Rostrum Voice of Youth Competition

by Jasmin Timm, Year 9A Student

On 28 May, the Burdekin Rostrum Voice of Youth Competition final was held here at Ayr High with much success. Not only was it well attended by students from Ayr High, Home Hill High and Burdekin Catholic High, but students also travelled from Bowen and Proserpine - that’s dedication! All of the speeches on the night were excellent; the speakers did themselves - and their schools - proud. The high calibre of competitors was evident in the quality of the speeches that stirred the audience’s passions.

Some speakers’ presentations were imbued with levity and wit - take Harrison Miller’s speech; he had everyone in stitches from beginning to end. Mr Stan Simpson commented at the end that Harry was definitely well on his way to becoming an entertainer, and I’m sure that anyone who was present would definitely agree!

No less impressive was René Le Feuvre, whose impassioned speech on childhood obesity stunned the audience with its solemnity. Whilst both Mackenzie Holmes and Alix Leckenby presented rousing speeches that motivated and enthralled audiences, it was Alix who took out the junior section of the Burdekin competition.

Only a few days later, Alix then proudly represented the Burdekin region in the Townsville District finals, presenting not only a prepared speech, but also an impromptu presentation! Her confident manner and well-thought out speech resulted in her being awarded the Runner-up of the Townsville District finals. CONGRATULATIONS ALIX!

2014 marks not only Ayr State High School’s return to the competition after a lengthy hiatus, but also that we broke a record for the most number of students nominated from any school in the Burdekin. The camaraderie of students was very special and it was great to see so many of our students support our competitors. Many competitors have revealed that they will be back next year to give it another go; I know I will be!

However, none of this would have happened if it wasn’t for Ms D’Ilario and Mrs Attard and the long hours they put into honing our persuasive speaking skills, not to mention the wonderful cooking by Mrs Attard at our after school workshops.
From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No. 8 06/06/14

We are now into the crunch time of our semester with students engaged or preparing to be engaged in assessment across the school from Year 8 to 12. Preparation and planning is the key. Sit down now and create a study plan for the next three weeks. Plan in time to work on assignments, and prepare for upcoming tests then share this plan with your parent/carer. By communicating with your parents/carers you will be able to plan out the next three weeks with the support and understanding of your family which will help to maximise your results.

We are continuing to develop our Junior Secondary policies and procedures with a strong focus on the Learning and Wellbeing of every student. At Ayr State High we have been ahead of the pack with our long standing quality transition and orientation program. This programme has been in full swing over the last few weeks with students from Years 5, 6 and 7 from across the district visiting our school. It has been great seeing how enthusiastic the Year 6 and 7 students are about starting high school next year. Our Musical has kicked up another gear with its preparations as the team starts its Sunday rehearsals. There is a real air of excitement building amongst the staff and students who are involved. Keep up the great work guys, I can’t wait to see the show early next term!

With only two weeks to go until the P&Cs Gala Sports Dinner, the P&C executive is working feverishly on last minute preparations. At the moment ticket sales have been a bit slow and I would like to encourage all the parents out there to come and support the P&Cs major fundraising effort for the year. The dinner has two guest speakers; Laurie Spina and Michael Luck, both former NRL players and both linked to the North Queensland Cowboys. There will be a buffet dinner as well as lucky door prizes, raffles and auctions of sporting memorabilia including a signed Cowboys Jersey, a football signed by the original NQ Cowboys team and signed and framed memorabilia from Karrie Webb kindly donated by the Webb family. This event is a fully licenced event and should be a great night so get a group organised and come and support our school! Tickets can be purchased at the school’s office or at Fahey and Ponti and Sports First.

Yours in education
Craig Whittred
Principal

NEWSFLASH!!!

GALA SPORTS DINNER
Friday 13 June 6.30 pm
Populin’s Hall
STUDENT TICKETS NOW $30, ADULTS $55
Smart Casual Dress

Includes buffet dinner, chance to win 4 tickets to Cowboys vs Titans game

Meet our Special Guests:  MICHAEL LUCK & LAURIE SPINA both former Cowboys

Get your friends together for a night of fun with the very entertaining
BRUCE COBURN
Multi Draw Raffle, Minute to Win It, Trivia

TICKETS AVAILABLE until THIS FRIDAY at the school office or SATURDAY morning at SPORTFIRST

Students who have already bought tickets for $55 will be entitled to a $25 refund on their ticket. You will need to return your ticket in order for this to occur.

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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.
Last Tuesday 20 May, four Ayr High students represented the Burdekin district at the North Queensland Cross Country Trials in Townsville. All students ran extremely well to finish in the top 15 of their respective age-groups and are to be congratulated on their performances. Results were as follows:

- Sharni Wight (Year 9) – 5th
- Kyla Pringle (Year 11) – 11th
- Keely Great (Year 11) – 15th
- Chantel Mohle (Year 12) – 4th.

Students who finished in the top 5 of each age-group were selected in the Northern (NQ) Cross Country squad – Congratulations Sharni and Chantel.

**School Jumpers in 2014**

- 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.

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**Student Wellbeing Focus**

*by Mr Andrew Ballin, HOD - Student Support Services & HPE*

**Wellbeing Focus: Family Life - School Life**

Over the past few weeks the wellbeing focus of our school has revolved around the need for positive relationships. At times for both parents and teachers, that can feel like a losing battle. How do we turn the corner so that we see more positive outcomes?

Schools are not just a reflection of society; they are one of the last vestiges left to support families in ensuring the next generation of Australians form a society that we want to be part of. That doesn’t just happen. It happens best when a strong supportive home environment meets a stimulating educational environment, but we all know that students come from many different homes and require all sorts of supports to have a great education.

Ayr High does many things well, but one area we could point at is the way that we value and support students. Not just some students but all students.

It would take pages to describe the layers of academic, behavioural and extracurricular support in place for students at Ayr High. What is being developed in more specific ways is social support needed to help develop skills essential for life.

Social skills have often been assumed, but the reality is that they are often underdeveloped. We can blame all sorts of things like computer games, TV and movies, social media or a host of other things. What is more important is how we go about fixing the situation.

While we specifically teach to a range of topics across all year levels through our well-being framework, there is more that is needed. To be really effective, social skills must be demonstrated.

That makes it the responsibility of adults, both teachers and parents to be modelling the social behaviour we expect from young people watching on. In short, we reap what we sow. If we want respect we have to give it. Not once-off but consistently. It’s our language, our habits, our attitudes. It all comes back to us.

Many parents have heard themselves being parroted back by a small child. What we sometimes fail to recognise as adults is that this continues on in much more sophisticated ways as young people learn how to deal with the world by watching adults around them.

It can be worth thinking about. Is what I’m doing what I want to see in the lives of young people around me?

“When they are not listening, they are watching” (Anonymous)

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**Assessment Block for Year 11 and 12 Students**

*by Ms Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal*

End of semester exams and assignments for Year 11 and 12 students will be scheduled between Friday 20 June and Thursday 26 June.

During this time only assessment sessions will be scheduled. Students must attend sessions for each of their subjects but when no assessment is scheduled students are asked to complete their study and preparation at home thus maximising the quiet reflection time that best prepares them for the task(s) ahead.

Students must wear full school uniform when at school for their assessment and will need to sign in and out at the desk near the roll office.

**Note:** The Ayr Show Holiday falls within this assessment block on Wednesday 25 June. Students will need to plan their study time carefully to ensure they are well prepared for the final assessments on Thursday 26 June.

The timetable for the assessment will be published early next week.
Eisteddfod

Students of Ayr State High School represented the cultural side of our school in the recent 2014 Burdekin Junior Eisteddfod. The concert band placed second in the concert band category, against Bowen’s junior and senior bands performing “Man in the Mirror”. The choir had a fantastic win on Monday night following the concert band, with a first place in the part chorus category (for the second year in a row), performing “Royals”, and second in novelty, with “Happy”. Not only did our choir and band do very well, our individual performers also achieved many successes. Congratulations to all competitors. Thank you to Mr Luke Jones for co-ordinating the choir and Mr Scott Laycock for conducting the concert band.

Drama Festival

Over the course of eight weeks, Ayr State High School students worked “tirelessly” to produce a marvellous performance for the Interschool Drama Festival. This year’s show guaranteed laughs and excitement with the motley crew of characters involved, as the Earth was in peril and an unlikely “hero” stepped up to save the day. Among the 40+ students, we had some stand-outs in the preparations, including Jack Vacher who wrote the script with the assistance of Jorden Chapman and Katelyn Bell; Luke Sockhill with editing and filming; others worked on costumes, alongside Mr Tom Pickersgill, and the rest continued rehearsing. Director, Mrs Stephanie Jones, would sincerely like to thank all students and staff, including Mrs Maree Milne (Stage Manager and Producer), Student Support Services, and Mr Craig Whittred who were involved in making this year’s production such a super experience. Students did a fantastic job in creating a great performance on the night. Special mentions to Jack Vacher for receiving the Director’s Choice Award, Liam Shannon with the Best Actor Award, and Nick Previtera taking out the Best Supporting Actor Award, much to his surprise. Thank you to Mrs Jones for volunteering your time and effort to give us the best performance possible, without you we couldn’t have done it. Congratulations Ayr High on another successful performance!

Upcoming Events

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<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
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<td>12 Jun</td>
<td>PISA Testing</td>
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<td>13 Jun</td>
<td>PISA Testing</td>
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<td>17 Jun</td>
<td>P&amp;C Gala Sports Dinner (Populin’s Hall, 6.30 pm)</td>
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<td>18 Jun</td>
<td>Junior Secondary Student Council Meeting (2nd Break)</td>
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<td>19 Jun</td>
<td>Student Exec Council Meeting (2nd Break)</td>
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<td>30 Jun - 11 July</td>
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<td>15 Jul</td>
<td>Senior Secondary Student Council Meeting (2nd Break)</td>
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PISA Testing at Ayr State High School
by Ms Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

The international PISA test (Programme for International Student Assessment) is the instrument that is used to assess young people’s ability to apply their knowledge and skills to real life problems and situations. Seventy-five countries participate in the test every three years. Participation in these assessments is an obligation for all schools under the Australian Education Act 2013. Ayr State High School has been selected to participate in this year’s field trial for the next round of PISA testing. Fifty-two students whose birth dates meet the requirements of the test have been randomly selected by the PISA organisation to participate in the trial. The students are in Year 10 and 11. Some are required to complete a computer based assessment on Thursday June 12 June while others will complete a paper based assessment on Friday 13 June. The students who have been selected for this testing have been advised and given an information leaflet.
Biology Camp 2014
by Natalie Holt, Year 11 student

Year 11 Biology Class survived their adventurous annual journey to Cape Hillsborough National Park just north of Mackay. The three days started off with the setting up of tents at the resort. As expected the girls were more experienced and organised, compared to the boys. However, when the locals mentioned that a 2m carpet snake resided beside our tent site we were not impressed. Wildlife surrounded us everywhere including the kangaroo, Bridget and the sausage stealing kookaburras and possums. Once our excitement was under control it was time to actually do some work. Half the class headed up the mountain to study various ecosystems with the other group going to the beach to explore Wedge Island and Orchid Rock. These studies resulted in a little data collection and a whole range of experiences including; ripped pants, rolled ankles, falling down inclines, almost being spiked by a cone fish, getting blown away by the winds and the rain. We also went to study the mangroves, learn about the recycled water plant and discovered The Hidden Valley. The mangroves had us all slipping in mud, the recycled plant wasn’t something we wanted to smell and The Hidden Valley brought out our inner rock climber abilities. On return from each outing, it was discovered that our tents weren’t actually waterproof, particularly if they are not zipped up. Coming back to a flooded tent was not what we wanted after a day of hiking. Overall, from discovering caves, sleeping in the common room to get away from the rain and studying many different ecosystems the camp was a very entertaining trip for all of us. Thanks to Mrs Brock and Mr Ballin for helping us survive the three days and making it such an memorable experience.

Show Day Holiday
Wednesday 25 June 2014

Term 2 Disco
by Jack Vacher, School Vice Captain

Earlier this term Disneyland was not the only ‘happiest place on Earth’ as Ayr State High School hosted its second disco for the year. The Disney themed disco surpassed all expectations, as students came dressed as their favourite Disney characters. Although ‘Best Dressed’ is usually a tough decision, two girls, Brooke and Emma annihilated the competition as Mr and Mrs Potato Head. The night was packed with loads of dancing and fun, along with the classic disco games including Mounts, Knights and Cavaliers, Corners and, everyone’s favourite, Body Parts. It was good to see 120+ come along to the night and we look forward to seeing even more next term. See you all there!

Year 10 Students
SET Plan Interviews
by Ms Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

In career development lessons this term Year 10 students will continue to explore the world of work, seeking those careers that best suit their personality types and researching the pathways for these careers. At the beginning of term 3 every Year 10 student together with a parent/carer will meet with one of the school leadership team to discuss their plan. At the meeting, pathways will be confirmed, having regard to the student’s latest academic results and preferred career(s). As well any subjects which are essential will be identified and other subjects may be recommended. The SET plan interview is the first step in identifying courses and subjects for 2015 and 2016. Following the interviews further information about the subjects offered at Ayr State High School will be provided for the students in their career development lessons and for parents at the subject information session. Students and parents will need to book a SET Plan interview by accessing the booking system from the school website. Go to www. ayrshs.eq.edu.au and click on Parent Teacher Interview Booking in the Quicklinks section and follow the prompts. You will be allocated one of the school leadership team available at that time.
Random Acts of Reading
by Jessica Kaminski, Year 11 Student

Novel Reviewed: The Fault in Our Stars
By: John Green
Genre: Social Realism
Age suitability: 14+ years

Who would like this book: young adult readers who enjoy tear-jerkers.

Have you ever read a book that makes you laugh on one page, only to elicit tears on the next? I have. The Fault In Our Stars, by John Green, is a beautiful, tragic story of two teenage lovers battling cancer.

The tale is narrated by 16 year old Hazel Grace Lancaster, who has terminal cancer. She is compelled to perpetually drag an oxygen tank around which supplies her with 2.5 litres of oxygen a minute because her "lungs suck at being lungs". Despite the pessimistic prognosis, Hazel's mother convinces her to get out more and join a cancer support group. Interestingly, the support group is held in a cross shaped chapel; the group sits in the centre of the cross, literally in the "heart" of Jesus. It is at this group that Hazel meets Augustus Waters, a 17 year old boy who, a year and half earlier, suffered from osteosarcoma. From their initial meeting, the novel takes the reader - and their emotions - on a roller-coaster ride through ICU and ER visits, Amsterdam, and the home of Anne Frank, all the while peppered with poignantly touching moments involving 'egging', trophies, and the critiquing of eulogies. It is the social realism and candour of the novel that ensures it resonates with readers as the characters and events seem 'real' and all-too plausible. Yet, despite the tragedies, this is a life-affirming story that is beautifully written. Green delivers some heart-squeezing moments through Augustus's powerful, but restrained, dialogue, including his declaration of love:

I'm in love with you, and I know that love is just a shout into the void, and that oblivion is inevitable, and that we're all doomed and that there will come a day when all our labor has been returned to dust, and I know the sun will swallow the only earth we'll ever have, and I am in love with you.

The novel takes an unexpected turn as Augustus, not Hazel, receives some devastating news. If you are tempted to read this novel, then my advice would be to have tissues close on hand - and a lot of them! It is safe to say that while “life is not a wish-giving factory”, John Green's debut novel comes close to granting its reader a literary boon.

World’s Greatest Shave 2014
by Nyree Woods or Deanne Ruge, Teachers

Ayr State High School Year 12 student, Cassienne Darwen, has agreed to shave her hair off for the Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave! This is a very brave decision by Cassienne in her final year of schooling, as she will have little or no hair leading into her graduation celebrations. Ayr High’s Interact club is actively supporting Cassienne’s decision by holding two major fundraisers - a cake stall and a trivia night. Other fundraisers will include change-collection tins/boxes at the tuckshop and other locations, crazy hair day, free dress day and raffles. A receipt can be provided for donations over $2.00 for taxation purposes. We currently have other students and staff members ready to support our efforts by also shaving their hair! Watch this space!

We are seeking support for Cassienne from our wider school community. Please come along and buy something delicious from our cake stall, or get a team together for our trivia night. Perhaps you are willing to cook for the cake stall or you are able to donate produce. All donations will be gratefully accepted. Donations can be dropped at the school on Friday 20 June 2014, or direct to the stall at the front of Jay Jays on Queen Street on Saturday morning 21 June 2014. (Please label any cooking with ingredients.) You can also donate online at http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/ayrstatehighschool to support Ayr State High School's fundraising efforts. For more information, contact Nyree Woods or Deanne Ruge at the school.

Date Claimers

Cake Stall: Saturday, 21 June 2014 outside Jay Jays from 8.30 am onwards.

Trivia Night: Saturday, 21 June 2014 at Ayr State High School (teams of 4)