Charley Bates Solar Astronomy Project visits Ayr High

by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Maths/Science

On Thursday 12 June, Stephen Ramsden from the USA visited our school with local astronomer Rob Black to work with our Year 8 and 9 Science students. Students had the opportunity to listen to a lecture about the sun followed by a viewing through different telescopes that filter the different wavelengths of light coming from the sun. As a result students were able to see sunspots, solar flares and prominences. Students were well behaved and very interested in the experience and also appreciated the ‘free gifts’ of solar glasses, CD’s and posters.

At lunch time, students from Year 10 - 12 also joined in viewing the sun and talking with Stephen. Our school has been very lucky to have access to such astronomers and over $60000 worth of equipment that is now permanently housed here in the Burdekin for future students to utilise. Thanks to Rob Black for organising the experience for our students.

STEM Success in 2014

by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Maths/Science

Congratulations to Luke Sockhill and Liam Shannon who have both been successful in gaining a place at the prestigious Queensland University of Technology STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Program in October. The boys follow on from Matt Wight who attended last year. They will test-drive their university ambitions during the five day camp in Brisbane. The organisers from QUT were impressed by both boys’ applications and consequently selected them both to attend instead of the usual one we would expect from a school our size.

The QUT Vice-Chancellor’s STEM Program will give top school students from around Queensland the opportunity to apply their creativity and investigative skills to a range of current topics including environmental issues, problems in medicine, food and energy sectors as well as IT security. In addition to QUT experts, some of Queensland’s top engineers, scientists, mathematicians, architects and IT leaders will mentor the students during the week.

We thank and acknowledge the significant contribution that QUT makes to our students with all costs (travel, accommodation and program) being fully funded for both boys.

HELLO ONE&ONLY HAYMAN ISLAND

Celebratory opening offer saving of up to 25% on regular room rates. From $1,169* per person, twin share.

Travel Dates: 1 July – 30 September 2014

Includes: 3 nights at One&Only Hayman Island in a Hayman Lagoon Room, return airport luxury launch transfers including refreshments and champagne, full buffet breakfast daily. Offers end 31 July 2014, unless sold out prior. Availability is limited.
As we come towards the end of Semester 1 all of our students are hard at work completing their assessment. I wish all the students the best with their assessment and know that the hard work that they have put in over the semester will pay off now. I want to thank our school community for its efforts to improve our school’s attendance rates. The Success for All policy has been able to improve attendance rates across every year level boosting the school’s average attendance rate to 93% an improvement of almost 5%! At the heart of the Success for All policy is not only the improvement of school data but the improvement in outcomes for each individual student. Attending every class, every day is the first step to success. Next semester we are planning to lift the bar on student engagement. Student engagement means actively participating in all classes, completing a reasonable amount of work throughout the lesson, completing all homework tasks, and submitting all assessment items on time, including drafts. Ensuring every student is attending every day, every class and participating will maximise our students’ abilities to achieve their goals. More information will shared with both parents and students next semester on how we will operationalize the next step in the Success for All Students policy.

This week we had over 150 interested parents attend our Year 6 into 7 & 7 into 8 Information Evening. This was a great turn out at which we shared how Ayr State High School is preparing for the Year 7 and 8 transition to the high school for the first time in 2015. We are working very hard on ensuring our Junior Secondary phase of school is of the highest quality. We had Athletics Carnival nominations were held this week in preparation for our Athletics Carnival in Week 2 next term. Obviously the Banks house looks very strong this year as well as Cook and Macquarie – come on guys we can’t let two “Blue” teams win this year! I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday and I am keen to see everyone back for Semester 2 ready to continue on our journey of improvement.

Yours in Education
Craig Whittred
Principal

Student Photos for Graduation
by Miss Deanne Ruge, Year 12 Co-ordinator

Year 12 students are asked to provide a range of 10 photos for the multimedia presentation to be shown at Graduation. These photos should show the students from babies to Year 7 (Ayr SHS ID photos will be used for secondary school photos – please provide others from different schools if necessary), and should clearly focus on the student in question so that they are easy to identify. Photos that are humorous or are a clear reflection of the nature of the student in question are the best ones to provide. Please provide either very high quality scans or the originals of the images as soon as possible - photos must be provided by the end of Term 3 at the latest, but the earlier they are submitted, the more time I will have to work my magic!

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.

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

Students and parents are reminded that they 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.

Ayr Show Day Holiday
Wednesday 25 July 2014

ASHS Music Support Group
Bingo
Saturday 2.00 pm
Anglican Church Hall
Jackpots $400, $300, $200

P&C Meeting
Monday 7 July 2014
7.30 pm, Resource Centre

Download the free QSchool App to stay connected to news and events.
Student Wellbeing Focus
by Mr Andrew Ballin, HOD - Student Support Services & HPE

Wellbeing Focus: Self Esteem and Self Confidence

Self-Esteem and Self-Confidence are concepts that we often hear about, but are not widely understood for their true worth.

True self-esteem is the essential element of good mental health because it is understanding and accepting who we are, and who we are becoming. It allows us to take up a role in life that can offer us the satisfaction of being comfortable and confident in ourselves and therefore ultimately benefit those around us. It is also about knowing where we are up to in our personal growth and development.

It is not about “talking ourselves up” or pretence. Signs that our self-image or mental health might need attention are things like:

• a reluctance to try new things
• adopting a ‘victim’ mentality of blaming others for our performance
• preferring to be alone more than usually and on social networking excessively
• being easily upset, temperamental or thinking inconsistently
• being obsessed with unimportant and irrelevant things
• losing our assertiveness, ‘shine’ or presence as people
• being self-obsessed or selfish
• not enjoying the challenge of striving to continually make our best better.

Whilst all of us go through difficult times, finding ourselves trapped in these mindsets regularly is a problem that needs to be addressed.

As we discussed in last Ayring article, parenting and teaching should include role modelling of good resilience strategies. There is nothing wrong with young people seeing us deal with stress, problems and failure. In being exposed to that, they learn how to approach times of trial in their own lives. This is no guarantee that students will make the right choices themselves every time, but it will guarantee they have a choice in how they respond or behave.

For young people to successfully negotiate the challenges of adolescence and schooling they require a healthy sense of self-esteem and self-confidence. Cultivating resilient habits and positive growth mindsets in our students is something that we need to focus on in our every action and every word every day to ensure they develop a belief in their self-worth and value as a person.

It’s all about helping them to not only ‘do the right thing’ but also ‘do the thing right’.

Reporting for SOSE in Semesters 1 and 2
by Vicki Toohey, HOD - Business, IT/Humanities

After introducing the Australian History Curriculum in Years 8-10 in 2013, the school has now introduced the Australian Geography Curriculum in Years 8 and 9 as well. This has occurred on a rotation basis which means that not all students are studying the same units at one time. When reporting, teachers will identify if students have studied from both curriculum areas or just history or just geography. Year 10 students have studied from the Australian History Curriculum in semester one and will study two units from the remaining SOSE curriculum in semester two.

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.
Superhero Day

by Alix Leckenby, Year 10 Student/Form Representative

The Year 10 Form Representatives and a number of more keen Year 10 students have been working furiously organising Superhero Day. Superhero day is a fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy, which is a muscle disease which affects the musculoskeletal system. It weakens muscles, forms defects in muscle proteins and kills the muscle cells and tissue. Superhero Day was formed to allow non-sufferers to dress up as their favourite superhero so they could, for one day, feel the super human strength these sufferers go through every day with the disease, as well as to raise money to help treat these children.

On Thursday 19 June, the Year 10’s organised their own Superhero Day to support this worthy cause. Every student in the school was encouraged to dress up as any superhero, even if they make one up themselves. A gold coin donation was appreciated from the organisers for the free dress day and also for a number of activities put on around the school, such as the face painting which was a great success.

In the weeks leading to Superhero Day, capes were sold in the house colours for $6. On the day, there was face painting, guest appearance of superheroes, movies, best dressed competitions and many other activities that the Year 10 students have organised. All the money raised will be given to the muscular dystrophy foundation to help treat the children affected.

The Year 10’s worked very hard to create a fun day for the whole school.

Year 10
Progressing Towards Subjects and Courses for Year 11 and 12
by Ms Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

Term 3 is the critical time to finalise future intentions and plans for Year 10 students. After the SET plan interview which will identify essential and preferred courses students will receive information about the subjects which will be offered in 2015. This will be in the form of a presentation from TAFE about VET in schools, presentations from Heads of Department about subjects and a subject selection guide. Additionally, on 29 July, from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm, an information evening for parents/carers and students will allow for individual conversations with Heads of Department and teachers.

Students will be asked to choose six subjects or certificate courses by Friday 1 August.

The lines in the timetable will be constructed from these choices and designed to maximise the number of students able to enrol in their preferred subjects.

It is inevitable that some students will have to adjust their choices to fit the timetable lines. Unfortunately it is not possible to create a timetable to suit every individual, perfectly.

Students and parents/carers will be asked to attend an interview with myself during the last three weeks of term 3 to confirm their subject selections.

We will provide structures to support every student’s SET plan by ensuring essential subjects are able to be included. The best decisions are informed decisions. Please assist your child to obtain relevant information.

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