Ayr High in Rostrum Speaking Competition

by Mrs Linda Attard, English Teacher and Rostrum Co-ordinator

Record nominations have once again been received for this year’s annual Rostrum Voice of Youth speaking competition, with Ayr State High School entering 24 students from Year 7 to Year 12. Last year saw our school return to the competition after a lengthy hiatus, with many of our students nominating again this year. Students have willingly given up several afternoons to participate in workshops, honing their powers of persuasion. All nominees deserve to be commended for their dedication and enthusiasm; I have no doubt that they will do our school proud.

Freeman Stan Simpson, who joined Rostrum in 1968, and has held every portfolio on the Rostrum executive, as well as the presidency for the last 16 years, kindly gave up his valuable time to come and speak to our Ayr High nominees. He not only explained how Rostrum originated, but also provided them with hints and tips on speech construction and delivery. This visit was very well received by each and every student.

Our Ayr High nominees for the 2015 Rostrum Voice of Youth Competition are:

Year 7: Sarah McDonnell
Year 8: Hayden Doyle
Year 9: Mackenzie Holmes
Year 10: Kacee Bromham, Maddi Collins, Jasmin Timm, Taylor Jensen, Shona Scalia, Lauren Bozzetto
Year 11: Hayden Menso, David Ballin, Katurah Saunders, Blaise Heron, Ailx Leckenby, Tiam Walsh, Bradley Wood, Lachlan Wilson

Year 12: Jessica Kaminski, Luke Sockhill, Tayla Hancock, William Webber, René Le Feuvre, Liam Shannon, Lexi Whyte

Due to the large number of students participating, we will be holding two heats at Ayr State High School. These will occur on the evening of Tuesday 12 May and Wednesday 13 May, in the school auditorium, commencing at 6.00 pm each evening. Both Juniors and Seniors will be speaking on each night, with one Junior and one Senior winner being announced each evening. All are welcome to attend the heats and a light supper will be provided both nights. From here, these four students will then represent our school and compete against other local schools in the Burdekin Regional Final, which will be held at Home Hill State High School on Thursday 28 May.

Left: Sarah McDonnell presents Freeman Stan Simpson with his certificate of appreciation.
Welcome back to Term 2, I hope everyone had a happy Easter break. Term 2 will be another busy term and it’s terrific to see the enthusiasm that everyone is throwing into it. NAPLAN tests arrived in the school last week and our Year 7 and 9 students are preparing to sit the test. The results of these tests are an important indicator of literacy and numeracy ability. The tests also provide teachers with important information about where each child, and the overall cohort are achieving well and where they need work.

This week the 2015 Cross Country run and Fun run were held. The students showed a great amount of team spirit competing and participating in either event. I would like to thank Ms Carrigan and her team for another well run event.

Last week the school commemorated ANZAC day. We had our ANZAC assembly on Friday morning and were represented at the Dawn service and March in Ayr, Brandon and Giru. Once again I was really impressed with the students’ commitment and respect shown to such an important day in our Nation’s calendar.

This Friday will see our students performing in the annual Drama Festival. I am really happy to say that this year we had such a large number of students interested we have been able to put together a junior and senior performance. The juniors will perform during the day at the theatre to an audience of primary school students from across the district whilst the seniors will perform on Friday evening to a packed house at the Burdekin Theatre. I wish both groups the best of luck and I am confident that once again the students from Ayr High will provide outstanding performances.

We are continuing to build on practices to develop every student at Ayr High to become an Assessment Literate Learner. We are focusing on providing information that places the student at the very forefront of learning. This information will enable students to understand what they are going to learn and how they will be expected to demonstrate that learning in their assessment. We have also added a section in the student’s planner to enable students to self-reflect on their performance on each piece of assessment and set themselves a target for the following piece of assessment. All of these practices have been proven by research to help improve student outcomes and we are committed to maximising the outcomes for every student.

Yours in Education

Craig Whittred
Principal

P&C Meeting
Monday 4 May 2015
7.30 pm, Resource Centre
7.00 pm
All welcome

ASHS Music Support Group
Bingo
Saturday 2.00 pm
Anglican Church Hall
Jackpots $400, $300, $200

Download the free QSchool App to stay connected to news and events.
The Great Outback Barbeque
by Mrs Maree Milne, Year 11 Co-ordinator

Wednesday 22 April saw the Year 11 cohort host their annual charity event. This year, the charity committee decided to host The Great Outback Barbeque, in support of Frontier Services. The aim was to have a great day for the school community, and to also raise as much as possible for rural farmers across Australia. Many students across all year levels dressed up in their best outback gear, and ventured down to the MPS at lunches for the sausage sizzle, and face painting. To prepare for the day itself, the Year 11’s held a BBQ at parent-teacher interviews at school last term, and a community BBQ at Woolworths Ayr on Saturday 11 April during the holidays. Approximately $400 was raised for Frontier Services and their efforts to help those farming families in need. The Year 11 charity committee would like to thank all who supported our charity day for 2015.

A Challenge for...YOU!!

Do you want a challenge?
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Australian Maths Competition $5.00
UNSW Maths Competition $5.00

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Collect an invitation letter from your Maths or Science teacher.

Peter Pan
Nominated for an Award
by Mrs Maree Milne, Drama Teacher

Last year’s production of the Drewes and Stiles’ version of Peter Pan is still fresh in audience’s minds, as it was nominated for a North QLD Art Award, at the annual award ceremony held in Townsville.
A member from the audience nominated the school musical for Production of the Year and Art Event of Year, with the winners being announced on Friday 8 May at the Townsville Civic Centre.
The NQ Arts Awards 2015 is the region’s pinnacle arts and cultural event recognising and showcasing the artistic talents of groups and individuals in the North Queensland area.
The school is immensely proud of the students’ achievements with this production. Never before has the school seen a performance which provided rich culture, established friendships and required dedication to pull together. Well done to all of the students; cast, crew and artists who helped this production succeed, and may you never forget your adventures to Neverland.
The award ceremony is open to members of the public, so if you would like ticket information, please speak to Mrs Milne.

Lions Little Hero’s Cancer Fun Run
Sunday 19 May
@ Ayr Golf Club

5-12 yrs $5 entry
Over 18 yrs $10 entry
Teams $25 (up to 4 people)

7 am 9 Hole Run, 7.30 am 5 Hole Run,
8 am 3 Hole Run, 8 am 1 Hole Run
Facebook us!
Ph: 4782 5761

Prizes, Costume prizes and raffle
Every child deserves a chance at a healthy life.
Our Vision: 100% survival for kids with cancer
Hawk Point Draw Term 1
by Mrs Claire Brock, SWPBS Committee

As part of our SWPBS framework at Ayr State High students are rewarded with Hawk Points for consistently displaying the attributes of a good Ayr High Learner. Being safe, showing respect and doing their personal best is what we expect from our students.

At the end of Term 1 students could place their Hawk Points into a ‘lucky prize’ draw for fishing gear, Itune/Google/Fuel cards or electronic accessories. Congratulations to these 12 students for having Hawk Points to enter and for winning a prize!

Brandon Dale, Kaitlyn Chapman, Sam Green, Dayna Suski, Bradley Wood, Richard Wood, Josh Beckman, Liam Offord, Jacinta Grabb, Brooke Mcnee, Mitchell Geiszler, Josh Magatelli

Learn About Yourself!

“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes”. (Marcel Proust, 19th century novelist)

Volunteer to host an international high school student through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at how this unique and rewarding experience can help bring your family together, understand themselves better and see the world in a new light. We have students aged 15-18 arriving from France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Scandinavia in July 2015 who are seeking welcoming families all over Australia, in both rural and urban communities. They will live like a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover - all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Capture the spirit of family and friendship - visit us on Facebook or at www.scce.com.au, email scceuast@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501 to request a booklet of international student profiles.

Year 11 Engineering Camp @ JCU
20 - 22 July
Letter and information available from Mr Flynn.

Dreaming you can make a difference?
by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Science & Maths

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 and Liam Shannon in the last seven 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.

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

Is this you? Further information is available from Liam Shannon in Year 12 and Mr Flynn in the Science Staffroom.

Upcoming Events

1 May Interschool Drama Festival (7 pm, Burdekin Theatre)
4 May P&C Meeting (7.30 pm, Resource Centre)
6 May Yr 8/10 Vaccinations (Boys & Girls)
7 May Yr 10 “Skills on Show” Careers Day
7-8 May Music Camp
12-13 May Ayr High hosting Rostrum
12-14 May Yr 7 & 9 NAPLAN
17-19 May Yr 11 Biology Camp
19 May Senior Secondary Student Council Meeting
21 May Junior Secondary Student Council Meeting
26 May Yr 10 QCE & SET Plan Info Evening
27 May Yr 6 Transition Visit
28 May Yr 6 Transition Visit
Rostrum Burdekin Regional Final
1-2 Jun Yr 5 Transition Visit
3 Jun ICAS Science Competition
8 Jun Queen’s Birthday Holiday
11 Jun Yr 12 Fundraiser Movie Premiere - Jurassic World
12 Jun Yr 10 Careers Expo
16 Jun Senior Secondary Student Council Meeting
18 Jun Junior Secondary Student Council Meeting
19-25 Jun Yr 11 & 12 Assessment Period
26 Jun Show Day Holiday

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‘Sensational Year 7’ Activity Days  
by Mr Jamie Vacher, Year 7 Co-ordinator

On the last two days of Term 1 the Year 7 cohort travelled to Alva Beach as part of the ‘Sensational Year 7’ Activity days. Students participated in house groups in a variety of challenging activities designed to improve communication skills and promote team building and house spirit. The event culminated in “The Great Race” that had competitors scouring the entire township for clues and mascots.

Phillip were very successful on the day winning the ‘Great Race’ and Champion House over the two days. Banks were outstanding in the sand sculpting, scoring a perfect 10 for their sand creation. Cook worked together very well in the team building exercises and Macquarie were too strong in the tug-of-war. Teachers and students all agreed the activity days were a great success.
Celebr8 Year 8 Days at Alva Beach

by Mrs Claire Brock, Year 8 Co-ordinator

Sand, sun and fun were the order of the days as 65 students gathered to Celebr8 being in Year 8. On the last Monday and Tuesday of Term 1 these excited students travelled to Alva Beach with their enthusiastic teachers to engage in numerous team building and character forming activities.

The Year 8s competed in their team colours and it was clear who the Mighty Mouse Macquaries, Bull Dog Banks, Captain Phillips and Cook’s Crocodiles were as a sea of yellow, red, blue and green descended on Ayr Life Savers Club House for the two days.

Participation was the key to success in the various activities. Four students were rewarded for individual efforts in blindfold creation; Brendan Kolb, Rebekah Oakes, Mitchell Pearce and Jesse Alexander. However, all other points were according to House efforts.

Whilst it was fantastic to see Banks take out overall honours, and Champion House status, it was pleasing to see each team be rewarded for their different strengths. Cook shone in the sand sculpturing competition, Macquarie won the team building challenges, and Phillip took out the Great Race Challenge with Banks blitzing their opposition in communication skills.

Well done Year 8 and thanks to the fantastic adults who helped Yr 8s Celebr8 being at High School.

School Jumpers in 2015 - Be prepared for cooler days

In 2010 the P&C Association endorsed an official school jumper. This is the only jumper acceptable.

It is a dark green jumper, available from the school office for $30.

If your child needs to wear a jumper for warmth please make it the official school jumper.