STEM Success for Matt

by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Science & Mathematics

Matt Wight, Year 11, will test-drive his university ambitions during a four-day camp at QUT in Brisbane in the June school holidays. Ayr State High School was congratulated by the organisers who were impressed by all our applicants – Jordan Wellington, Anna Woods, Merinda Greenwood and Matt Wight. Unfortunately, only one applicant could be selected. Well done to all students.

The QUT Vice-Chancellor’s STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) Camp will give 121 top school students from around Queensland the opportunity to apply their creativity and investigative skills to a range of global challenges related to energy, food, the environment, IT and security.

QUT’s Executive Dean of Science and Engineering, Professor Martin Betts, “It’s no secret that Australia urgently needs more bright young people to study science, technology, engineering and maths at a university level and go on to work in these areas which are so critical to global prosperity and security. This camp is a great opportunity for Year 11 students to get a better understanding of degrees and careers in STEM fields and meet professionals already in those industries.”

The STEM camp - which is fully-funded by QUT - will be held at Gardens Point campus from June 24 to 28 and will conclude with a lunch with QUT’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Coaldrake, on the final day.

NQ Cross Country Trials

by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

On Tuesday 21 May, ten Ayr State High School students competed at the North Queensland Cross Country Trials, which were held at Bicentennial Park in Townsville. The event also doubled as the Townsville Interschool Competition so each race consisted of upwards of 80 competitors. Overall, our students performed exceptionally well, culminating with two NQ selections and eight finishing in the top 20 of their age group. Outstanding results were as follows:

- **U13 Girls** – Sharni Wight 14th, Kelsey Heuir 20th
- **U14 Girls** – Taheisha Bugarelli 11th
- **U14 Boys** – Charlie Cook 17th
- **U15 Girls** – Keely Great 8th
- **U15 Boys** – Calen Graham 20th
- **U16 Girls** – Sharni Lennox 5th
- **U18 Boys** – Daniel McConnachie 3rd

The top six competitors in each race were selected to form the North Queensland Cross Country squad. Congratulations to Sharni Lennox (Year 11) and Daniel McConnachie (Year 12) on their selections. They will compete in Bundaberg in July. Congratulations to all students who participated.

WINTER IS HERE!!

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From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No. 6 31/05/13

I t was outstanding to hear how successful our music groups were at this year’s Eisteddfod. I would like to congratulate all the students involved as well as Mr Luke Jones and Mr Leon Stucetas for their commitment to the students to enable them to perform at the highest level. Our Year 11 and 12 Construction classes have also been showing their skills by constructing another three mini grandstands for the Burdekin Touch Association. These type of opportunities are really important for the students as they add relevance to their program of study when they can perform “real” tasks and are then able to see them being used for their intended purpose. I would also like to commend Mr Jensen and Mr Prideaux for once again going above and beyond in the interest of the students. This is a trait that is shared right across our school. We have many teachers in many fields consistently working on the “extras” to ensure our students have a high quality education at Ayr State High School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our teachers and support staff for working extremely hard to provide the best for our students. Over the weekend Mrs Nyree Woods and myself participated in the Burdekin “It Takes Two” Competition. Apart from challenging ourselves and having fun this show was used to raise funds for the CORES Foundation. We asked for donations from students on a walk around on Friday lunchtime, students gave all amounts of money but what was really terrific to see was their willingness to support Mrs Woods and myself as well as a great cause. In just 40 minutes we had raised over $300 from students and staff which was a fantastic effort. These funds were instrumental in Mrs Woods and I winning the PEOPLE CHOICE AWARD. We were both very proud to win the award and proud of the fact that the students and staff supported us in such a great fashion. Personally I would like to thank all those that have congratulated me over the last few days but really all the praise should go to Nyree for her guidance and support.

Yours in education

Craig Whittred
Principal

Chappy’s Brekkie Club
by Rod Williams, Chappy’s Brekkie Club Co-ordinator & Scott McLean (Chappy Scotty), School Chaplain

E very Wednesday morning since early in Term 1 a free breakfast for students and staff has been served between 8.10 am and 8.30 am in the BBQ and Year 8 area. Although one aim of this initiative is to provide a healthy breakfast for our students one day each week the main reason we will continue with Chappies Brekkie is the clear evidence we see every Wednesday of the large number of positive interactions between all members of our school community. The breakfast also provides opportunities for students to give something back to the school by assisting with the breakfast preparations. The students who willingly volunteer each week seem to be having an enjoyable time serving their fellow students and the staff who come to share breakfast with the students. Each Wednesday one of the four different breakfast offerings (sausage sizzle, pancakes, bacon and egg sandwiches or savoury mince on toast) is available for free consumption. Juice or water is also available every week. We hope to see many students and staff members continuing to support this school community building event every Wednesday. Extra breakfasts were run exclusively for the Year 9 students on the Tuesday and Thursday mornings of the NAPLAN testing days. Hopefully we will see improved results this year as every student had the opportunity to ensure that they were not doing NAPLAN on an empty stomach. The students also had the chance to relax and chill out with their friends and de-stress before the tests began each day. Our Chappy’s Brekkie Club continues to grow thanks to the generous support from our local community. Our generous sponsors and donors are - Burdekin Community Church (bacon and egg breakfast), Burdekin Baptist Church (sausage sizzle breakfast), St Helens Anglican Church (pancake breakfast), Ayr Presbyterian Church and the Lions Club (weekly consumables), Ayr SHS P&C (pancake and savoury mince breakfast) and Ryan Beckman 8B (farm eggs). We have also had our needs met with respect to the fridge and freezer we were seeking a few weeks back. Brian and Rhonda Sanderson kindly donated a fridge and Ellen Williams’ (Year 11) family kindly donated a freezer for the Brekkie Club to use. These two items are certainly appreciated and make organising the breakfasts so much easier. Thank you to everyone concerned for your ongoing support and donations.
Pink Stumps day was a great success. As a school we raised over $500 dollars. Congratulations to Josh Blakey (12B) and Jacob Pyott (8B) who won the lolly guessing jars. At both breaks a teacher v student (Year 12) cricket match was played in great spirit with many other students lining the boundary. Students won prizes for catches in the crowd. The money raised will go towards the McGrath Foundation to help families with breast cancer patients and make a difference to their lives. We would like to thank Sportfirst for donating a piece of clothing for the day and much thanks goes to Mr Vacher, Ty Hancock and the other Year 12 students who helped out with the day, selling icy cups. Well done to the teachers who ended up beating the Year 12 students.

Year 11 and 12 Assessment Block
by Ms Lesley Olsen, Senior Secondary Deputy Principal

Year 11 and 12 students will complete their assessment for this semester with an Assessment Block. This is a five day block during which students need only attend when assessment is scheduled. Written assignments will fall due by 3 pm on the scheduled day. Exams will have a specified start and finish time. The intention is to allow the students to focus on their assessment without having the distraction of regular lessons.

Year 12 OP eligible students will also be allocated session during the block to complete a two hour practice Short-Response Item test and a two hour practice Writing Task in preparation for the QCS test.

A detailed assessment schedule will be provided for the students by the end of this week.
Parents can assist their student children by identifying when the exams and assignments required by each subject the student studies at school are scheduled and ensuring attendance at the scheduled times.

Tips For Managing Stress During Exam Time
by Cassandra, School Based Youth Health Nurse

Many people find it difficult to motivate themselves during exam time. Exams are also a time when stress levels are higher than usual. This may mean that your emotions are on edge and you may be more likely to get angry or be sad. It is important to try and keep things in perspective if things seem to get on top of you.

Study Habits - The more prepared you are the less stressed you will be.
- Find out about the exam - what format will it take, ask your teacher for study hints on content
- To do lists - make a to do list before each study session, including small things, and then cross them off as you go
- Switch the phone off and stay off Facebook - these are easily distracting - you can talk or email after your study session is over.

Time Management
- Make a timetable - this will help give you direction and help you focus on what to study each day
- Use all opportunities at school - such as general studies times or revision time in class.

Managing Stress
- Look after yourself - eat healthy and get regular sleep - this will help you concentrate better and give you the stamina to keep going.

Apology by Nick Previtera

My name is Nicholas Previtera, and I performed at the Burdekin Junior Eisteddfod. I was proud to be part of the Ayr State High School choir. We were excited to win the parts chorus section. This was a great effort to the whole choir for doing this.

Because I was very happy, I jumped up onto the stage to accept the prize, unfortunately my ‘dance steps’ were not appropriate in that setting. I would like to apologize to the school community, the eisteddfod community, parents, fellow students, staff and the music community for any embarrassment or disrepute caused by my actions. This will not happen again as I am trying for school leader for the next year to come. I understand what I have done was not acceptable and not a great role model to the younger generation. Please accept this apology.
Ayr High Represents at “It Takes Two”  
by Mrs Nyree Woods

On Saturday night, 25 May 2013, our Principal took to the stage in the Burdekin Singers production of “It Takes Two”. This is the format where a guest (Mr Whittred) joins up with a member of Burdekin Singers (Mrs Woods) to prepare two songs to sing on the night with a live band, as well as two additional songs with 18 other singers and guests. This involved many Sunday afternoon practices learning the group songs (“Time Warp”, where Mr Whittred had to keep control, and “Hooked on a Feeling”). Not only were there words and notes to remember, but dance moves, too! Then there were the rehearsals for the individual songs, which also had dances to learn.

The songs Mr Whittred and Mrs Woods sang on their own on the night were a rousing rendition of “Suspicious Minds” where Mr Whittred wore a bedazzled Elvis suit and got up to some antics on dance floor. The second song was “Pop Music” which included some robotic moves. Both songs were well received by the audience, and Mr Whittred was the surprise package of the night, showcasing his dancing and singing talents. A major part of the night was to raise money for the CORES foundation here in Ayr. Votes cost $1 each. Support was sought from our school community leading up to the night. $300 was received from students and staff at our school. Mr Whittred and Mrs Woods were proud to represent Ayr State High School in this year’s “It Takes Two”. They were especially thrilled to be announced the People’s Choice Winners on the night, and have two awesome trophies to show for it! In his speech when receiving the trophy, Mr Whittred said how grateful he and Mrs Woods were of the support given to them by the school. The only question remains – will they strut their stuff for the students on parade???

End of Semester Reports and Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews  
by Ms Lesley Olsen, Senior Secondary Deputy Principal

Assessment for all students will occur up to and including the final days of this semester. This ensures maximum time for learning to be completed. End of Semester Reports will be issued to students at the beginning of next term Wednesday 17 July with parent/student/teacher interviews to follow on Tuesday 23 July.

Music Support Group Meeting
Monday 17 June 2013
7.30 pm, A12
All welcome.

Ayr State High School Music Support Group
Bingo
Saturday 2.00 pm
Anglican Church Hall
Jackpots $400, $300, $200

Tutoring at Ayr High

English
Room: A04
Tuesday 8.00 - 8.30 am (Yr 11 & 12 only)
Tuesday 3.15 - 4.15 pm (All year levels)

Maths & Science
Room: D01 Lab
Wednesday 3.15 - 4.15 pm

Upcoming Events

3 June  
P&C Meeting (7.30 pm, Resource Centre)

4 June  
NQ Trials (Basketball, Rugby Union, Soccer)

5 June  
Drama Night
Junior ATSIAP
Science Competition

10 June  
Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday

13-19 June  
Yr 11/12 Assessment Block

17 June  
Music Support Meeting (7.30 pm, A12)

19 June  
Music Night

24 June - 5 July  
School Holidays

15 July  
Cultural Week

16 July  
Interschool Touch Football (3.30 pm)
Athletics Carnival Whole School
Nonimations (2.30 pm)

17 July  
Reports Issued

18 July  
Yr 10 JCU Experience
School Disco
Interschool Rugby 7’s (Yr 12)

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