Everyday Counts!

by Mrs Kim Cameron, HOD - Junior Secondary

Research confirms a strong link between attendance and student outcomes. Poor school attendance can be linked to a number of related short and long-term adverse outcomes for students including lower academic outcomes, early school leaving, substance use, poverty, unemployment and negative health outcomes.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment report, Performance Insights: School Attendance, 2013 states:

Any absence from school constitutes a loss of educational opportunity because students miss out on learning. When a student is absent, the investment in their education is still made by governments but the benefits are not received by the student or the wider community. The 2010 state attendance rate was 91% and, at an estimated cost of $63.66 per student per day, the missed educational opportunities represented a total notional investment of just over $550 million.

At Ayr State High School we acknowledge those students whose attendance shows commitment not only to their education, but also to our wider community. Below is a list of junior school students who received a 100% attendance award on assembly. Senior students are listed on page three.

### Year 7 100% Attendance

- Grace Bach
- Brent Barnett
- Ella Brombal
- Bradon Evans
- Paige Fraser
- Jayden Giddy
- Liam Holt
- Brooklyn Ivory
- Kaydee Jordan
- Rory Jorgensen
- Zac Kelly
- Lauren Knet
- Nykee Kynuna
- Giselle Le Feuvre
- Colby Lennox
- Ethan Nascone
- Jared Poletti
- Luke Prior
- Bianca Przesmycki
- Lauren Raitelli
- Karl Towning
- Samyno Vaevae Pare
- Nicholas Wallace
- Kheisha Whitley
- Jd Wilkins

### Year 8 100% Attendance

- Timarie Anderson-Kofoed
- Mekah Bonato
- Jessica Calligaro
- Dalton Cox
- Emma Donovan
- Samantha Dowie
- Ashley Green
- Adriana Higgs-Ward
- Bryce Horan
- Noah Hurdoyal-Reid
- Kendra Johnstone
- Jasmin Kierle
- Allan Linton
- Sophia Masatto
- Sarah Mc Donnell
- Martha Mc Paul
- Kelly Meinicke
- Thomas Nahow
- Ella Northwood
- Alexander Pearce
- Jaedyn Potter
- Ryan Scalía
- Tua Seko
- Jack Shaw
- Madeline Shepherd
- Kieran Turner
- Joshua Wales

### Year 9 100% Attendance

- Jesse Alexander
- Taelene Anderson
- Trent Atto
- Westley Darwen
- Declan Dowson
- Hayden Doyle
- Natasha Embrey
- Keagan Flynn
- Shenikah Grabs
- Brendan Kolb
- Luke Mc Nee
- Cameron Menso
- Hayden Oats
- Lorenza Palombi
- Matthew Schifilliti
- Lydia Scott
- Cohen Smit
- David Smith

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From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No. 4 22/04/16

Term 2 has started with a flourish. Last week we saw our students perform at the Dramafest. Once again this was an enjoyable night, and as always our students put together a thoroughly enjoyable performance. Congratulations to Katura Saunders for writing the script and Mr Tom Pickersgill and Miss Ashleigh Van Horssen for directing. Congratulations also goes out to all those who took to the stage in what was a very comical performance that had the audience laughing.

Last week we also had a number of students participating in our Music Camp. All students who perform in the school bands and choir attended a two and half day workshop to hone their skills and prepare for the eisteddfod. The students were lucky enough to work with not only our regular teachers but also talented experts. The workshops were capped off with a concert on Saturday which, was a great success and showed how each group and individual had grown over the time.

Thanks to Ms Lauren Stephens and Mr Luke Jones for organising the event and a special thanks to Mrs Rachel Webber for all her support work. This week we are commemorating ANZAC day with our own school assembly, representation at the Dawn service in Ayr and across the Burdekin and participation in the morning march. I feel it is a tribute to the students and their families the way that they commemorate such an important event in our country’s history.

This year’s school musical has kicked into gear with the announcement of the musical Grease, auditions, selection of roles and now with afternoon rehearsals. Already I can feel a buzz of excitement starting, even though our performance is a long way off. This is a big production with many areas of involvement across the school and I can’t wait to see us, once again light up the Burdekin Theatre with another magical performance.

Across the next two terms we have our indigenous students participating in two really exciting programmes. The first is the Gudjuda Junior Ranger Programme. This programme is in partnership with the Gudjuda Aboriginal Corporation and Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, sponsored by Glencore Mining. The programme provides Year 11 and 12 indigenous students practical and hands on experience to encourage indigenous youth to take up an educational pathway and careers in Land and Sea management. The second programme is for students in Year 9 and 10 and is a program run by James Cook University. It is focused on encouraging indigenous students to pursue further study and careers in the Marine Sciences.

We also have all of our Year 7 students involved in a programme called Seed, Sow, Grow. This programme engages students with the agriculture industry and broadens students’ understandings of careers involved in the Agricultural Sciences. These programmes highlight the breadth of opportunities we offer students at Ayr State High School and our commitment to link secondary schooling to further studies and/or employment opportunities.

Next week is our Cross Country/ Fun Run. It will be another great opportunity for Banks to show case it’s athletic prowess. GO BANKS. Remember guys’ participation is the key! Let’s all get in and do our bit! Yours in education

Craig Whittred
Principal

NAPLAN Testing For Year 7 and 9 Students
by Ms Andrea Aleksic, Junior School Deputy Principal

"The National Assessment Programme - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008.

On Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May, students will take the 2016 NAPLAN tests. NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australia children. It also provides valuable information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help all students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives.

All students are expected to participate in the tests. Students with disability may qualify for reasonable adjustments that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom. Some students with very specific circumstances may be exempted from participating in the tests. For information about participation in NAPLAN, you can go to: http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school programme, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents/Carers can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents/Carers may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au.”

Further information will be sent home early next week to parents and carers of Year 9 and 7 students.
Level One Touch Football Referees

Eighteen Ayr State High School students recently completed two sporting qualifications which will allow them to make significant contributions to a range of sports in the Burdekin. The students first completed Introductory Level Officiating General Principles which is an online course through the Australian Sports Commission. As part of that course the students completed modules on Self Management, Managing the Environment and People Management. Successful completion of this course is required by a number of sports before you can become a referee, judge, team manager, timekeeper or other positions as an official.

The following day the students completed a Level One Referee accreditation course through Touch Football Australia. The course was presented by Michael Littlefield who is a Level 6 referee and qualified presenter. Students were required to consider aspects of game and people management and view onfield footage of Touch Football games to ensure they were able to correctly apply the rules of Touch. The new referees now have the opportunity gain experience in either the Under 14 competition on Wednesday afternoons or at Junior Touch on Friday afternoons.
Music Camp Funded By Music Support Group April 14 - 16

The students said of the two and half days, ‘insightful, fun, educational, interesting, amazing, great to work with all different year levels, steep learning curve, sore voices/lips/hands, intense, hilarious, we learned so much from the tutors – they are amazing, meeting new people, good food, exhausting, rewarding and can’t forget Stucas’s shenanigans. The tutors said, ‘these students are amazing, they have worked so hard, they wanted to learn and improve, so disciplined, never complained about the effort required from them, I love working with Ayr High students, so positive and motivated, the improvement over the camp is huge and a reflection of their dedication and hard work’.

The tutors, Mrs Monica Licciardello, vocals, Mr Leon Stucas, brass and percussion, Mr Scott Laycock, woodwind, and staff, Miss Lauren Stephens, Choir Director and Mr Luke Jones, Instrumental Music, worked with the Choir, Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble, on their repertoire for the upcoming Burdekin Eisteddfod and are now very well advanced in their preparation for this competition. After working in groups and sectionals over the two and half days, the students presented a polished and high calibre mini concert for a large audience (we ran out of chairs) of family and friends, who were impressed with the quality of the performance.

The school, students and staff would like to acknowledge the following for supporting the Music Camp. The Burdekin Singers who donated the use of the Lighthouse for the duration, the space allowed for multiple activities to occur and provided an informal and intimate space for the performance. The Music Support Group, made the camp free for all students to ensure optimal involvement, by covering the cost of tutors, food and laundering of performance shirts. The funds used come from their fundraising bingo activity, which allow extra curricular opportunities to occur, like the Music Camp. The students will be performing at the eisteddfod on the following dates and times Instrumental Music - Monday 16 May, 6 pm and Choir - Tuesday 17 May, approximately 8 pm.

Maths and Science Competitions

by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Mathematics & Science

The annual Maths and Science competitions will be on again this year. Currently invitations are being handed out in class to prospective students to participate. The competitions are open to all students:

- ICAS Science Competition (multiple choice, 1 hour paper)
- ICAS Mathematics Competition (multiple choice, 1 hour paper).

For the high flying maths students there is also the more challenging Australian Trust Maths Competition that they can enter.

On the back of the invitation is the entry form and details. This form is to be handed into the office with payment by Friday 29 April. If you have not received an invitation, please approach your Maths/Science teacher or Mr Flynn (HOD - Maths/Science) for one.
Vietnam Vet Shares Experiences of War
by Saskia Vollema-Creek SOSE Co-ordinator

Just before the Easter holidays, Burdekin local, Mr Doug Chapple, was invited to share his experiences as a soldier during the Vietnam War. As a conscript, Mr Chapple was called up for national service in 1967 and served for approximately eight months in Vietnam before he returned home in 1968. The Year 12 Modern History students are currently investigating the Vietnam War for their assignment and Mr Chapple was happy to allow the students to interview him as part of their research. Students were shown slides of Mr Chapple’s time in Vietnam along with other artefacts from this era. He spoke about being sent over as a carpenter and how he narrowly avoided death, but lost two of his mates. Mr Chapple most importantly spoke about their treatment by the Australian public upon their return. He remembers people throwing things at them during a welcome back march in Sydney. As a result of his experiences in Vietnam and how he was treated by Australians after his return, Mr Chapple didn’t speak about the war for 20 years. He still suffers from the effects of Agent Orange and still gets upset if people make negative comments about Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War. However despite all of this, Mr Chapple has made many lifelong friendships. The Modern History students were extremely fortunate to actually talk to a returned serviceman and learn about Mr Doug Chapple’s war time experiences first hand. We thank him for taking the time to visit.

Dreaming You Can Make a Difference?
by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Mathematics & Science

Year 11 Science students are encouraged to apply to this year’s National Youth Science Forum. Follow in the footsteps of the many successful students from Ayr High over the last 18 years including Monica Saunders, Ben Brandon, Rohan Watt, Genevieve Fahey, Josh Great, Matt Wight, Liam Shannon and Liam Vitale in the last eight years.

You have the opportunity to:
• live on campus as a university student for 12 days with 150 other students from across the country,
• meet and work with leading scientists and researchers,
• debate the hottest topics in science and engineering and pick up valuable skills to give you the edge through Year 12 and beyond.

It’s not all work - there is also time for fun.

Is this you? Further information on how to apply is available from Mr Flynn in the Science Staffroom.

Adidas School Fun Run & Interhouse Cross Country Tuesday 26 April Session 4

P&C Meeting
Monday 9 May 2016
7.30 pm, Resource Centre
All welcome.

Music Support Meeting
Thursday 19 May 2016
5 pm, A14
New parents/carers welcome.

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?

Absentee Hotline
4790 4353
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.
QCE Information for Senior Students
by Mrs Kathy Fortescue, Senior School Deputy Principal

It has been a busy time tracking QCE credits for the Year 12 students. In order to ‘pass’ Year 12 successfully students need to achieve a QCE. To do this students need to demonstrate a significant amount of learning, to a standard and in a set pattern, while fulfilling literacy and numeracy requirements. Achievements in different types of learning attract different credit values. Credit is assigned when a minimum standard of achievement has been reached and a set amount of learning has been undertaken. A student must have at least 20 credits in the required pattern to be awarded a QCE.

For most students this means studying six subjects over the Year 11 and 12 two year course of study. At the end of the course, provided a Sound Achievement or higher is awarded a student receives four QCE points. Therefore, studying six subjects and passing each of them would give a student 24 QCE points. There are a range of other combinations such as TAFE certificates and School-based traineeships that also contribute to QCE points. I would like to draw students’ and parents/carers’ attention to the literacy and numeracy requirements of gaining a QCE. While there are a few different options, the vast majority of students will meet these requirements by passing at least ONE semester each of an English and Maths subject. If students do not meet the literacy and numeracy requirements then they will not be awarded a QCE.

I have been meeting with numerous Year 12 students over the last couple of weeks to ensure that students are going to exit with an QCE. I would like to thank the students and parents/carers who have come in for interviews in this important process. It is crucial students realise that the mark they end up with for each subject is of great importance. If a student studies a subject for the two years and receives an Limited Achievement or Very Limited Achievement at the end of Year 12 they will receive zero QCE points. The message for Year 12 students is to remain focussed on your studies until the end.

Upcoming Events

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U13 Netball
by Mrs Kim Cameron, Coach

Last term the girls played a round robin tournament between Home Hill SHS and BCHS, the tournament went over two weeks. The girls had not played together before, but worked really well together as a team. Well done girls, you did Ayr High proud!

Back LtoR: Siena Buffa, Abby Richards, Charleen Lyons, Kahlee Lennox, Ella Bromball
Front LtoR: Chelsea Ravizza, Adriana Higgs-Ward, Jessi Kerruish, Chayse Feeney
Absent: Jessica Cranston

DELTA ELECTRIX
Phone 4783 1566 - Fax 4783 4219
East End Centre, AYR

Layout and Design: Victoria Augustis