**COOK ENDS PHILLIP’S 5 YEAR REIGN!!!**

Interhouse Swimming Carnival

by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

Ayr High’s annual Inter-house Swimming Carnival was awash with colour and excitement on Friday 7 March. Cook and Phillip traded the lead all day with Cook claiming a 19 point win, the narrowest winning margin in years - ending Phillip’s dominance in the pool. Cook finished on 968 points; Phillip placing second with 949 points; Banks in third place with 669 points; and Macquarie languished into fourth place on 574 points.

Congratulations to the Cook House Captains and House Parents for organising and encouraging their team towards a well deserved victory. Well done to the captains of the other houses who provided a great day of spirit and competition.

Banks was deemed to be the loudest and proudest house; demonstrating overall team spirit with continual chants and encouragement for their participants throughout the day and was awarded the ‘Spirit Stick’. Matthew Wight (U19), Jacob McConnachie (U16), Kyla Pringle (U16), Ty Everett (U14), Taya Wood (U14) and Shannen Wood (U13) are to be congratulated in sharing the Max Tavasci Trophy, which is awarded to individual performers who achieve maximum individual points (75 points). Two records were broken this year – Hannah McKeough broke the U19 female 50m Breastroke record with a time of 41.52 (42.90) seconds and Alice Graham broke the U19 female 50m Backstroke record with a time of 37.78 (39.02) seconds.

The success of this year’s carnival was a result of the time and planning of all House Captains, senior students and House Teachers. They are to be congratulated for their efforts as are the student body for their enthusiastic support, level of participation and excellent behaviour.

Thanks are extended to the Ayr Amateur Swimming Club particularly Mr Michael McConnachie who once again provided and set up equipment used on the day; A & B Rural and Ayr Lifesavers for the use of their tents; the Year 12 students and staff who helped set-up tents at 7.00 am; all school staff who helped in preparing, supervising or officiating and the Ayr High Interact Club for the food. Thank you.
Welcome to Ayr State High School
Our school acknowledges the Bindal and Juru community as the first owners of this country. Today, they are still the custodians of the cultural heritage of this land. Further to this, our school acknowledges there are other Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Island people who have lived, worked and contributed to the cultural heritage of our community.

Editorial - Newsletter No. 4 21/03/14
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal

From the Principal

Last week was our first school disco of the year and it was a great success. It was great to see many of our new Year 8s attend and along with the rest of the school dressed in costume. Congratulations to the “impersonators” they were terrific! The Success for all Students policy attendance focus has seen great improvement in our students’ average attendance at school. The disco was the first event on the school calendar that the 95% attendance benchmark affected.

Originally we felt that working out attendance on a day by day system was going to be the best way to manage attendance. As we put this in place for the disco we found that this was not really a fair way of working the system. This would have caused many students who have good attendance patterns to miss the disco because of two days of absence which may well be the only two days they have off in the year.

The system that we have decided on is that to maintain 95% attendance at school there can be only ten days absence from school in the school year. Rather than percentages we will be tracking absence days. A student is still considered in “good standing” until they have been absent for ten days. Once past this point they will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities which may include discos, sporting teams, musicals, and graduation ceremonies.

Lateness to school will also affect attendance with five incidences of being late to school equating to one whole day’s absence.

Approved absences eg representing the school at a sporting or cultural event, attending TAFE, days missed due to suspension etc will not factor in to a student’s ten days.

Students will be made aware of their attendance through tracking sheets that will be shared once every two weeks.

I would also like to advise the school community that I will be on leave for the last two weeks of Term 1. Mrs Lesley Olsen will be Acting Principal in that time and I am extremely confident in her ability to complete this role.

The Success for all Students policy acknowledges there are other Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Island people who have lived, worked and contributed to the cultural heritage of this land. Further to this, our school acknowledges the Bindal and Juru community as the first owners of this country. Today, they are still the custodians of the cultural heritage of our community.

Pierre de Coubertin Awards
Student Nomination
Expression of Interest

The Criteria:

- You must have represented the school, district, or region in at least three sports at any level since Year 8 and demonstrate initiative, selflessness, sportsmanship and fair play.
- You must submit an original piece of literary or artistic work which illustrates your appreciation of the Olympic Movement (e.g. 250 words written piece or video/drawing).

What the position would require of you if you are selected:

- Preparing and delivering a speech relating to your development and involvement in sport at Ayr High’s Sports Awards Night.
- Being available to receive the Pierre de Coubertin award at Ayr SHS Sports Awards and/or at the official presentation in Brisbane.

Award recipients will receive a certificate signed by Mr John Coates AC, President of the Australian Olympic Committee.

If you are interested in being considered as the nominee for Ayr High’s Pierre de Coubertin Award recipient and you meet the criteria above, you need to provide...

- a brief outline of your sporting involvement and achievements during your years at Ayr SHS
- a short statement (1/2 A4 page) explaining why you think you would be a suitable candidate for this position

...to Ms Carrigan by 3.00 pm Friday 4 April 2014.

Term 1 Disco

Last Thursday 13 March saw our first disco of the year finally went ahead! Our theme “When I Grow Up” had students dressing up with fantastic ideas ranging from mermaids to sports stars. It was great to see so many turn up.

After much deliberating, our best dressed group went to the Year 11 boys who impersonated the teachers. A special thank you must be made to our DJ, David Cooper who did a fantastic job all night and also donated his time for free! Also, we must thank all the teachers who helped supervise and set up, as without their support our disco would not be possible. We hope everyone had an enjoyable night and we look forward to seeing everyone again at our next disco in Term 2.

Music Support Group Meeting
Monday 28 April 2014
7.30 pm, A12
All welcome.

Bingo
Saturday 2.00 pm
Anglican Church Hall
Jackpots $400, $300, $200

P&C Meeting
Monday 5 May 2014
7.30 pm, Resource Centre

Issue No 4 - 2014
It’s not OK to be away
Page 2
**Northern (NQ) Selections**
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected in Northern (NQ) school squads recently:

- Jay Leckenby (Year 12) – Tennis
- Jacob McConnachie (Year 10) – Swimming
- Nathaniel Roxburgh (Year 9) – Rugby League
- Molly Barbagallo (Year 12) – Basketball
- Matthew Wight (Year 12) - Basketball
- Jordan Kastner (Year 11) – Football

These students will participate at their respective Queensland Championships this year.

Special mention to the following students who were selected as shadow players:

- Zoe Borellini (Year 12) – Football
- Alex Leckenby (Year 10) - Netball

Well done to all students. We wish them well.

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**Ayr High Mascot**
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

We are pleased to announce Ayr High’s new mascot new name Hurricane. Students had the opportunity to nominate a name for the mascot, with three suitable names being selected by the House Captains. The students and staff then voted for their favourite name. Hurricane has already been seen around the school at our interschool home games and is a welcome addition to the Ayr High family.

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**Interschool Rugby League 04/03/14**

- U15 Boys: vs Bowen, Loss 10 - 24
- Open Boys: vs Bowen, Loss 6 - 26

**Interschool Netball 04/03/14**

- U15 Girls: vs Bowen, Win 29 - 18
- Open Girls: vs Bowen, Win 17 - 16

**Interschool Rugby League 11/03/14**

- U15 Boys: vs BCHS, Win 34 - 4
- Open Boys: vs BCHS, Win 28 - 6

**Interschool Netball 11/03/14**

- U15 Girls: vs BCHS, Win 26 - 23
- Open Girls: vs BCHS, Loss 19 - 25

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**Sport News**

**DIV. AGE CHAMPIONS HOUSE PTS.**

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**Pink Stumps Day Raffle Winner**
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

Congratulations to Sofia Palombi (Year 11) who won the Glenn McGrath signed cap which was part of the Pink Stumps Day fundraiser.

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**Amendment to the Musical Form**

The Year 12 Chemistry class recently made their way to Woolworths to investigate the packaging and labelling of common household brands. They have been studying the chemistry of a variety of substances including solvents, cleaning agents and polymers such as adhesives, and relating this to how these products work.

Many homes have a large number of these products in cupboards around the kitchen, laundry and bathroom. Alarming, many products have unforeseen hazards for the consumer and are not always adequately labelled and packaged, especially when children live in the home. The students will write a report recommending changes to ensure the safety of consumers.

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**Year 12 Chemistry Excursion**
by Mrs Teresa Gemellaro, Teacher

The students and staff then voted for their favourite name. Hurricane has already been seen around the school at our interschool home games and is a welcome addition to the Ayr High family.

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**Swimming Carnival Age Champions**

**Pink Stumps Day Raffle Winner**
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**Swimming Carnival**

**Age Champions**

**DIV. AGE CHAMPIONS HOUSE PTS.**

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Solar Astronomy
by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Science & Maths

Friday lunch time saw local astronomer, Mr Rob Black and his solar telescope at school to give students an opportunity to view the sun. Students were able to view sun spots and the solar prominences quite clearly against the red hue of the filter.

In June, astronomers from America will be visiting the school with four big scopes to have a 'Solar Day' of events with science classes and for the wider school at lunch breaks.

Smile, click! - Photography Crew

So far this year, members of the Photography Crew have taken photos at several functions including the Student Investiture, the Swimming Carnival and school disco. In a period of twelve months, under the expert tuition of teacher, Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek, they have emerged as very capable photographers.

The students have learnt about photo composition, effective use of aperture and shutter speed and photo editing. Their photos are utilised in the school newsletters, school magazine and in other forms of media used in the school. Several have also entered the photography section at the Ayr Show last year with success.

We are hoping to fundraise this year to purchase an external flash and eventually a third camera. Any students wishing to join the Photography Crew, please see Mrs Vollema-Creek.

Absentee Hotline
4790 4353
If your child is away either:
• phone the hotline
• text message or
• 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?

Upcoming Events
24 Mar Yr 8 Arts/Technology Rotation No 2 Starts
25 Mar Interschool Rugby League/Netball (3.30 pm)
27 Mar Extended Form (9.10 am) Cross Country/ Fun Run
1 Apr Senior Secondary Student Council Meeting (2nd Break)
Interschool League/Netball Final (3.30 pm)
3 Apr Junior Secondary Student Council Meeting (2nd Break)
4 Apr Yr 12 RSG - Hospitality
7-21 Apr School Holidays
22-24 Apr Yr 12 Camp
24 Apr Anzac Day Assembly (MPS, 12.25 pm)
25 Apr Anzac Day Community March - Public Holiday
28 Apr Drama Festival Rehearsals
Student Exec Council Meeting (2nd Break)
Music Support Meeting (A12, 7.30 pm)
29 Apr Senior Secondary Student Council Meeting (2nd Break)
1 May Junior Secondary Student Council Meeting (2nd Break)
2 May Drama Festival Performance
5 May P&C Meeting (Resource Centre, 7.30 pm)
6 May Harmony Day
Student Exec Council Meeting (2nd Break)
8 May Yr 10 SF4NQ “Skills on Show” Careers Day
School Disco
8-9 May Celebr8 Year 8
13-15 May Yr 9 NAPLAN

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East End Centre, AYR
Wellbeing Focus: Positive Relationships: Friends and Teachers

Learning Goals:
- An awareness of the personal behaviours which underpin high quality relationships.
- A valuing of the benefits of learning and working collaboratively with friends and other people.
- An awareness of their emotional intelligence as to what they need to contribute to building relationships with their teachers and an understanding that they need to develop both independent and interdependent learning habits.
- A willingness to learn collaboratively with their teachers and accept the value of receiving developmental feedback from them to build their living, learning and thinking power for life.

Nearly everything we achieve in life is with and through people, side-by-side and face-to-face. Being able to build rich and caring relationships with other people is an essential lifelong habit to nurture and cultivate in our students. There are many dimensions to consider when establishing rapport with others, and students need to learn these by explicitly being taught them. As with all of our school’s Wellbeing focus, this happens in a focussed way during CARE and AP classes, but also as part of the learning in every classroom. The school is there to support you as parents because you can’t do it all on your own. They include:
- Living and learning collaboratively and cooperatively with other people
- Focusing on mutual respect; expect it and respect it
- Appreciating others and their thoughts; learn from them
- Being true to themselves; respect the person they see in the mirror
- Building empathy for others’ feelings, needs and views.

The acquisition of these personal attributes will enable students to build healthy and respectful relationships with others. A close knit and harmonious friendship group provides students with opportunities to enjoy leisure activities, study, share good and not so good times together; a desirable lifelong disposition. It is all about assisting them to develop their Emotional Intelligence.

A beneficial lifelong disposition for students to build into their lives is to learn how to mix with and accept people of all age groups, differing cultures and backgrounds in a variety of situations, ranging from family, school friends, employers, fellow workers, teachers, to competitors in sporting competitions.

As parents and teachers, do we have a united vision of what we want our children and students to act like, look like, sound like, feel like, know and do because of our parenting influence and teaching? If we say for example that we want them to be respectful, what specific attitudes and behaviours do we want them to exhibit? And even more challenging, how are we going to cultivate these on a moment by moment basis?

A key part of this focus is about students and their teachers working collaboratively together to approach everything they do with positive attitudes and mindsets. From this platform students are supported and empowered to be in a cycle of continuous improvement in making their best better and flourishing.

The team approach will produce the very best outcomes for all members of the school community. Teachers are the greatest assets schools have as role models and preparing students for life. There are plenty of inspiring and excellent teachers in our schools. It is vital to instil in our children a positive growth attitude that their teachers are there for them, genuinely want to see them develop and have the expertise to bring out the best in them. It is empowering and beneficial for our children to realise that just like themselves, teachers too are all individuals; they organise themselves in a variety of ways. Knowing each of their teacher’s methods will be a huge advantage for students.

“A friend is someone that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow.” William Shakespeare
Year 9 Students
Learn about South Sea Islander History
by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek, SOSE Co-ordinator

Earlier this month, several descendants of local South Sea Islanders spoke to the Year 9s about the history of slavery in Queensland. Queensland’s slavery history is not widely known, however, after visits by Pastor Les Henaway, Lena Watego and Christine Monday, the Year 9s learnt a lot about why South Sea Islanders were captured and sent to Queensland to work during the mid to late 1800s. All the guest speakers shared their family’s experiences as kanakas working in the cane fields of North Queensland as well as their Islander heritage and culture. This sharing of oral history with the students culminated in the students’ first task of analysing primary sources and writing an extended paragraph about the impact of slavery upon the lives of South Sea Islanders. On behalf of the Year 9 students and their History teachers, I would like to sincerely thank the invited guests in giving up their time to share their history with some of our students.

Aicey-ing on the Cake!
by Mr Tom Pickersgill, Teacher

Throughout Term 1, Year 8s have been studying the role of stories in different cultures. They have explored the role of fables and myths in different societies. As part of the unit, we have examined the inter-connectedness of land, culture, place, time and relationships in Australian indigenous societies. Earlier this month, Year 8 English students were fortunate enough to be treated to an interactive workshop on storytelling and culture by local identities, Aicey and Bernice Zaro. Together, Aicey and Bernice captured the students’ attention with an array of stories - from Dreaming stories, to clan stories, as well as personal stories. In doing so, students were made aware of the importance of storytelling to indigenous culture, lore (law) and identity.

An added highlight was Aicey’s sharing of his extraordinarily beautiful paintings and his explanation of how each artwork told a particularly story. Aicey and Bernice also shared some of the traditional symbols that can be used to tell stories, and students then enthusiastically used these in the creation of their own story.

Our appreciation goes out to Aicey and Bernice for their willingness to share their culture and knowledge with us. Their workshop added the “Aicey-ing” to our unit’s “cake”.

English Tutoring
Tuesdays
3.15 pm - 4.15 pm
A04

Your friendly English teachers are available to help you with homework and assessments.