Anti-Bullying Day
by Support Services Team

Anti-bullying Day, Friday 18 March, was celebrated at Ayr High with all students engaging in a 20 minute lesson, with a different focus for junior and senior students. Our junior students looked at the difference between conflict and bullying and how to identify when someone is being bullied. Our senior students looked at the ‘misuse of power’ in many types of relationships. The day also saw students wear the colour orange and give a gold coin donation to the local Burdekin Chaplaincy committee, which help employ school chaplains in our local area. We also had face painting, which symbolised “taking a stand together”.

Harmony Day
by Support Services Team

On Monday 21 March, Ayr State High School celebrated Harmony Day. Harmony Day is a day for all Australians to celebrate cultural diversity. Our cultural diversity is at the heart of who we are. Multicultural Australia is an integral part of our nation’s history, unity and character. At Ayr High, all Year 7, 8 and 9 students had the opportunity to place their handprint on the Harmony wall to represent their belonging at Ayr State High and acknowledge our multicultural community. In the past years, all other students have taken part in this tradition. There was a celebration involving the whole school community including a free sausage sizzle and entertainment throughout the lunch break. It was a very successful day, enjoyed by everyone involved.

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As we come to the end of the term all of our students are engaging with assessment. It is important for students to plan their time to ensure they give the best effort in each subject. I encourage all parents/carers to have a chat with their children about what they have due and when and how they are working towards meeting these timelines.

Helping our teenagers prioritise their time is a really important skill that they can take into the future. Planning out time between school, sport, dance, socialising, family, chores at home, part-time work and most importantly rest (away from electronics and social media) are key to developing a balanced lifestyle. It is important that teenagers have a balanced lifestyle to maintain wellbeing. Prioritising one over the other can lead to stress which diminishes wellbeing and impacts on all the other areas, not allowing anyone to perform at their best. Having good communication between parents/carers and their children can help both parties find that happy medium that carers and their children can help with.

Last week we held our Term 1 Parent/Carer/Teacher meetings. I would like to thank those Parents/Carers who were able to come on the night and discuss their child’s progress to date in the 2016 school year. If you were unable to make the evening and you would like to speak to one or all of your child’s teachers please contact the school office and we will help organise alternate meeting times for you.

This year one of our focus areas of our school’s improvement plan is HIGH EXPECTATIONS. A key area of this focus is student engagement. This year, we are still focusing on 95% Attendance as a benchmark but also Effort. We are looking for every student to participate in class to an acceptable level with students being acknowledged for Effort at a consistently very high level. We expect that if a student is meeting our Effort expectations they will be;

• Bringing necessary material to class
• Arriving to class on time
• Ready to learn
• Following bookwork policy
• Working with others when required
• Trying to the best of their ability
• Meeting assignment and task deadlines (including homework)
• Seeking and using teacher feedback.

These two areas, Attendance and Effort, are areas that every individual student has control over. If students do both of these at a high level they are assuring that they are in the best position to achieve their potential.

At Ayr High we are committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to achieve to a high standard.

Once again, it is very exciting that it is an Ayr State High Musical year. This year we will be performing the musical Grease. The students have already started preparing and rehearsing their roles. This is a fantastic event that has participation from across the school community and I can’t wait to see the finished product!! But before the musical, we have both the junior and senior Dramafest performances. These productions are well underway and we will all get to see them in early Term 2. GO THE HAWKS!

Yours in education

Craig Whittred
Principal
Cowboys Flag Duty

On Saturday 5 March, a group of Ayr State High School students travelled to Townsville for the Cowboys verses Sharks game. The students attended the game to participate in Flag Duty. At each home game, schools from the Townsville and regional district, participate in this event.

It’s a personal development opportunity for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to feel a sense of pride of their own Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage; it also portrays a positive image of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and raises an awareness of recognition to the wider community.

The students also had the opportunity to hold the “World Club Challenge” trophy. The World Club Challenge is a game played between the winners of the NRL and Super League competitions, with the North Queensland Cowboys defeating the Leeds Rhinos 38-4 earlier in the year.

The students were given Grandstand seats as they watched the Cowboys win against the Sharks.

Like our Ayr State High School page

Interschool Swimming Carnival

Interschool swimming was back in competition this year after a long hiatus from the Burdekin School Sport calendar. Ayr High participated against Burdekin Catholic High School, Burdekin Christian College and Home Hill State High School on Thursday 25 February at the Ayr Swimming Pool for overall honours. Ayr High competed above expectation as many students were unavailable due to injury or prior commitments, to finish second overall. Ryan Kastner (U15 Boys) and Jacob McConnachie (U19 Boys) competed exceptionally well and were deserved age-champions. We had many students put their hand up to swim in events where we were left with no competitors. I was very proud of the efforts of all our competitors and student/staff spectators. The house captains did a wonderful job of managing the squad and were loud and proud on the side of the pool. Congratulations to all students involved!!

Northern (NQ) Selections

Congratulations to Daniel Ballin (Year 10), Abigail Evetts (Year 10), Blaise Heron (Year 12), Riley Horan (Year 10) and Alix Leckenby (Year 12) who were selected in Northern (NQ) squads recently. Both Daniel and Riley will represent NQ in U15 Rugby League and Abby was selected in U19 Girls Football (soccer). Blaise (U19 Girls Volleyball) and Alix (U19 Netball), after initially being selected as shadow players, have been called up into their respective Northern squads. These students will represent the Northern district at QLD State Championships later in Term 2. Well done and good luck!

Absentee Hotline

If your child is away either:
• phone the hotline/leave a message (messages will be attended to by close of business each day)
• text message or
• hand in a note, on return, to Mrs Slattery at the office.

Ryan Kastner, Jacob McConnachie
Ayr High Squad

Back LtoR: Batya Doyle, Morgan Noah
Front LtoR: Brenda Williams, Marlama Williams
Hospitality Students Gain Valuable Experience at “The Ville”

by Mrs Rebekah Williams, Hospitality Teacher

On Friday 26 February, 11 Year 12 Certificate II Hospitality students went to “The Ville” Hotel and Casino for a day of work experience.
The event the students worked at was the “Cowboys 2016 Season Launch”, of which 750 or more guests were in attendance (including the Cowboys Football team).

During their service period, students worked in small teams with staff from The Ville: setting up tables for service, laying the napkin across the guest’s lap, carrying large trays of food (often with six to seven plates of food on them) for entrée and main courses, clearing plates and making sure guests were happy.

After the function, students were invigorated but exhausted, as they had been on their feet for five hours non-stop.

A couple of the students commented that “it was great to be in the real world and see how a kitchen runs for a function” and another student mentioning that “it was interesting to see the amount of work that waiters actually have to do”.

The students had a wonderful day serving the Cowboys Football team. I am sure it was an amazing experience they will never forget.

Busy Start to 2016 for the Interact Club

The Interact Club at Ayr State High School has had a very busy start to 2016. The first venture was to raise money for Valentine’s Day. In the past, the club has raised funds to be used within the club. However, this year the focus changed to Sweetheart Day and all funds raised will go towards Heart Kids Australia. After a massive effort from a large number of students, Sweetheart Day raised over $500! Thank you to all members of the school community who supported this venture. Funds raised will help raise awareness of childhood heart disease and continue to provide support, awareness and research into this terrible disease.

We also held the food stall at the Swimming Carnival where we introduced fruit salad for the first time, as well as the usual egg sandwiches, hotdogs, pizza and Red Rooster rolls. Allocation of these funds will be decided at a future Interact meeting and election of Office Bearers are also underway!

Many thanks to the large number of students who are involved in the Interact Club this year and who worked at these two events. Many hands make light work and we have had a successful start to the year as a result.

Yours in Interact, Mrs Woods and Mrs Ruge

adidas School Fun Run

by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

We will be holding an adidas School Fun-Run as a major fundraising event this year. The event will be held on Tuesday 26 April (week 3, Term 2) in conjunction with the Interhouse Cross Country.

The adidas School Fun-Run is a healthy, fun and active fundraiser that ensures we send the right message to our students about getting active, having fun and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The main focus of this event is on participation. Family support is most appreciated as we encourage all students to get involved.

On Thursday (17 March), during an extended Form, all students received details about the cross country and fun run events, a Parent/Carer Letter and a Sponsorship Form to help collect sponsorship on behalf of the school.

The funds raised could be used to purchase sport uniforms and sporting equipment.

We ask all parents/carers to read the Sponsorship Form and sign the front page to grant permission for their child to fundraise and participate in this event. Students who raise $10 or more will receive a reward for effort.

In the Sponsorship Form you will also find many other benefits.

Thank you, good luck and happy fundraising!
Netball and Rugby League GRAND FINALS
Interschool Sport - Term 1
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

There was a buzz of excitement with the Netball and Rugby League Grand Finals being held at Ayr State High School this week (Tuesday 22 March). Players, staff and spectators filled the MPS and oval to watch Ayr High compete in four of the six finals. There was a great atmosphere with NRL and Cowboys development officers watching the Rugby League, proud players and parents/carers, Hawkeye supporting our teams and young primary school students playing their own game of footy on the sidelines. It was an excellent showcase of our students (and BCHS and HHS HS) and our school in the Ayr community.

The U19 Netball girls worked hard during the round games to secure a spot in the final against Home Hill SHS. The U13 and U15 Netball girls gained valuable experience and skills during the round games and will be better for that in the following years. HHS HS got out to an early lead in the first-quarter but to the credit of our U19 girls they kept chipping away and were relatively even in the last three-quarters of the match. However, the experience of HHS HS and the early lead were too much with the girls unfortunately falling short 16-28. Ms Scott (coach) was proud of their efforts with all students working tirelessly. A special thank you to Toni De Zolt who again umpired Ayr High games throughout the entire competition.

Ayr High was represented in all three divisions of Rugby League with expectations high against cross town rivals BCHS. Representatives from the NRL (Mick Inman, Development Officer, and Jenni-Sue Hoepper, Development Officer and 2015 Dally M women’s winner), NQ Cowboys (Liam Bartlett, Development Officer) and Burdekin Roosters were in attendance and were impressed with the quality of skills and friendly rivalry shown. The U13’s got Ayr High off to a great start with an excellent display of defence and determined effort to win 18-8. Rhett Williams was selected as ‘Player of the Series’ and Morgan Noah ‘Man of the Match’. The U15 boys were ruthless in attack and defence to win 32-0. John Zaro was awarded ‘Man of the Match’. The U19 boys were going for the clean sweep but were unfortunately beaten in the dying minutes 16-18. ‘Player of the Series’ was awarded to Jaylon Messer and ‘Man of the Match’ went to Lachlan Corino.

Congratulations to all students who represented Ayr High this Term, your school and community is proud of your efforts!!!
On Thursday 10 March, Miss Marchant’s Year 11 Legal Studies class went to the Townsville Law Courts and the Townsville Police Station. It was very interesting and informative in relation to the unit we are studying, The Legal System. At the Townsville Law Courts we toured the Supreme Court and sat in the public gallery in the Magistrates and District courts to hear criminal cases. In the District court we had the opportunity to hear the prosecutor present evidence against a person accused of serious assault and heard the judge make a ruling on the sentence. In the Magistrates Court we watched a less serious case involving public nuisance where the defendant was convicted and sentenced. The opportunity to see the difference between the courts and their procedures, as well as see a range of cases, was interesting and allowed us to see the theory that we have been learning in practice. It was also interesting to see how a few bad decisions made by a young girl on her 18th birthday can lead to charges.

When we visited the Townsville Police Station Senior Constable Naomi White spoke to us about different roles of police units and showed us the holding cells and finger printing systems. Dave Miles, the Senior Sergeant of the Child Protection Investigation Unit, also spoke to us about the dangers of social media sites. The talk was highly informative and made us all conscious of the hazards of online predators. We also visited the communications room where emergency service calls are received and responded to. The excursion was a very worthwhile experience.

Is your child struggling with Maths?

by Mrs Teresa Gemellaro, Support Teacher, Numeracy

Many children struggle with Maths because they do not have a good knowledge of tables. Our school does give some practice through Mental Maths quizzes in class as well as a small amount of practice in homework. For children who are having a lot of difficulty, we also suggest getting your child to use games on the internet or apps that will build and reinforce skills. Car Wash Multiplication, found at http://www.multiplication.com/games/play/car-wash is one such game. Students can work on just one set of tables at a time, say the 3 times, and gradually build up, until they are confident with a game involving all of the tables. This website also has links to other games to build skills in addition, subtraction and division. Ten or fifteen minutes of practice several times per week on the games will help. Your child will then be able to focus on all the mathematical ideas in class rather than always struggling with these basics.