The Interhouse Athletics Carnival was held over four days of competition with the main carnival on Friday 2 August. The previous week saw the running of the 3000m and the 1500m on Wednesday, with both events highly participated. The field events were held mid-day Thursday, with a strong competitive spirit across the houses. The stage was now set for the track, standard and novelty events at Friday’s Carnival.

The day started with the traditional house skits with plenty of passion shown with the war-cries. Throughout the day, Banks led the charge with their enthusiasm, passion and support of team-mates, taking out the spirit stick. As the Carnival progressed it came down to two houses, Cook and Phillip, battling it out for first and second place. It then came down to Macquarie and Banks to fight it out for third and fourth place as the lead at the top grew greater. Cook eventually took a stranglehold on the competition winning for the fifth straight year. Phillip finished in second place with Macquarie and Banks third and fourth respectively. The final scores were Cook - 2116, Phillip - 1872, Macquarie - 1696, Banks - 1416. There were nine records broken over the carnival. Congratulations to the following students – Noeleen Vaevae Pare (U14 Shot Put); Alix Leckenby (U14 Javelin); Karina Thompson (U15 200m); Liam Shannon (U15 3000m); Zoie Borellini (U16 Javelin); Molly Barbagallo (U16 Shot Put); Dejanee Lampton (U19 Shot Put); Jamahl White (U19 Long Jump); Daniel McConnachie (U19 3000m). Congratulations must go to the age champions who delivered outstanding performances, particularly Jordan Zabel (U15) who won the “Individual Athletics Champion” trophy which recognizes the highest points scorer of the Carnival. Jordan finished with 122 points. Special mention to Majella Monday (U13) who finished with 115 points and Zoie Borellini with 113 points. A squad will be selected from this carnival and will compete at the Burdekin Interschool Athletics Carnival on Friday 23 August at Ayr State High School.

The success of the carnival was due to the enthusiastic input of House Captains, Year 12 students and house teachers and many school staff who helped in preparing, supervising or officiating. They are thanked for their efforts as are Mrs Vicky Bromham and Mr Jamie Vacher and the band of students who provided food and drinks for the day and the Ayr Lifesaving Club and A & B Rural for the use of their tents. Special thanks goes to Mr Shane Baxter, House Captains, Year 12 PE class, Year 9B HPE class, Mr Alan Henaway (Groundskeeper), Miss Victoria Augustis and the many students who helped in preparation of the carnival. Your efforts are appreciated.
From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No. 9 09/08/13

Congratulations to Cook for their resounding win in the athletics carnival last week. The carnival was a great success due to the great work and effort Ms Carrigan puts into organising everything down to the last tee. I would also like to thank the students who attended. It was a great day and they all participated and competed in great spirits which was fantastic to see. Congratulations also goes to Banks who won the Spirit Stick.

At Ayr State High School our motto is “We strive for better things” and as the leader of the school my firm focus is on improving learning outcomes for all students.

The first step in improving outcomes for most students is to ensure that they have a high level of attendance at school. Recently we have made changes to our Assessment Policy to reflect the highest standards of the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA). This change links attendance to the ability to be given credit for a semester of study. The QSA advises that for a student to be given credit for a subject they need to “reasonably participate” in all aspects of that subject. If a student’s attendance of a subject falls below 85% we will consider them at risk of not being given credit for that subject.

Exemptions will apply to school sanctioned absences involving industry placement, curriculum excursions and school sporting events. If a student is found to be below the 85% attendance their parents/carers will be contacted and a plan will be made to improve attendance.

In the same vein we have tracked students who have an unsatisfactory rating for “Effort” in three or more subjects. We will be contacting these students and their parents to develop strategies for improved performance.

Not all students are academically inclined but they have control of success in one area and that is, effort. Our Learner Code asks students to be safe, display respect, and always produce their personal best. If students have chosen appropriate subjects and are displaying their personal best we feel that every student is capable of success.

Effort or work ethic is a key area that all employers look for in an employee and as we strive for improved outcomes for all students we will be asking students to develop that work ethic in their studies.

Our goal is for 100% of students to successfully complete schooling. We will be working together with students and families in an effort to reach that goal.

Finally, on Friday 16 August, we have the official opening of our Art in Context visual art exhibition. We will have student artwork from Years 8 through to Year 12 on display. The exhibition will be at Zaro Cultural Gallery with the opening night running from 6-9 pm.

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The artworks will be displayed for the following week.

Last year’s exhibition was absolutely outstanding and I encourage everyone to come and see the art work of our fantastically talented students artworks.

Yours in education

Craig Whittred
Principal

Legal Studies Guest Speaker
by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek, SOSE Co-ordinator

On Friday afternoon the Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies students welcomed a special guest speaker, former Ayr High Legal Studies student, Rachelle Floriani, a professional solicitor. The students were captivated by the stories Rachelle told them about her prestigious job. I undoubtedly speak on behalf of the entire class when I say that we all learned a lot of interesting things from Rachelle and gained an enormous insight into the legal profession.

Donations of Formal Uniforms
We would appreciate the donation of any girls/boys formal school uniforms. Items of clothing can be left at the school office or given to Ms Aleksic.

P&C Meeting
Monday 2 September 2013
7.30 pm, Resource Centre

Music Support Group Meeting
Monday 19 August 2013
7.30 pm, A12. All welcome.

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

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.

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Bingo
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Merinda Greenwood, Tiffany Anscombe, Jacinta Kingsley, Caitlin Bohl, Katrelle Granshaw, Rachelle Floriani, Lauren Myles, Adelle McAllister, Veronica Creek, Breanna Ritchie, Anna Saunders
Interhouse Athletics Records:

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<td></td>
<td>Daniel McConnachie</td>
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Back LtoR: Jamahl White, Liam Shannon
Front LtoR: Molly Barbagallo, Alix Leckenby, Noeleen Vaevae Pare, Dejanee Lampton, Karina Thompson, Zoie Borellini
Absent: Daniel McConnachie

2013 STEM Camp
by Matthew Wight, Year 11 Student

Over the June holidays I attended a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics camp at the Queensland University of Technology. I, along with eighty lucky students from across Queensland, was selected to attend this prestigious camp. We were given full access to QUT’s cutting edge facilities, and the opportunity to talk with current honours student, lecturers and Deans. I was lucky enough to spend three days in the Microbiology and Biochemistry labs and experienced what it is like to solve a crime through DNA analysis. It was a wonderful opportunity and I thank everyone who played a role in getting me there. I would definitely encourage future students to take any opportunities provided to them by the school and the wider community.

Anyone for a Laptop?
by Mrs Vicki Toohey, HOD - Business, IT & Humanities

Due to the school receiving sixty-seven tablets from the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund last term, there are now additional Acer laptops available for students who still wish to join the school’s laptop program. Information about the program can be collected from the school’s office. Students are required to return the signed Charter with a payment of $50 which covers the use of the laptop for the rest of the year. Parents MUST ensure they read the warranty and damages pages of the booklet to be fully aware of the responsibility of the user. If students are in Year 11 or 12 they may be eligible to receive one of the new tablet devices. Existing take-home laptop program participants have the opportunity to swap their existing laptop for the tablet at no extra charge, whereas students new to the program must pay the $50 fee.

Maths Misconceptions Workshop @ Ayr High
by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Science & Mathematics

The research shows clearly that misconceptions, particularly in the area of number, have a negative effect on student success and confidence in maths. As a result, twenty-three staff from the school recently attended a very intense two and half hour workshop on identifying and dealing with student misconceptions in maths. This workshop was hosted by teacher and researcher Tierney Kennedy and included lots of practical examples of helping students develop their mathematical understanding and confidence.

As well, Tierney conducted lessons with some of our Year 8 maths classes to demonstrate to the observing teachers what the strategies look like when dealing with a class of students. Congratulations to the Year 8 students who participated enthusiastically in the activities and were receptive to the visiting teachers observing their classes. This work is part of an ongoing process of professional development in maths teaching at Ayr High in order to help students with their learning.

Mathematics Websites you could use at home

Would you like a list of mathematics website which you could access at home to help with tutoring your child? Senior Mathematics teacher Mr Rod Williams has compiled a list of useful websites - most of which are free to access. To receive a copy of the weblinks send an email to Mr Williams (rwill176@eq.edu.au).

If you have found any useful website yourself then please email the url to him so he can add it to his list.

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Experiencing the Uni Life
by Breanna Ritchie, Year 12 Student

On Thursday 18 July we had an early morning bus trip to Townsville for the annual James Cook University Experience. We were immediately overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of students from different schools. We all squeezed into the huge auditorium and split into the different courses which included Arts, Language, Business, Creative Arts, Education, Engineering, Information Technology, Law, Medicine, Multimedia Journalism, Nursing and Midwifery, Pharmacy, Psychology, Social Work and Sciences including Social, Sport and Exercise, Rehabilitation and Veterinary and Biomedical Science.

Each course fulfilled the students’ expectations and gave them an insight into that field of work. Lunch brought us a free domino’s pizza to share between two, meaning the Uni only had to provide 500 pizzas - no biggie. We shared the best moments from our first session and the people who attended ‘Nursing and Midwifery’ had a hands-on experience of delivering a ‘baby’… lucky kids! After lunch, we were split again to attend our second preference of choice to get a better idea of Uni life.

We finally boarded the bus back to Ayr, and sadly the reality hit that we had to return to school tomorrow. We would like to thank James Cook University for putting on the day and giving us motivation to finish school. We now know that university isn’t just about making friends but about independent learning and helping us to successfully reach our goals. Thanks to Mr Johnson for organising and co-ordinating the trip which turned out to be a fantastic and informative day.

Smart(er) Media Centre
by Mrs Vicki Toohey, HOD - Business, IT & Humanities

Although Ayr State High School operates a take-home laptop program, there is still a need for computer labs, particularly for subjects that require the use of high-end resources and larger screen resolution. Students in Information Technology, Graphics and Business subjects using programs such as Photoshop, Flash, Sony Vegas and Autodesk now have access to these facilities through the replacement desktop machines in the Smart Media Centre. The machines feature 8GB RAM, faster processors and much to the students’ delight, 20 inch LCD monitors.