Magnetic Island Music Camp 2012

by Chloe Webber (Year 12 Student) and Savannah Lee (Year 11 Student)

On Monday 30 April, 22 students, Mr Stucas, Mr Jones, Mrs Rachel Webber and Mrs Monica Licciardello departed for Magnetic Island Outdoor Recreation Centre where the 2012 Music Camp was held. We had the opportunity to take another ferry ride on day two to see the American Navy Band perform in the Townsville Mall. What an experience! They were fantastic! Back at rehearsals that afternoon, saw an inspired group perform like never before! Our trivia night was so much fun with Red Bandits taking the winner medallions. A big thank you to Mr Jones for the challenging yet entertaining questions and Mrs Webber for the prizes. Monica Licciardello worked hard with the choir to prepare their eisteddfod item while also entertaining the kitchen staff. A jam session from Mr Jones, Nick Gray, Jordan Scarabel, Jessie Shaw and Adam Dudley drew the crowds and staff from the Centre who said Ayr High was the best group they’ve ever had. They were impressed with our behaviour, cleanliness and of course our talent. The Music students of 2012 would like to say a big thank you to Mr Stucas for organising the camp and a BIG THANK YOU to the Music Support Group for funding our camp and the amazing visit to the Navy Band. We had a great time!
From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No. 8 25/05/12

Last week we saw all our Year 9 students successfully complete the NAPLAN test process. By the end of the tests the students were weary but confident that they had given a good account of themselves against the national benchmark. Well done to all the students and teachers especially Mr Ken Herbert, who was the teacher in charge.

I have spoken about attendance before as being crucial to a child’s success at school. Participation in all classes is another key factor to gaining a quality education. I have informed all students that their primary role at the school is to take advantage of the quality teachers we have at Ayr State High School. We have begun meetings with students who are not participating in a satisfactory manner, and involved their parents. These meetings ask for the students to ‘show cause’ as to why they should remain enrolled at Ayr State High School. We will then looking for improvements in the student’s participation in class and completion of assessment tasks. If no improvement is shown, the student will have their enrolment cancelled. This is a commitment to high expectations and to ensuring that the classrooms are productive learning places, free of distractions for all students.

In the last week I have had conversations with a number of concerned parents inquiring about the school’s stance on allowing mobile phone usage at school. Mobile phones, electronic media and social networking sites like Facebook create a large amount of distractions for our students at school and I am sure at home. At this point in time mobile phones are allowed at school and can be used by students before and after school and during the breaks. Mobile phones provide a useful contact with children for parents but are not an essential part of school equipment, and it is up to parents to decide whether or not their child brings a phone to school. I encourage all parents of students with phones to periodically check the content of their child’s phone. Check texts, photos and videos to ensure your child has not sent or received any inappropriate messages or multimedia files. If you are concerned about the school’s current stance on mobile phones and electronic media I encourage you to come to our next Ayr State High School P&C Association meeting on Monday 28 May.

Finally, congratulations to the Music Department, with our Concert Band and Jazz Band taking out 1st and 2nd places at Monday night’s Eisteddfod, while the Choir was awarded two 3rd places. Well done guys!!!

Yours in education
Craig Whittred
Principal

Interact Club
by Bridget Sloan - Community Service Vice Captain/Interact President

What has Ayr State High School’s Interact Club been up to lately, you may ask? Well firstly, we continued the recent tradition of providing the students of Ayr High with chocolate goods for the Easter Season. Not only did our members work hard to select, package, sell and deliver presents but we also took it as part of our duty to instil some spirit into the students by dressing up as the Easter Bunny! The hard work of the students has once again raised money which is going to be given to a yet to be decided charity.

Since then, the club has been working closely with Mrs Vollema-Creek, who organised the 75th Jubilee Open Day, held on Saturday 5 May. Dedicated Interact Club members gave up their Saturday to sell Ayr High Memorabilia to the past students. A great job was done by all the members who attended and some past students have voiced how very much they appreciated the effort! Finally, what’s coming up? The club is now in the process of planning for Ayr State High School’s Sports Carnival, at which we provide students with beverages and snacks. We are also beginning planning for our major charity event for the year; keep an eye out for details!
Term 2 Disco - ‘Rags to Riches’

by Josh Great, School Captain

Slums....camera.....ACTION!!
From bogans to celebrities to a wolf-like saviour and garbage bagged tragics, the students of Ayr High once again rolled in high participation numbers for a great night at the Term 2 Disco. With around 220 students flooding through the doors and impressive costumes to boot, the Student Council fundraiser was a complete success. The contrasting theme, Rags to Riches, provided scope for the students to delve into their imagination with Gareth ‘The Lady’s Gentleman’ Modra and Jaidyn ‘The Lady’s Lady’ Penny taking out best dressed for the night. A number of lucky door prizes were also drawn throughout the night. The usual ‘Knights, Mounts, Cavaliers’ and ‘Body Parts Game’ provided an entertaining aura while the ‘Rags to Riches Relay’ made for a laugh. Congratulations to Katurah Saunders and Natalie Holt (K,M,C Winners), Adam Dudley and Jack Vacher (Body Game Winners) and Riley Southwood (Relay winner).

The night’s success would not have been possible without the fantastic prizes provided by our sponsors. The Student Council would like to thank Red Rooster Ayr, Eathorne’s Sportspower, Burdekin Delta Cinema, EB Games Ayr, Burdekin Motorcycles, The Coffee Club, Just Add Lipstick, Bridge News, Burdekin Natural Healing, Coco House, Dal Salto’s Delicatessen, George Fotinos Chemist, Glen Dell, Headlines, Hippy Heaven, I Spy It, Jo’s Gifts and Linen, Julie’s Pharmacy, La Shu, Marissa’s Day Spa, Selections, Shu-topia, Target and Tiffany’s Nail and Footspa. The Term 3 disco is bound to be just as much fun – keep an eye out for more information!

Musical Update!

by Miss Maree Longworth, Director

Rehearsals are well under way for the performance of The Great Australian Rock Musical. Thank you to the parents who have been travelling to and from school picking up the cast after rehearsals! Here are some reminders for parents and cast.

Working Bees
A reminder that the sewing bee is on Saturday 2 June and Sunday 3 June from 9 am in the A32 sewing room at Ayr State High School. Parent help is needed, no matter the skill level! There is also a construction bee on Saturday 9 June at the Lighthouse Theatre with Mr Peter Jensen and Mr Chris Milne from 10 am to piece the stage together for rehearsals. If you can attend either one of these working bees, please let Miss Maree Longworth know through email; mlong74@eq.edu.au.

Rehearsals
The rehearsals are every Tuesday and Thursday from 3.15 – 5.15 pm, however there have been students who have been consistently absent. Attendance is essential: those who miss vital rehearsal time will find themselves too far behind to catch up on what has been missed.

Starting 27 May, there will be Sunday afternoon rehearsals from 1 - 4 pm at the MPS with Miss Longworth. These rehearsals are not optional and notice will be given to let students know which groups/item numbers will be needed for the day. The rehearsal times will change as we progress. Thank you to the cast for your patience during rehearsals!
Work Experience Wrap Up

by Mrs Vicki Toohey, Year 11 Work Experience Co-ordinator

Once again our year 11 students have participated in work experience in the Burdekin and Townsville district. Almost 100 students were placed with employers in order to help the students make decisions about their career paths. Many students have commented that the days spent on the job have helped clarify their ambitions beyond school. Jessie Shaw is interested in studying Marine Biology at university after school. Her work experience was for a consultancy practice in Townsville. “I had no idea that this type of opportunity was available in the environmental field,” she said. “This week has been a great opportunity to see how university study is actually used in real projects, like the Port of Townsville and the North Queensland Gas Pipeline.” Some students are now following up on school based apprenticeships and one student has already accepted an offer of a full time apprenticeship. Congratulations to those students who participated and presented themselves so well to employers. Thank you to Mrs Vartuli, who found the students placements which reflected their Senior Education and Training Plans.

Year 10 & 12 English Excursion - Romeo and Juliet

by Miss Maree Longworth, English Teacher

On Friday, 11 May, 100 excited Year 10 students and 50 Year 12 students travelled to the Lighthouse Theatre to watch Zen Zen Zo’s production of Romeo and Juliet. This term, the Year 10 students have been studying the classic Shakespeare text with a practical teaching focus. The text will be adapted and performed by the students, rather than just read for its textual merit, and students have been viewing a range of different adaptations and perspectives on the text. For the majority of the students, this was the first time they had seen a live performance of Romeo and Juliet.

The students piled into the theatre to watch the entire play told in one hour by three talented actors who played multiple roles. Students saw these three actors transform an English classroom to the world of Romeo and Juliet, using classroom chairs as swords and death beds. From their reaction, the students enjoyed the afternoon watching quality theatre! The teachers would like to thank the Burdekin Singers for their use of their theatre for the afternoon.

Student testimonials:
I liked the passion of the play, it was well rehearsed and fun to watch. (Malcolm McCoombe)
I liked how real it looked with all different characters and how they only used a couple of actors to make the whole six characters they played. (Stefanie Squires)
I really liked how they could take such old writing and put it into a modern concept. (Anna Wood)
It was shame when they kissed. (Jorden Chapman)

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Layout and Design - Victoria Augustis
School Laptop and Computer Review
by Mrs Vicki Toohey, HOD - Business IT & Humanities

At present Ayr State High School has over 400 laptops and a further 100 desktop computers for student use. All students access computer technology either through the school Laptop Take-Home Program or by accessing laptops on trolleys or computer labs at school. The maintenance and general health of the devices must be a shared responsibility between students, teachers and parents.

How can Students help?
1. Use equipment appropriately
2. Report equipment that is damaged or not functioning properly to the school’s computer technician
3. Ensure that laptops are returned to trolleys and the laptop is connected to power for charging
4. Students in the laptop take-home program are required to bring their laptop to school, fully powered, every day. It is not reasonable to expect to use other laptops or desktops at school when participating in the take-home program
5. Food and drinks should not be consumed near laptops or computers
6. Laptops should never be carried with the screen open
7. Laptops should be properly shut down before being placed in the bag
8. Screens are fragile and should not be poked, or lent on when the lid is closed.

How can Teachers help?
1. Monitor student access to computers
2. Restrict access to school computers to those students in the take-home program
3. Integrate the use of computers into lessons to maximise the resource and build student skills
4. Report faults to the school’s computer technician
5. Follow the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students for inappropriate use of resources.

How can Parents help?
1. Encourage students to back up data whether at home or at school
2. Ensure students take their laptop to school, fully charged, every day if in the take-home program
3. Keep food or drinks away from the laptop when being used at home
4. Encourage students to use laptop responsibly at home
5. Encourage students to report faults to the school’s computer technician
6. Contact ACER help line for additional help.

New outdoor furniture
by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek

In April, four new outdoor tables and chairs were installed by Mr Jensen’s Year 11 Construction class. The tables were purchased with the money won by the 2009 and 2010 Crimestopper teams and the money won last year from the ANZAC Day Schools Award. The main purpose was to increase seating for students undercover, out of the sun and rain. The construction students were responsible for putting them together and bolting them to the ground. The new tables are located near the drink taps in A Block, under the walkway between A and B Blocks and underneath C block near the internal stairwell.

Maths & Science Tutoring
Wednesday 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?

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

English Tutoring
Senior English
Wednesday at 8 am in B5
Junior English
Wednesday at 3.15 - 4.15 in B5

Wanted
For School Musical
70’s or 80’s model
Ford XA - XD or
Holden HQ - HX Sedan or Ute.
Any condition.
Please phone 4790 4333.

School Jumpers in 2012
- 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.
World No Tobacco Day
Thursday 31 May 2012

The aim of World No Tobacco Day is to raise awareness about the health problems that tobacco use can cause. The global tobacco epidemic kills nearly six million people each year, of which more than 600,000 are people exposed to second hand smoke (World Health Organisation).

Some of the health implications associated with smoking include:
- Increased risk of lung, bladder, pancreatic, mouth, oesophageal and other cancers;
- reduces fertility
- contributes to thin bones
- affects mental capacity and memory
- increases likelihood of impotence
- affects ability to smell and taste
- results in low birth weight, premature babies
- increases the risk of depression in adolescents
- increases risk of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure; increases risk of diabetes
- reduces levels of folate, low levels of which can increase the risk of heart disease, depression and Alzheimer’s Disease.

Here are some handy hints to help you quit smoking!
Make an honest list of all the things you like about smoking; make another list of why quitting won’t be easy; write down all the reasons for quitting; keep a list of when you smoke, what you are doing at the time and how bad the craving; prepare a list of things to do when this craving hits; when your quit date arrives, throw out anything that reminds you of smoking; instead of a cigarette break at work, play a game of solitaire on your computer; switch to a cup of herbal tea whenever you usually have a cigarette; to minimise cravings, change your routine; create a smoke-free zone; tell your friends, coworkers, boss, partner, kids that you are trying to quit; if you relapse, just start again; put all the money you’re saving into a large glass jar; find a health snack to have instead of having a smoke.

Every cigarette is doing you damage. If you smoke, you are damaging your lungs and your overall health.

Stay in control.
Cassandra, School Based Youth Health Nurse

Attention
Year 11 Maths and Science Students

The following opportunities are available.

Engineering Camp @ JCU – for all those students interested in studying engineering. Three day residential in beginning of Term 3.
National Youth Science Forum in Canberra – 14 days residential in January next year for students interested in science/technology or maths. See Josh Great in Year 12 for further info.
Science in the Tropics @ JCU – five day residential in the June/July holidays.

For applications and further info – contact Mr Flynn (HOD – Maths & Science).
A number of quality students are in the process of applying for these wonderful opportunities. Closing dates are fast approaching.

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.