Student Leader Investiture 2015

by Mrs Lesley Olsen, Senior Secondary Deputy Principal

Congratulations to the newly inducted members of the Student Council. On Tuesday 17 February the Student Executive and Sporting House Captains were joined by the newly elected form class representatives to pledge to perform their leadership duties to the best of their ability and uphold the Ayr State High School Learner Code of Safe, Respect, Personal Best.

The students received their badges of office from Mr Doug Sockhill, president of the P&C Association. Kacee Bromham performed an amazing rendition of “You raise me up” and led the school community with the National Anthem.

Tayla Heuir and Liam Shannon delivered the School Captains’ address outlining the challenges ahead for each of the School Vice Captains as they settle into their ascribed leadership role and work towards the ambitious targets they have set themselves.

The student leaders are looking forward to a busy, rewarding year, confident in the support from the whole school community.

The Student Executive 2015

School Captains: Tayla Heuir & Liam Shannon
School Vice Captains: Sofia Palombi & René Le Feuvre
Cultural Vice Captain: William Webber
Sports Vice Captain: Natalie Holt
Community Service Vice Captain: Taylah Pearson
Indigenous Vice Captain: Tia Henaway

House Captains for 2015

Banks Captains: Natalie Holt & Jordan Zabel
Cook Captains: Keely Great & Jonathan Huckett
Macquarie Captains: Eden Wone & Jaidyn Lambie-Fabbro
Phillip Captains: Kyla Pringle & Luke Sockhill

QueenslandRail
Tickets SOLD at helloworld Ayr

'helloworld' awarded 2014 Best Travel Agency Group at AFTA's National Travel Industry Awards.
Some people think that high school is scary, but in fact it isn’t that horrible. The thing that overwhelmed me was how many kids there were and how big the school was! But now I think that I know where everything is and I have gotten to get to know all the other kids in my class, I’ll be fine. The highlight of my first four weeks here was probably getting to know everyone and all of the teachers. Advice I would give to anyone about the process of getting used to high school would be to take notice and don’t be afraid to ask someone if you get lost or need help. My favourite subject, well I have two, Art and English.

by Lorenza Palombi, 8B

High school seemed like a daunting place when we were little kids; it was always called the big kid school. But now we are here, and it’s amazing. Having eight different teachers and moving around the school between classes is a great new experience. I have also met a lot of new friends from many different schools, and having a year twelve buddy to look out for me, has made it easier to fit right into high school life. I wasn’t worried too much about the transition; I guess I was scared of the unknown. The teachers have been very helpful and encouraging and made us feel safe and welcome. I was lucky to be given the chance to be the form rep of 8B. All the form reps were asked to go up the street with all the year twelve leaders which was a great opportunity. I have already had some great times at Ayr High and can’t wait for the rest of the year.

by Ben Bozzetto, 8B
Northern Selections
by Miss Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

Congratulations to John Espanola (Year 12) and Jacob McConnachie (Year 11) for their selection in Northern School Volleyball and Swimming squads respectively. Both students will travel to Brisbane in the next couple of months. Good luck.

Be Sun Smart
by Cassandra, School Based Youth Health Nurse

The Swimming Carnival is here again, and it is important that whilst having fun, everyone remembers to be sun smart. Remember - 6 doses of sunburn between the ages of 12 - 25 doubles your chances of developing melanoma - the most deadly of all skin cancers.

How to Save Your Skin
SLIP on clothing that provides sun protection. Long sleeved collared shirts, loose pants. Natural fibres are coolest, and darker colours reduce UVR. Lycra is great for sun protection and is lightweight.
SLOP on sunscreen SPF 30+. Make sure you apply it 20 minutes before you go out, then every 2 hours. But remember sunscreens do not block out all the UV radiation.
SLAP on a hat - one with a wide brim is best, this will protect your face, ears and neck. One with a dark coloured lining on the brim will reduce the UVR.
WRAP on the sunnies. UV radiation can affect your eyes too. Make sure you wear close fitting sunglasses that offer 100% UV ray protection.
SHADE, CLOTHING AND HATS offer the best sun protection.

Also remember to keep up your fluids, drink plenty of water. I will be at the Swimming Carnival reminding everyone to wear their hats and sunscreen.

Take care of yourself, save your skin and have FUN! Be Sun Smart.

Interhouse Swimming Carnival
Friday 6 March 2015 (Week 6)

Spirit day will be held on Wednesday 4 March. Students can show their ‘spirit’ by wearing their House colours or dressing in their chosen House theme. In session 4, students will attend House Meetings and perform the traditional skits. Reminder: Students will finish the day at the pool at 3 pm - please make arrangements for the departure of your child (the back of the pool (MacMillan St) would be the most appropriate pick-up point). Arrangements will be made for bus students.

Absentee Hotline
4790 4353
Sms Number
0400 845 755

If your child is away either:
• phone the hotline
• text message
• hand in a note, on return, to Mrs Slattery at the office.

Maths & Science Tutoring
Wednesday Afternoon
(3.15 - 4.15 pm)
Thursday Afternoon
(3.15 - 4.15 pm)
D1 Lab

All year levels welcome
Do you want help with homework?
Do you need help with studying for a test?

Enquiries to Ann Sockhill 0400536113 or email asockhill@live.com.
Puppets Visit Year 10 Drama
by Mrs Maree Milne, Year 10 Drama Teacher

Last Thursday, the Year 10 Drama class was treated to a workshop by Dead Puppet Society, where they learnt the intricacies of puppets and being puppeteers. After warming up their bodies through a series of drama games, the students were then shown how to create a puppet out of plastic bags, and created their own puppet chicken. Throughout the workshop, the students were asked to consider themselves as bringing their own puppets to life, and committed with their chickens in a dance off to Nutbush. The workshop will inform their course work in term two, where the students begin looking at other performances methods such as puppets and mask work. The students were able to meet Edward, the lead character of the Dead Puppet Society’s new play.

Left: Abraham Heron, Tom Breen, Akeilah Williams and Diamond Heron enjoy making paper bag puppets.
In 2014 the Student Council was successfully restructured into a Junior Secondary Student Council and a Senior Secondary Student Council.

In 2015 these student groups will be led by school captains, Tayla Heuir and Liam Shannon. Each month form class representatives from Years 7, 8 and 9 will meet to discuss their concerns and possible projects they could work towards. The form class representatives will elect a junior secondary student council leader from Year 9; a treasurer from Year 8; and a secretary from Year 7.

As well, form class representatives from Year 10, 11, 12 will meet each month having elected a treasurer from the Year 11 reps and a secretary from the Year 10 reps. This group will similarly discuss concerns and propose improvements to the operation of the school.

The office bearers from both groups will also meet each month with Mr Whittred to confirm the main focuses for student council in 2015.
Wellbeing Focus: Research and Operational Skills
by Mr Andrew Ballin, HOD - Senior Secondary

As you may be aware from previous articles or perhaps from talking to students, wellbeing for the whole student, and for the school community is at the forefront of all that we do at Ayr High. Wellbeing is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive academically, personally and socially.

This week, students will be learning about the art of “Cornell note taking”. It is challenging for any student to keep up with taking notes, and the situation only becomes more difficult as we head into further education. We can help all students by giving them specific skills in taking notes effectively rather than trying to scribble everything they hear. This is a benefit now, but for many students a life skill to take into the future.

Teachers this week have also continued professional development in relation to the research proven strategy of making all Ayr High students, “Assessment Literate” students. Students should be able to talk to you about the “5 Questions for students” that allow students to know about their learning and how to perform at their best in assessment.

In many other areas we are continuing to see improvements. Early indications in our data on attendance, particularly on the number of students arriving late to school has shown significant improvement already this year. Our ongoing focus around following instructions continues to improve learning environments throughout the school.

As a School Wide Positive Behaviour Support School, we are focussed on continuously improving learning, social environment and outcomes for all our students.

For more information continue to watch this space for the regular feature in Ayring. You could also take a look inside your student’s planner to see what the wellbeing theme for the week is as well as the wealth of other resources available right now in the planned to assist students in their development as students.

Our South Sea Islander Heritage
by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek, Year 9 SOSE Teacher

In Year 9 SOSE, students have learnt about our South Sea Islander heritage. Recently, guest speakers, Pastor Les Henaway, Mrs Lena Watego and Ollie Henaway, shared their South Sea Islander heritage with the students. Our three guests are descendants from the South Sea Islanders who were captured from various islands in Melanesia and brought to the Burdekin to work on the canefields in the mid-late 1800s. The students were fascinated with the stories that were shared and have now gained an understanding of the role South Sea Islanders played in the development of the sugar cane industry in Queensland. I would like to sincerely thank Pastor Les Henaway, Lena Watego and Ollie Henaway for taking the time to visit our school and speak to our students about an important part of Burdekin history.
Hello, my name is William Webber, and I am the Cultural School Vice-Captain for 2105. I have been a member of the Ayr State High School Concert Band from year 8 and am also a member of the Jazz Band. I have been involved with the award winning Drama Festivals our school participates in, and also our amazing School Musicals. I have been on every music camp since beginning high school, and also our amazing Performing Arts Tour to Melbourne. The friendships, laughter and fun I have experienced in these events are the reason why so many Ayr SHS students participate in the Performing Arts department. These incredible opportunities have been made possible, not only by the teachers, but largely due to significant financial assistance from the Ayr State High School Music Support Group. This group of parents provides funding for our music uniforms, purchases and maintains our instruments, provides subsidies for camps and certain excursions, as well as sponsors our eisteddfod involvement and cultural awards evening.

The group of parents do all of this by running bingo at the Anglican Church hall each Saturday. Bingo is co-ordinated by Mrs Audrey Hazel a past parent and continued supporter of our school for 25 years. In order for all these and more incredible opportunities to continue, I am asking, on behalf of the cultural student body, for your help. Currently, we are scheduling a new roster and need more parents to continue this financial assistance, which directly benefits us- the students. We need help at least one Saturday every two months, depending on how many parents volunteer, between 1pm and 4pm. Bingo does not have any hard tasks to complete, and experienced helpers will guide you through. I am confident that with your support, funds raised from our Bingo will continue to provide exciting and invaluable experiences for your child; the same way it has done for me. We need callers to call numbers as they are drawn, Runners to check tickets and do payouts, as well as kitchen helpers to prepare and serve afternoon tea.

If you can assist, please fill out the back of this letter and return to the School office or Mrs Milne, as soon as possible. Your help is appreciated by us, the students.
The Ayr State High School Music Support Group thanks you for your participation in the bingo roster for 2015. Listed below are some past financial assistance the group has provided for the Performing Arts students, all of these funds were directly made from the bingo rostered which is staffed by dedicated parents like yourself.

Music Camp: Subsidy of accommodation and food
Funding of tutors for student workshops

2013 Melbourne Tour: Subsidy for students to attend tour

Eisteddfod: Eisteddfod entries covered by Music Support Group

Uniforms: Provide maintenance of uniforms
Uniforms provided for students who have parents who volunteer for bingo

2014 Musical: Bought new instruments to complete musical band, a resource which further adds to the equipment already maintained in music room

Drama room (2011): A substantial upgrade to the drama room, including funding for a sound and lighting desk, two lighting bars and brand new stage with new curtains.

Music Instruments: Numerous instruments bought throughout years to add to equipment in music room
Provide funding for yearly servicing of music instruments

I, ____________________________, parent of ________________________________, would like to volunteer for the Music Support Group Bingo roster.

Phone No: ________________________________

Please tick your preferred job title:

☐ KITCHEN

☐ CALLER

☐ RUNNER