Biology Camp 2012  
- We Survived!  
by Mrs Brock’s Year 11 Biology Class

Recently Year 11 Biology students and teachers, Mr Ballin and Mrs Brock, headed south to Cape Hillsborough National Park to what would be an awesome meteorological experience! Upon arrival buses were hastily unpacked and tents erected before we donned walking shoes and our trusty $2 rain ponchos to catch the last bit of sunlight and see what marine life we could observe. With clouds rolling in and light quickly fading we swiftly jotted down botanical notes about She-Oaks and Lichens then got into the more adventurous activities of braving barnacle covered rocks and incoming tides. With Bear Ballin in the lead and Mrs Brock coaching from behind we were proud to climb Orchid Rock and observe fluorescent bacteria. However, on arrival back at camp we were shocked to find tents full of water! After the passing storm and some book work we again dressed like 17 colourful Tellitubbies and departed on our night walk and bat cave exploration.

Day two dawned gloomy, cold and windy so we evacuated to the cosy Prep-room and set up camp. Whilst Mrs Brock worked the clothes driers overtime getting our towels and sleeping bags dry Mr Ballin tried to educate us about the mangrove environment that was battling the elements somewhere close by! By mid-day the “Extreme weather event” had passed and we headed into the mangroves and forest to act like real Biologists and gather some data. The late afternoon saw us wearily head up the mountain on our last 4 km walk to collect soil samples and temperature readings. We were so pleased that the rain stayed away for the two hours. After dinner the sky opened again and we bunked down in the Prep-room thankful that we weren’t in the soggy tents.

Day three we wrapped up soaked tents and loaded the mini-buses happy with our experiences but relieved to be heading north to sunny Ayr!

People to People Homestay  
by Ms Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

Students visiting Australian from USA will once again enjoy a homestay visit with families in the Burdekin. We are seeking host families for nineteen students from Saturday afternoon on 14 July to Monday morning 16 July - a two nights stay. The students are aged between 15 and 18. Please contact the school office if you would like to host an American school student. Your assistance will provide significant funds for the P&C Association.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA - THE EXHIBITION

Step through the wardrobe and discover the science and wonder of Narnia. Only in Sydney at the Powerhouse Museum until 26 August 2012.  
Contact Harvey World Travel Ayr to design your own package!

For Bookings Contact Pierina, Timmone, Susan, Rosanne or Katarnya or contact us now via Facebook!
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 Islander people who have lived, worked and contributed to the cultural heritage of our community.

From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal

I have had the opportunity to see our students rehearsing for this year’s musical. It is terrific to see students from all year levels participating and from the sneak peeks I have had so far it looks like it will be an outstanding show! It is also great to see and hear about the number of parents who are supporting the production in many ways. As we all know a musical is a real community event and it won’t be a success if we don’t have support from right across our school community.

Monday evening past was our last P&C meeting and as with all volunteer organisations our P&C is finding it difficult to find people willing to give up their valuable time. At present the P&C has been unable to fill its’ Treasurers position. The P&C’s structure has a dedicated Canteen Treasurer which has a high volume of transactions whereas the Treasurer position has a low volume of transactions and is less demanding of time. The P&C meets once a month and has recently passed a motion that meetings will only go for a maximum of an hour and a half. So if you have 4 or 5 hours a month spare and have a basic knowledge of accounting principles we really need your support. If you are interested please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Last Friday I was very pleased to attend an information meeting about the creation of a community mentor program for students at Ayr State High School. The program is part of the federal Governments “Closing the Gap” initiatives. These are being enacted by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multi-Cultural Affairs. So far we have a number of indigenous and non-indigenous students who have volunteered to be a mentor. The program will focus on supporting students to attend school and through their transition to work. Even though we are finding it is primarily an initiative to work with indigenous students the group has committed to work with both indigenous and non-indigenous students to help support all students within our school.

Expressions of interest will come out to students for those wishing to be placed with a mentor and the program will be up and running in early term 3. It has been said that it takes a whole village to educate a child and this is an outstanding example of community working with the school to make a real difference in young people’s lives. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or would like to find out more about the program please feel free to contact me at school.

As the students come into end of semester assessment time I would like to remind students to plan their time, prioritise their work to ensure timelines are met but also allow time to rest and recuperate. This means getting plenty of sleep and regular exercise to help with stress and to keep your mind sharp and focused. Over studying can be as adverse to your results as under preparing. You need to find a balance in your study and leisure time which is best managed through a planned study program that ensures you are not trying to cram or do all-nighters to complete assessment.

Yours in Education

Craig Whittred
Principal

IT Update #9
Music, Video and Game Files

Copyright is a very important concept to remember when storing files on your laptop. Remember that the storage of personal music and video files should be kept on an external device to avoid being deleted during a laptop audit. This also applies to software required to run programs that are not installed by the school. If a licence cannot be produced to prove ownership, expect the software to be removed.

Year 9’s are going back to their early days!
by Miss Maree Longworth, Drama Teacher

This term, the Year 9 Drama class are studying Children’s Theatre, which involves plays aimed at young children aged from 4 – 7. These plays use different techniques to engage younger audiences such as magic tricks, songs, dancing and bubbles. The students are performing their own devised script for Mrs Southwood’s prep students at Ayr State School. They have chosen various themes to perform, such as teaching the young students how to walk home safely and use traffic lights.

On Tuesday, the Year 9 students walked down to visit the prep class to meet the students and see where they will be performing. The Year 9’s were lucky enough to spend the afternoon with the prep students who sung them songs and took them through an obstacle course. The Year 9 Drama students loved helping the prep students and couldn’t help gushing at how small they all were!

The students are travelling down to Ayr State School again on Tuesday 12 June to complete their final performances so stay tuned for more photos! Well done Year 9 Drama!
adidas School Fun Run - Fundraising
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

Once again the students of Ayr High put on their running shoes to raise money to boost sporting facilities through sponsorship of the adidas School Fun Run. The event was held earlier this Term (Wednesday 18 April) but we have only just received confirmation of money raised. The students put in a fantastic effort to raise $1301.10. Students sought sponsorship from family, friends and members of the community. Past money raised has helped finance or subsidise such things as sports uniforms, sports team bus costs and various pieces of sports equipment. Special thanks go to the highest fundraiser Bailey Towers (Year 9) who raised $75 and to 8D who was the highest fundraising class with $257.15. Prizes have been distributed to eager students through year level assemblies this week and each participating student has received a certificate. The sports department would like to thank all the teachers, parents and students that were involved in making the adidas School Fun Run such a huge success and a big thank you to all the sponsors who supported our athletes.

NQ Cross Country Trials
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

On Tuesday 22 May, nine Ayr High students travelled to Townsville to compete at the North Queensland Cross Country Trials. Students who finished in the top 6 for their age group qualified for the NQ squad. Kyla Pringle ran extremely well to finish 3rd in the U14 girls and therefore qualified for the NQ squad. Special mentions must go to the other eight students who competed extremely well to finish in the top 25, with many just missing a spot on the NQ team by a couple of places. Results were: Joel Mason (8th), Shannahiah King (9th), Liam Vitale (20th), Josiah Ballin (19th), Keely Great (9th), Tayla Heuir (24th), Hollie Grant (8th) and Daniel McConnachie (8th). Kyla will now travel to Maroochydore in July to compete at the State Championships. All students are to be congratulated on their performances and enthusiastic participation.

Year 10 students contemplate their future
by Miss Maree Longworth

The day had come for the Year 10’s to go to Townsville for the annual Careers Expo, however they were washed out! The Year 10’s had to wait about four weeks to go and finally the day had arrived. One hundred Year 10 students along with Mr Milne, Miss Longworth, Miss Carrigan and Mr Baxter piled into buses to Townsville where students were able to walk around with other schools from the region and think about their futures. Different stalls were set up, each representing a different career. The students had fun at numerous stalls such as; the hairdressing stalls where they could use spray paint to colour their hair, the mechanic workshop which was set up like a car racing pit stop and the bricklaying section. Students had free range of the activities and most walked away with a good understanding of a career direction and were all extremely excited about the free goodies in their showbag! The day was completed with a trip to Hungry Jacks and KFC where the students were excellent ambassadors, with exceptional behaviour. Well done to the Year 10’s on the day for their behaviour and a big thank you to the teachers who supervised the day, including Mr Milne who organized the event.
Tips For Managing Stress During Exam Time

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.

Helping to reduce exam stress

Study Habits
The more prepared you are the less stressed you will be. Try these ideas:
• 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.

Staying in control

Cassandra, School Based Youth Health Nurse

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

Reports will be completed in the final week of term. Checking and finalising will occur during the holidays so that the reports can be issued to students on Wednesday 11 July - the first Wednesday in term 3. Parent/Student/Teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday 17 July from 5 pm to 8 pm. Instructions for booking interviews with teachers will be issued with the school report. Parents who cannot attend on 17 July will be able to make alternative arrangements.