo on Show
by Mrs Maree Milne, Teacher

Last Wednesday, the students from Years 8 and 9 were invited to attend a Career Expo, which was held in the Ayr State High School Resource Centre. The students were given the opportunity to rotate through different employers who represented a number of businesses here in the Burdekin. Students were given information about a career they could be interested in, including dentistry, the Burdekin Bowl and Wilmar Sugar Mill. This is not the first time students were given the opportunity to speak to local businesses; earlier in the year, a similar expo was run where students spoke to employers and most students even gained a Certificate in Basic First Aid from the Ambulance! This is another way, Ayr State High School is allowing students to open their minds to what is in the ‘real world’ and kick start them to begin thinking about their futures.

Year 12 Results

Final Year 12 results and Overall Positions (OP) will be available in students’ learning accounts from 9 am Saturday 15 December.

Students will need their Learner Unique Identifier (LUI) and password to log in to www.studentconnect.qsa.qld.edu.au. The students have been given their LUI but if lost or forgotten we can assist. Initial password is the day and month of birth in ddm format. Students will need to enter a personal email address as their school email address has been deactivated.

End of Semester Reports
by Ms Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

Reports for Year 10 and 11 students will be mailed to families in the week beginning 9 December 2013. Reports will be issued to Year 8 and 9 students on Thursday 12 December 2013 at the end of the school day.

For Year 11 students the achievement grade represents the culmination of their Year 11 studies. It is determined by considering the student’s achievement on all assessment pieces completed during the year.

For Year 8, 9 and 10 students the achievement grade represents achievement in Semester 2 only. This will allow parents to compare the Semester 1 result with the Semester 2 to identify progress.

Leaving School?

We would appreciate the donation of your school shorts and T-shirts. Items of clothing can be left at the school office.

Upcoming Events

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Layout and Design - Victoria Augustis