Work Experience Week

by Mrs Vicki Toohey, HOD - Business, IT & Humanities

Choosing a career path is not always easy for students and it is often the experience offered by employers during work experience that confirms a student’s decision. Our Year 11 students have just completed a week’s placement at a variety of local and Townsville businesses. Students undertook work in a vocation that their course of studies can lead them to, with some students using the week to engage in their school based traineeship or apprenticeship. Now that the students have returned to school, they will review their Senior Education Training (SET) plans and their week’s placement to determine what actions they need to take in order to achieve their career goal. Thank you to all those employers who gave up their time to be involved in supporting our students to make these decisions.

Ayr High takes the stage, again!

by Miss Maree Longworth

Another great performance by Ayr State High School in this year’s Burdekin Interschool Drama Festival. This year, the students found inspiration from the heavens and presented a twist on the Ancient Greek Gods. Each God was vowing to win the competition of who was the best God, with the final twist being that they were school students trying to complete a history assignment. This year’s script was written by Hannah McIntosh, who also played Hades, and Breanna Ritchie who played Aphrodite. Music students, Erin Saroglia with her infamous ‘cup’ song and Kacee Bromham who sang Titanium highlighted the range of talent within the Arts department. From the teacher’s point of view, the highlight was the Ayr High students supporting each other; giving the two singers a standing ovation. The technical crew worked hard behind the scenes. Damian Allen, Brittany Thomasson and Calen Graham supported Bailey Towers who ran the entire show from backstage.

The comedic talents of comperes Shane Kennedy and Jai Blakey added extra pizzazz to a thoroughly entertaining night. Jai’s somewhat nervous presence was a perfect foil for Shane’s costume changes and facial expressions - the audience enjoyed the fun with much appreciative laughter. Well done boys! The night finished with numerous awards, with the year 11 students sweeping all of the prizes;

Director’s Award
Jack Vacher

Best Supporting Actor
Jorden Chapman

Excellence in Acting
Katelyn Bell

Thank you all for your amazing acting talent, and thank you to the parents for the endless pick up’s and drop off’s at rehearsal.

See you next year, at Drama Festival!

THE ADAMS FAMILY BROADWAY MUSICAL IS NOW SHOWING IN SYDNEY!!
A creepy, mysterious and spooky production you don’t want to miss!! Tickets start frm $77.95 per person! * Conditions apply. Speak to the girls at Harvey World Travel Ayr to organise your package! For bookings contact Pierina, Timmone, Susan, Rosanne or Katarnya or contact us now via Facebook!
From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No. 5 17/05/13

Last week I had the great opportunity of visiting some of our Year 11 students on their Work Experience. Once again the feedback that I received from the employers was very positive. Students displayed eagerness and initiative whilst carrying out their work in a respectful manner. These are key characteristics that employers look for in future employees. Well done Year 11 students.

We are now in mid-term and I spoke with students this week on parade on how they should be starting to prepare for their end of semester examinations. Students should be starting to plan to increase their study time throughout the week moving towards assessment time. Years 11 and 12 have an Assessment block in the last two weeks of term and will be very busy leading into and during that period. This year we have decided to issue End of Semester One reports after the June school holidays. By pushing this timeline back we are allowing the maximum time for students to complete studies prior to the examination period.

We feel this extra time will help support students in achieving outstanding results across all year levels. Parent/Teacher interviews will take place early in Term 3 and I encourage all parents to come and talk with teachers to discuss progress.

I have been given some feedback from students that there has been talk on Facebook that we are changing our uniform. I would like to clarify this topic. At this stage there has been no decision made to change the uniform. We have sent a survey form home for parents of students in the lower year levels so we can get some feedback on what our school community thinks of our uniform. Any change of uniform would need to be forward planned into the future to allow for local businesses to sell current stock which would see any change of uniform not happening before 2015 at least. Again I will confirm no decision has been made and I encourage all parents to continue to buy our school uniform shirts and shorts from our local businesses. The school Jumper (green polar fleece jumper with school embroidery) can be bought directly from the school office for $30.

Yours in education
Craig Whittred
Principal

Absentee Hotline
4790 4353
If your child is away either:
• phone the hotline
• text message or
• hand in a note on return

Yr 11/12 Assessment Block
13 - 19 June 2013

Local identities visit our English classrooms
by Mrs Linda Attard, English Teacher

Last term, students in Year 8E English welcomed into their classroom, Mrs Tania Cox - a talented children’s story book author, who lives right here in the Burdekin. The students had been studying a unit entitled “Myths and Legends” and as part of their assessment task, they were required to take on the role of a children’s story book author and create their very own myth.

Mrs Tania Cox was delighted to speak to the students about the books she has written and what had inspired her to do so. She read one of her books to the students and together assisted the class in creating their very own masterpiece, “How the Kangaroo Got its Hop.” Meeting a “real life” author has certainly inspired our budding writers to unleash their creative talents, as they are now all proud authors of an original myth, accompanied by illustrations, which will eventually be transformed into a storybook. They are looking forward to presenting their myth to younger students at a local primary school later in the year. You never know, we may see one of our Year 8 English students publishing their own story in the future!

As part of the Year 10 English Foundation Unit entitled, ‘In Other People’s Shoes’, students welcomed guest speaker Scott Stidston, well-known Burdekin local and active member of the Spinal Education Awareness Team (SEAT). The unit’s main focus was for students to gain an understanding, thus empathy, of other people’s situations and life experiences by imagining what it is like to be in the shoes of others. Scott recounted his accident (which resulted in quadriplegia) and recovery, highlighting the impact it had on his life and the various emotions and adjustments he has had to endure along the way. The students were not only provided with an important message about spinal injury prevention, but in turn, were in awe of how Scott coped with such a life-changing event. They were particularly overwhelmed when Scott replayed the footage of his not one, but two sky dives.

8E English with Mrs Tania Cox.

Melanie Wallace, Emily Theodossio, Mr Scott Stidston and Tayla-Jane Crump

Welcome to Ayr State High School
Our school acknowledges the 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.

It’s not OK to be away

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Interschool Cross Country
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

On Tuesday 7 May, 21 students represented Ayr High at the Interschool Cross Country, which was held at Home Hill. Heavy rainfall threatened the cancellation of the event, but with the all clear given the senior boys led the way out of the school grounds, down to the muddy race course and out around cane farms, with the junior boys and all girls following respectively. There were a number of outstanding performances with 10 students finishing in the top four of their age group. This qualifies them for the Burdekin Cross Country Squad. These students were:

Under 13 – Shami Wight (1st), Kelsey Heur (2nd), Chris Whitworth (3rd)  
Under 14 – Taheisha Bugarelli (2nd), Charlie Cook (3rd)  
Under 15 – Kyla Pringle (2nd), Keely Great (3rd), Calen Graham (4th)  
Under 16 – Shami Lennox (2nd)  
Under 19 – Daniel McConnachie (1st)

These students are now invited to attend the North Queensland Cross Country Trials on Tuesday 21 May in Townsville. All students are to be congratulated on their performances and enthusiastic participation.

Construction Project
by Mr Peter Jensen, Teacher

The Year 11 and 12 construction boys have been unusually busy lately, having been commissioned by the Burdekin Touch Association to supply and install new seating stands at the touch football grounds. The concrete slab was poured last term, and now the boys are busy making the finishing touches to the aluminium seating. Fabrication of the stands has exposed the students to a range of skills, including measuring and designing, cutting, bending, and welding aluminium, as well as regular problem solving opportunities.

Grin n’ Tonic Live at ASHS!
by Ms Stephanie Thomas, English Teacher

“All the world’s a stage, And all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances, And one man in his time plays many parts,” - Shakespeare.

The Year 12 and Year 10 English students had the excellent opportunity of seeing and being part of a live Shakespeare performance on 7 May. The Grin n’ Tonic theatre troupe came to perform in our newly renovated Drama room last week, with only two actors, significant props, projector and screen, and a lot of knowledge and talent in performing Shakespeare. This two man show required some of the students to perform with them, in front of their peers. This was an amazing opportunity for the students to gain experience speaking the terrific and sometimes terrifying tongue twisters of Shakespeare, whilst helping them prepare for upcoming assessments. The Year 12s kicked it off with viewing and performing Macbeth. Shane Kennedy played a conflicted Macbeth in Act I, whilst being tormented by Lauren Myles and Taylah Dwyer as the witches, among other students. The actors from the troupe played multiple roles and helped convey the themes and motifs of the play while engaging the students. The Year 10s viewed and participated in a mash up of Romeo & Juliet and A Midsummer Night’s Dream, demonstrating the difference between a Shakespearean tragedy and comedy centred on the theme of love. Kate Shanahan was a very convincing lion, with Sammy Sparks playing a beautiful Thisbe. Both performances were something to remember! The students were the model of a respectful and supportive audience; on behalf of the English department, I would like to congratulate all students for their behaviour and the excellent volunteers for their acting bravado!

Sport News

Interschool Football 13/05/13
Junior Boys:  
vs HHSHS  Win 7 - 2
Junior Girls:  
vs HHSHS  Draw 1 - 1
Open Boys:  
vs HHSHS  Forfeit Won
Open Girls:  
vs HHSHS  Loss 1 - 2

P&C Meeting
Monday 3 June 2013  
7.30 pm, Resource Centre

Stress Less
by Cassandra, School Based Youth Health Nurse

“There’s so much happening. I don’t know what to do.”

Statistics show that about half of all young people feel stressed at any one time. It is important to recognise and understand how stress can affect you. Some stress is a normal part of life. In small amounts it gives us the energy to get up and go. It can help with exams, getting a job, playing sport and getting to know someone. It also helps us to take action in unpleasant situations. But too much stress can get you down. Warning signs of too much stress can include: having trouble concentrating or getting things done, being a bit up and down, tiring easily, trouble getting to sleep or staying asleep, uptight, can’t relax, feeling sweaty, racing heart, feeling nervous or worried, butterflies in the stomach, fearful of going places or doing new things.

Stress becomes a problem when it goes on for too long without a break, or when you can’t decide what to do next and start spinning out. If you feel like this – call for help. There are many ways to take control. It can seem like a big step to seek help – but if it is bothering you – it is not nothing. Need to chat – Cassandra, the School Based Youth Health Nurse is available – just pop into the Student Support Services for a chat. You can also ring Kids Help Line – 1800 55 1800 – this is available 24 hours every day of the year.

Kids Help Line – 1800 55 1800 – this is available 24 hours every day of the year.
Friday 10 May saw a partial solar eclipse in this region. Although clouds threatened early in the morning, by the maximum, the eclipse was clearly visible. Many students took the opportunity to safely view the eclipse through special goggles at the school. This led to lots of oohs and aahs. While another eclipse was visible last year also, it will be many years before we have this opportunity in this part of the world again. The dappled light shining through leaves of the trees also appeared in the shape of the crescent of the partly obscured sun, rather than the usual round patches.

The Salvation Army
2013 Red Shield Appeal

The Red Shield Appeal is The Salvation Army’s major annual Fundraiser. The support from the community is strong and the door knock is a major component of the appeal. The Salvation Army by way of the Red Shield Appeal seeks to raise $11,000.00 this year in the Burdekin area. To do this we need the support that you and your friends can give us to collect on the Door Knock.

The main effort will be on Sunday 26 May, meeting at The Salvation Army Hall on the corner of Young and Munro at 8.30 am and finishing by about 12 noon.

Other arrangements can be made to assist over the weekend if need be.

Please give your name by ringing The Salvation Army Office or call Major Garry Johnson on 0478 403 388.

Come with your friends or family.

School Oral Health Service

The School Oral Health Service is available to provide basic dental treatment for all students in Years 8-10. A parent or guardian must be present for treatment and appointments can be made by phoning the following numbers 4783 3223 and 0407674696.

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Betta ELECTRICAL
DELTAL ELECTRIX

Tutoring at Ayr High

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>A04</td>
<td>Tuesday 8.00 - 8.30 am (Yr 11 &amp; 12 only)</td>
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<td>Tuesday 3.15 - 4.15 pm (All year levels)</td>
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<td>Maths &amp; Science</td>
<td>D01 Lab</td>
<td>Wednesday 3.15 - 4.15 pm</td>
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Upcoming Events

- 20 May: Interschool Soccer (3.30pm)
- 21 May: NQ Trials - Cross Country
- 23-25 May: Yr 11 Biology Camp
- 23 May: Interschool Basketball (3.30pm)
- 27 May: Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea
- 28 May: Burdekin Trials (Soccer)
- 31 May: Yr 9 RE
- 4 June: NQ Trials (Basketball, Rugby Union, Soccer)
- 5 June: Drama Night
- 13-19 June: Yr 11/12 Assessment Block
- 19 June: Music Night
- 2013 Red Shield Appeal
- 2013 Red Shield Appeal
- 2013 Red Shield Appeal

Ayr State High School Music Support Group

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