On Thursday 17 November, 78 Year 12 students, their parents/carers, family and friends gathered at the Burdekin Memorial Hall to celebrate their graduation. The class of 2016 left Ayr State High School in style by celebrating all of their achievements, most notably, that 100% of the Graduates received their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). The Class of 2016 chose the theme of 'A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ and decorated the hall with old books dangling ivy vines, handmade flowers and glitter. The students added to the prestige of the night by dressing in their finest. Guests were treated to student performances. Matthew Kendall and Lachlan Holmes performed solo pieces, with Lachlan’s song ‘The Best Years’, composed and written by him, as a dedication to his classmates. The guests also watched a breathtaking performance by Erin Saroglia and Samantha Whittred who performed ‘For Good’ from the Broadway Musical ‘Wicked’. Many thanks must be given to those who helped make the night a success, including the Form Teachers, Mrs Lynda Hoey, Mrs Saskia Vollena-Creek, Mr Luke Cathcart, Mr Siby Abraham; Ms Deanne Ruge; Mrs Mirella Buffa; Ms Heather Scott and Ms Lauren Stephens.

Congratulations Graduates, the Class of 2016 on all that you have achieved. You were a cohort full of characters and your energy within our school will be missed.

The Final Farewell
12 years of schooling behind them
by Mrs Maree Milne and Mr Chris Milne, Year 12 Co-ordinators
Congratulations to the graduating class of 2016. The Year 12 students did it in style with an absolutely fabulous Graduation dinner and Graduation parade. I am extremely proud of all they have achieved and excited to hear about their next steps into the future.

When I sit back and have a look at the group of students that have graduated, I am extremely proud of our school as a whole. I am proud of the fact that as a state school we enrol every student no matter what background and we work hard with them to give them the opportunities that a quality education offers. In this cohort of students we had our students from stable loving families, students who are in care, students that live independently, students from non-working households and students who had previously given up on education. This is why that with such a diverse range of students I am so proud that 100% of our students achieved a Queensland Certificate Education. This is above State averages and a real achievement for not only the students, but also the staff across the whole school who work, develop and support all students of Ayr State High School.

As we move into the last few weeks of the school year we still have many students engaged with assessment. Teachers are marking and finalising reports. The Senior Leadership Team are also engaged with assessment. Teachers are marking and finalising reports. The Senior Leadership Team are also looking at our improvement focuses for 2017. Once again we will be focusing on HIGH EXPECTATIONS and POSITIVE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTS. High expectations focus both on ourselves as educators, but also what each student can do the best prepare for success. High Levels of Attendance, Effort and Positive behaviour will continue to be a focus, as well as our overall presentation through the school uniform. School uniform is an important part of our school community. The uniform provides a level playing field for every student, no matter what family circumstance, to “belong” to our school community. Our uniform also sends an important message to our whole community that we are proud to be part of Ayr State High School and we are proud to continue on the traditions of this fine school that has produced Senators, Community leaders, business leaders, sporting champions and quality members of the Burdekin community. There will be reminders of our uniform expectations sent out with reports at the end of this year to provide parents and carers with the correct information for the start of 2017.

Positive classroom environments focuses on how we both teach and interact with each other within the school grounds. At Ayr State High we have a strong focus on developing positive relationships. With such a diverse background of where our students and staff come from we focus on developing a common set of core values based around our Learner code SAFE, RESPECT, PERSONAL BEST. In 2016 we have had a very successful year with a 50% reduction in negative behaviour incidences within school. Once again I congratulate our students and staff on a fantastic outcome and recommit that in 2017 we will look to reduce that figure even further.

Now that Year 10 and 11 students have left, we still have our Year 7, 8 and 9 students at school, many of them completing assessment this week. Next week we have normal timetabled classes on Monday and then three days of activities on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On the final day Friday 9 December we will have program that will be based on the number of students that attend on the day. As I have said to the students, our expectations will remain in regard to engagement and behaviour, right up until 3.00 pm on Friday 9 December. If we work together, we will all have enjoyable last two weeks of the school year.

Yours in education

Craig Whittred
Principal

Year 12 Results

Final Year 12 results and Overall Positions (OP) will be available in students’ learning accounts from 9 am Saturday 17 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 there is self-help on website.

Certificate II in Tourism

Ten students from the Burdekin Region had the privilege to gain extra QCE points by completing a Certificate II in Tourism last Term. The class consisted of five Home Hill State High students and five Ayr State High students, Teoan Crofts, Alana Khoory, Cheyne Lampton, Mataika Tabo and Sarah Waulu with supervision attendance by Aunty Bernice Zaro.

Students gained a broader understanding of our local tourism industry, with the course ending in a Cultural camp to Tully with IGAN Cultural Tours. Students experienced tourism first hand with cultural bush walks and traditional story telling. The main event that tested student endurance, patience and team building, was the 8 km kayak trip down the Tully River.

Congratulations to all students.
Congratulations to the elected House Captains for 2017

Banks: Erin Carlile, Sam Spelta
Cook: Sharni Wight, Eugene Burelli
Macquarie: Akellah Williams, Brayden Carter-Mathews
Phillip: Jordon Harrington, Abraham Heron

Readers Reap the Rewards in Read-A-Thon
by Mrs Linda Attard, English teacher and Support Teacher (Literacy)

Congratulations to the Ayr High students who participated in our very first ever Read-A-Thon, and thank you to all the staff, families, friends and neighbours who sponsored our students. A total of $848.50 was raised, and 548 entries were logged. What a fantastic effort by those who handed back their booklets! The bar has been set pretty high for future Read-A-Thons. A special mention must go to Miss Thomas’ Year 8A English class, who were the highest fundraising class, with a total of $325! What a tremendous effort! Shanice Noack, also from Year 8, was the highest individual fundraiser, with $150 raised for her reading prowess. An amazing achievement Shanice! Funds raised will be put towards purchasing literacy resources and reading books, purchasing extra seating in the playground and grounds beautification. Thanks again to all those who participated.

Start Dates
School office opens - 16 January 2017
First day of Term 1 2017 - 23 January

Interhouse Swimming Carnival
Friday 17 February 2017
Week 4
More information in 2017

P&C Meeting
Monday 6 February 2017
7.30 pm, Resource Centre
All welcome.

Music Support Meeting
Thursday 16 February 2017
5 pm, A14
New parents/carers welcome.
Interact Club Update  
by Mrs Nyree Woods, Interact Co-ordinator  

On Thursday, 10 November 2016, Ayr State High School enjoyed a visit from Jan Burney from Disaster Aid Australia. The Ayr State High School Interact Club has worked very hard in recent years to raise funds to aid both the international and local/school communities. While seeking an international humanitarian project in which to invest their hard earned funds, the Interact Club became engaged in conversation with Disaster Aid Australia who provided the club with worthwhile options. It was decided at a recent meeting that the school’s club would purchase a number of items to achieve its goal to assist others. Firstly, the club purchased a Sky Juice Sky Hydrant water filtration and purification system. Jan advised the students that this system provides clean and safe water for 700 people per day for 10 years, producing up to 1000 litres per hour. The system is usually deployed in areas that do not have access to this basic commodity, including villages in India, Malaysia and the Philippines. The Interact club also purchased two home repair kits that can be immediately deployed to assist in areas affected by Cyclone Matthew in Haiti. These kits contain materials and tools needed to repair home structures, as well as tarps. They also purchased four Sawyer water filters that provide clean emergency drinking water. Jan praised the students for their support and purchases (just under $6,000), telling the students that they were indeed saving lives with their purchases. Jan enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the members of the Ayr High Interact Club, presenting a certificate to them that the club has proudly displayed in the school office foyer.

Ayr High Interact has had an active year under the leadership of Community Service Vice-Captain and Interact President, Emma Lyon, ably assisted by Vice-President Gabby Stace, Treasurer Lachlan Giarrusso and Secretary Sarah McDonnell. Funds used to purchase the above items have been raised over a number of years, and recognition of previous Community Service Vice-Captains and committees is made for their role in raising these funds. This year the club has also donated $500 to the Chaplaincy Committee to assist with the Breakfast Club that services the students of the school weekly, giving them a variety of healthy breakfast options. In addition, the Interact club made a $1000 donation in support of Ayr State High School’s Relay for Life team. The World’s Greatest Shave was hosted on Tuesday 22 November. Year 12 student Gabby Stace and teacher Rod Williams lost their locks for this worthwhile cause, with over $1800 raised to date through the operation of a cake stall, sausage sizzle and Crazy Hair Day.
Issue No 17 - 2016

It's not OK to be away

Ayring - keeping you informed
Year 9 BIC - $20 Boss Challenge
by Ms Deanne Ruge, A/HOD - Business, IT & Humanities

This term the Year 9 Business and Information Technology class has undertaken the $20 Boss Challenge as part of their unit on entrepreneurship. This is an in-school challenge developed by the Foundation for Young Australians in partnership with the National Australia Bank that lends each student $20 of start-up capital to create their own business.

At the conclusion of the program, the start-up capital is repaid with $1 interest. The program builds financial literacy and enterprise skills through the use of online modules. Students are then able to put these skills into practice in a ‘real world’ challenge, where they develop a unique business concept, market and operate this business in the school community.

With the help of mentors Ms Ruge, Mrs Sladden, Mr Williams and Mrs Hoey, students have turned their creative ideas into the following successful business enterprises.

Card Kings
Card Kings is a business that aimed to make Ayr State High School a happier and more giving community. We sold hand crafted, unique cards and other products to the students and staff of Ayr High. These products included Christmas cards, graduation cards, bottle covers, chocolate slider cards and Christmas gift tags. The profits earned will be used to assist in the development of the Ayr State High School Cook Book of 2016 that is being prepared by Mrs Sharon Bozzetto.

The Christmas Miracle
The core business idea of The Christmas Miracle was to relieve the stress of teachers and students at this busy time of year by allowing them to immerse themselves in the Christmas spirit. Using an established market stall model, the organisation provided Christmas themed gifts including cards with a selection of personalised messages, a North Pole package (a personalised card, candy cane and Christmas serenade), and a Joy to the World package (consumer’s choice of product to be gift wrapped and delivered to the intended recipient). All profits raised will be used to support the Chappy’s Breakfast initiative at Ayr SHS.

Cyber Arena
Cyber Arena has been the host of two weekly gaming tournaments where the entry fee is redistributed in prize money. Our young entrepreneurs used their passion for gaming to solve the problem of a lack of lunch time activities for students. The response was overwhelming, with $60 in prize money distributed so far.

Dream Cream
Our business concept was a retail model, selling vanilla ice cream to students and staff of the school. Customers could choose their own toppings, which include crushed Oreo, Milo, 100s and 1000s, flake bits, maple syrup and hard setting chocolate topping. The business was very successful, with approximately 34 litres of ice cream sold during the four trading sessions. The profit gained will be used to help improve school facilities.

Smart Art
Smart Art is a joint initiative of the 9 BIC class and Visual Art students. The business has provided a marketplace for the sale of tie dyed shirts, marbled writing sets and screen printed place mats produced by the Year 11 Art class. All profit made will be donated to the Art Department to aid in the continued improvement of our school environment through art installations.
Australian Maths Competition
by Mr Luke Cathcart, A/HOD - Science & Maths

Congratulations to the large number of students who participated this year in the annual competition. Of the two mathematics competitions that students can participate in, this is the more challenging one. It was terrific to see such great results. It is a test of authentic problem solving skills and clearly there are a large number of students at Ayr High that display these skills.

Credit:
Matthew Walker (7); Sarah McDonnell (8); Kelly Meinicke (8); Matthew Schifilliti (9); Ryan Kastner (9); Keagan Flynn (9); Zach Stockwell (10)

Students Recognised for Positive Behaviour
by Mrs Bernice Zaro, Transition Co-ordinator

Five excited and eager boys had the privilege to take a well rewarded fishing trip with Chappie Scott, Mr Whittred and Indigenous mentoring elder Uncle Aicey Zaro.

Leroy Brown, Nathaniel Pope, Dion Williams, Leilan Murdock and Ivan Wallace awoke at sunrise Sunday morning to experience a full fun filled day of fishing and boating adventures. Chappie Scott and Mr Whittred fuelled up their trusty tinnies and stocked up the eskies, ready to land the Big One.

With the spray of salt water breaking across the bow of the boat, the crew headed to the perfect fishing holes around the Burdekin. Chappie Scott had set the crab pots out the day before and the boys were able to reap the harvest with a feast fit for a King. The boys gained new skills like driving boats, throwing cast net and baiting a line, it was just a beautiful day to be out on the water.

Watching Uncle Aicey casting for bait off the bow of Mr Whittred’s boat was cool, in order to catch fresh bait ready to catch the big one. The fish were biting and the boys tried hard but no one got anything, but they a great time trying. Thanks to Uncle Aicey and the crab pots, the boys were able to take home a few fish for the fry pan, maybe next time they will do better.

Big thanks to Chappie Scott and Mr Whittred for the use of their boats and Uncle Aicey for attending, the boys really enjoyed the day and have a new appreciation of positive behaviour and the rewards it can bring.

Leaving School?

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

Upcoming Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1 Dec</td>
<td>2017 Yr 7 Parent/Carer Information</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Afternoon (3.30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2 Dec</td>
<td>Yr 6 Orientation Days</td>
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<td>5 Dec</td>
<td>Yr 10, 11 Reports Issued</td>
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<td>8 Dec</td>
<td>Yr 7, 8, 9 Reports Issued (S4)</td>
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<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>Yr 7, 8, 9 Last Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Dec</td>
<td>2016 - 20 Jan 2017 - Summer Holidays</td>
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<td>23 Jan</td>
<td>School Commences</td>
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<td>26 Jan</td>
<td>Australia Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td>6 Feb</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting (7.30 pm, Resource Centre)</td>
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<td>7 Feb</td>
<td>Yr 7 Meet and Greet (5.30 pm)</td>
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<td>13 Feb</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>16 Feb</td>
<td>Music Support Meeting (5.00 pm, A14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Feb</td>
<td>Interhouse Swimming Carnival (All day)</td>
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