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Issue No 3

Newsletter of Ayr State High School

Tuesday 30 March 2021

Apprenticeship Readiness Evening

by Mrs Sarah Matthews, Guidance Officer

On Tuesday 23 March Ayr State High School ran its annual Apprenticeship Readiness Evening. After missing an opportunity in 2020 we were excited to run this great event again. We had an amazing turn out this year with approximately 80 guests attending, from schools all over the Burdekin.

We had a new format this year which did not disappoint. Daniel Shippard, Training Superintendent from Wilmar International, did not disappoint with his informative presentation. Parents/carers and students then engaged with a panel of five industry representatives about the apprenticeship recruitment process. Ayr High students also asked some fantastic questions which I am sure will make them memorable applicants when the time comes to apply. Students also had an opportunity to engage with aptitude and dexterity tests.

Parents/carers and students reported that the event was extremely helpful and informative.

We would also like to sincerely thank all of the presenters for making the night a success.

Wilmar International: Daniel Shippard and his Team
Ergon Energy: Matthew Oar
Glencore: Megan and the Collinsville Crew

Burdekin Shire Council: Eileen Robinson
Young Tourism Leaders: Michael Quigley



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From the Principal

by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No. 3 30/03/2021



As Term 1 finishes and we look ahead to Term 2, we are now getting into the meaty part of the year. Almost all students would have completed their first assessments in Term 1. Students will be provided with feedback which they will then enter into student planners. They will receive feedback outlining what they did well and where they could improve. Students will then identify strategies that they can employ to improve their performance. All of this will be documented in their student planners. I encourage parents/carers to have a conversation with your son/daughter about their progress and their strategies for improvement using their planners.

Another way to stay connected to your child's learning is by attending the Learning Conversations. On Thursday 29 April (Wk 2), we will be holding our first Learning Conversations. I encourage all parents/carers to bring their child and have a three-way discussion with their child's teachers about their progress. Information for parents/carers will be given at the start of Term 2 regarding booking an interview.

Once reporting is complete, our second Case Management meeting for all students in Years 10, 11 and 12 will occur. The focus for each of these meetings will be:

Year 10 - progress and results of each subject; tracking towards our school-based QCE10.

Year 11 - progress and results of each subject; tracking towards QCE; changing subjects (if required) to give the best chance of QCE success.

Year 12 - progress and results of each subject; tracking towards QCE; study habits; continued discussion around pathway.

Students who intend to apply for apprenticeships will need to start doing so, as the big employers like Ergon Energy, Glencore and Wilmar International have their recruiting cycles starting in Term 2. Students who are planning on going onto further studies at university or TAFE will need to start to focus on narrowing down

what courses they intend to study and which institution they prefer, as they will have to complete QTAC applications in early Term 3.

Throughout all year levels, our case management processes are about supporting students to successfully complete senior school by providing timely support, guidance and advice throughout these very important years of secondary school. We are committed to supporting all our students to achieve their personal best and we aim to ensure 100% of our Year 12 graduates achieve a QCE or QCIA. Family Information evenings will continue throughout the year to keep parent/carers informed of key activities across all three year levels.

Our Learner Code is SAFE, RESPECT and PERSONAL BEST. It not only applies to our students but also our staff. As a staff, we are always striving for our Personal Best in how we deliver curriculum to students of Ayr State High School.

This means consistently developing ourselves as professionals to meet the needs of our current students.

Research is showing the most effective way to develop ourselves as a whole staff is through a process called Intentional Collaboration.

This process requires all teachers to work collaboratively, with each other, to develop solutions to challenges that we face in our own context, with the intent on improving student outcomes.

The power in this process is not that just one or two staff members grow and improve, but all staff members grow and improve, providing students improved opportunities to learn across the whole school.

There are three key cornerstones to make this highly effective:

- it needs to have a clear agreed focus,
- it needs to have broad collaboration,
- it needs to have time to enable the deep conversation and thinking required.

At Ayr State High School, we are developing our collaborative practice targeting on providing better learning opportunities for our students.

We have already modified our meeting

Welcome to Ayr State High School

Our school acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land. 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.



structures to provide a greater focus on student learning.

In Term 2, we will be looking at developing that collaborative time needed to allow teachers to investigate and develop best practice. To achieve this, we are looking at adjusting our daily routine times on one day, to create a shortened day for students that would in turn give teachers the extra collaborative time.

We are working closely with our P&C and Staff Consultative committees to ensure that we continue to meet our obligations to subject times and break times.

This is a model that has been used to great success at other schools in our region and across the state.

More information will come out next term about this process and be assured that any decisions made will be in the best interests of our students.

Yours in education


Craig Whittred
Principal

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Every Day



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free QParents
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progress.

**Student
Absences Text
Service**

To advise the school of the reason for your child's absence, please send a text to the following number:

0400 845 755

Northern (NQ Selections)

by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

Congratulations to the following students who have been recently selected in Northern (NQ) squads:

- Khyla Cursio - Golf
- Charley Ruskin - 15 Yrs Football
- Matthew Kolb - 16 Yrs Football
- Matthew Walker - 19 Yrs Football
- Geoffrey Terare - 15 Yrs Rugby League

These students will travel to their respective State Championships later in the year. Well done and good luck!



Khyla Cursio



Charley Ruskin



Matthew Kolb



Matthew Walker



Geoffrey Terare

Cross Country Carnival

Events:

Cross Country Relay
(Wednesday 21 April)

Cross Country
(Wednesday 28 April)

Fun Run
(Wednesday 28 April)

Colour Fun
(Wednesday 28 April)

The Colour Fun doubles as a School Sport Fundraiser and has a \$5 entry fee.

Nomination and entry form (including payment) were due Monday 29 March (Wk 10, T1).

Relay teams are posted on the Sport Noticeboard outside the school office.

Pink Stumps Day

Thursday 1 April (Week 10)

Here's how you can support the day:

- wear pink (gold coin donation)
- buy a 'pink' cupcake (\$1 and \$2) and/or a 'pink' icy cup (50 cents and \$1)
- play cricket at both lunch breaks.

Thanks to everyone who has already supported the event with guesses in the lolly jar, with buying raffle tickets and/or buying merchandise at the stall.

Enjoy the day.



Music Support Meeting

Tuesday 20 April 2021
5.00 pm, A14

New parents/carers welcome.

Keep a watch on our school these holidays

Report any suspicious activity at our school to School Watch on 13 17 88.

If you see something suspicious, please don't intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

Congratulations Kelly

by Mr Kerry Flynn, Deputy Principal - Senior Secondary

The school has been advised that Kelly Meinicke, 2020 School Captain, has been awarded a TJ Ryan Memorial Medal and Scholarship Program Merit Certificate for 2021.

There are only 45 recipients across Queensland in total and there are three categories in this award. Kelly was recognised for his

leadership and academic results whilst in senior. Congratulations to Kelly from all of the Ayr High Family and we wish him well in his university studies.



Easter Holidays

Good Friday 2 April
Easter Sunday 4 April
Easter Monday 5 April



School Holidays



Tuesday 6 to
Friday 16 April

"I Wanna Rock!"

by Ms Anna D'Illario, Musical Executive Producer

What do teachers, students and members of the Burdekin community have in common? They wanna rock!! After a very long hiatus where we had to bust our moves in the COVID-safe confines of our bedrooms and make do with hairbrush microphones, rehearsals for *Rock of Ages* are back! Every Sunday, staff and students have been dancing, singing, blocking and, of course, laughing! A Block and the MPS have been a hive of activity. Miss Gillespie, Mr Pickersgill, Mr Phillips and Miss Scott operate like a well-oiled machine; seamlessly running different groups through their paces under the watchful eye of Ms D'Illario and Ms Carrigan. Students deserve to be commended for their enthusiasm, commitment and cooperation. Rehearsals will resume in Term 2. Until then, rock on!



WE
WANNA
ROCK !!!
YOU



ROCK
ON!

Ayr State High School STEM Academy

by Mr Rob Scalia, HOD - Maths & Science

The STEM Academy has returned to Ayr High as a lunch time program after a disrupted 2020. If your child answers yes to the following questions...

Do you have a passion for and would like to pursue a career in STEM?

Do you enjoy Science, Maths, Dig Tech or ICT subjects?

Would you enjoy building and coding a robot?

...then the STEM Academy is for them!

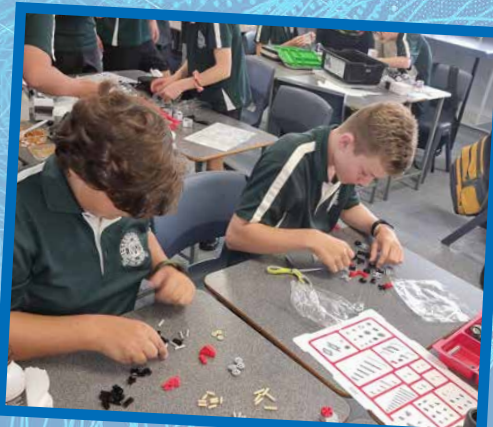
Students will be given the opportunity to build, code and explore the possibilities that the school's new EV3 Robots have to offer. The school was successful in receiving a \$1500 Innovation Investment grant late last year from QMEA. The Year 9 Business students also contributed \$1500 as part of their '\$20 Boss' fundraising venture. Well done students! Without this funding, the school is unable to purchase such equipment and support such important projects.

If you have any questions about the program please contact Mr Cook, Mr Vickers or Mr Scalia.

Time: Every Friday 1st Lunch

Where: C11 laboratory

Any student (Years 7-12) with a passion for STEM is welcome to attend.



National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

by The Support Services Team

On Friday 19 March, Ayr State High held an event for the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. This initiative aims to help students understand and recognise what bullying is, how to report it and where to get help. The Student Support Team organised a stall for the Ayr High community to access helpful information about 'Bullying No Way.' There were also interactive activities for the students to engage in. For further information refer to www.bullyingnoway.gov.au.



Harmony Day

by The Support Services Team

2021 Harmony Day, "WE ALL BELONG", acknowledges the contributions of multicultural communities to Australian society. It is celebrated with many community festivals and local events and at Ayr High many of the staff wore orange for the day. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

New students and staff placed their handprints on the UNITY TREE MURAL which stretched across to the floral vine handprints, representing everyone working together.

Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. It makes Ayr State High a great school.



Student Council Update

by JD Wilkins and Giselle Le Feuvre,
School Captains



GLOBAL HAWKS



Term 1 is nearing the end and time has passed very quickly. There is much to be said about everything the Student Council has accomplished this term.

Global Hawks

Ayr High's Global Hawks recycling initiative continues to improve in efficiency as we find ways to make processing quicker and cleaner. The movement now includes collecting lids in support of the Lids4Kids initiative, which send thousands of lids each week to be 3D-printed into prosthetic limbs for children.

Tuckshop Feedback

The Student Council is working with our very enthusiastic tuckshop ladies to improve the operation of the tuckshop and respond to student feedback. The feedback we have received from the student body - whether 'House Family representative' or not - has been incredible. Our most recent meeting saw an entire whiteboard covered in positive comments and suggestions about our tuckshop!

Future Directions

Our future projects for discussion include the investigation of a bottle-filling water station and the continuation of our 'Doors to Inspiration' initiative (we'll keep you updated). With the support we have seen and ideas we are collecting, we are excited to see how the rest of 2021 unfolds.



Splash of Interact at Swimming Carnival

by Chelsea Ravizza, Community Service Vice Captain

Every year, our busy Interact Club organises and mans a food stall at our Swimming Carnival to provide our staff and students with hot food and healthy lunch options. This year we prepared and offered hot dogs, fruit salad, both hot and cold chicken rolls, egg sandwiches and pizza. Nothing beats the busy rush of hungry swimmers after Mr Phillips announces the arrival of freshly prepared food to the Interact stall! A massive

thank you to every teacher and student who popped in throughout the day to help in anyway they could, from making up yummy sandwiches and rolls, preparing slices of hot pizza, cutting up fresh fruit or working as a cashier! Without our amazing staff and students, our stall would not have been possible. Thanks to everyone for supporting our stall.



Sweethearts Day Success!

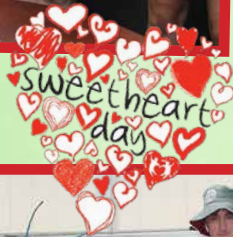


by Chelsea Ravizza, Community Service Vice Captain

Our amazing Interact Club hit the ground running with a busy start to the year undertaking one of their biggest community fundraising efforts for the year through their Sweetheart Stall! Each year, the stall raises funds for HeartKids, an organisation that provides ongoing support for children with heart defects and their families across Australia, as well as life-saving research into childhood heart diseases. As always, our school community is proud to support the work of HeartKids.

A massive thank you to everyone who got involved in all things Sweetheart! The bagging of lollies, wrapping of teddy bears and gifts, the making of signs and posters, managing orders and manning the stall would not have been possible without the amazing help of the Ayr High Family and our efforts saw us raise over \$500!

Congratulations to everyone who received a lovely serenade and a big thank you to the office ladies who let a bunch of students dressed up in pink, throw rose petals and serenade Mr Whittred in his office with a beautiful version of *Perfect* by Ed Sheeran. The surprise full school assembly serenade was performed for Shima Tustin (Yr 9) this year by an enthusiastic group of exceptional vocalists. Congratulations, Shima! Another congratulations goes out to our raffle winner, Colby Lennox, who won a fluffy teddy and a bouquet of handmade rose cookies, created by past student Sophie Hancock!



The 7 Stages of Grieving Performance

by Julia Cahill, Year 11 Student

"Funny, devastatingly sad, politically relevant and culturally profound as it traverses the phases of Aboriginal history, The 7 Stages of Grieving is an invitation to face hard truths, to join hands and grieve." (The Grin & Tonic Theatre Group, 2016)

On Thursday 11 March, Year 10, 11 and 12 Drama, Year 11 and 12 Drama in Practice, and Year 11/12 Certificate II in Mumgu-dhal tyama-tiyt were invited to watch a performance of 'The 7 Stages of Grieving' by the theatre group Grin & Tonic. The play is about the grief of Aboriginal people and the hope of reconciliation. It is a one-woman show, telling a variety of stories of people from different mobs. Personally, the performance was a lot different to what I had expected, but it was one of the best performances I have ever seen. The performance was so powerful that it reduced many students to tears. The performer was wonderful with her time, allowing us to speak with her at the end. She has inspired myself and others to pursue a career with music and drama. This performance has helped us gain knowledge and understanding for our upcoming assessment. Lastly, as an indigenous student, I would like to pay my respects to the performer and for delivering this inspiring performance.



"Sew" Much Fun

by Mikayla McDonnell, Year 9 Student

The first task for Year 9 Design and Technology was to create an apron that represented the creator, but that also incorporated different sewing and appliqué design techniques. It all started without a stitch; yes, literally without a stitch. Despite our beliefs that we were professionals or the next Alex Perry, we had to create a plan of what we wanted and luckily, we did, as we quickly discovered that most of us had difficulty cutting straight, neat lines. After many attempts of trying to make it perfect, we had to trust our skills and hope that our pieces of fabric would magically turn into beautiful pieces.

Next, it was time for sewing and, I must say, it was an eye-opening experience. We had straps in the wrong places and wonky lines, but finally we began to make our personalised pockets. The pockets were then attached to the apron, giving each one a unique flair. I can't begin to explain the amount of relief we all felt when Mrs Bromham announced that the class had finished the final step. A big thank you to Mrs Bromham for her patience. We will wear our aprons with pride and be the best looking Year 9 students at Ayr High.



Mikayla McDonnell, Mrs Vicky Bromham, Logan Hutton

Farewell from Ms Donovan

by Ms Bridget Donovan, Teacher

April Fool's Day is my last with the family that is Ayr SHS! I have had such a happy time with you all this term. Thank you and good luck with the future. Farewell, until we meet again!



Absentee Hotline

4790 4353

If your child is away either:

- phone the hotline - if unanswered please leave a message with reason for child's absence,
- respond to school text message or
- hand in a note, on return, to Ms Land at the office.

Deni's Day!

by Ms Courtney Carrigan, HOD - HPE, The Arts and LOTE

The Ayr High family came together to support Miss Caspanello (Deni) and raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation. Miss Caspanello held a community fundraising event (12 Hour Relay Swim) last Saturday 27 March at the Home Hill pool. As a school, we supported this initiative by holding our own event at school. Deni's Day took place last Thursday 25 March. Students wore blue and donated a gold coin, bought a raffle ticket, donated loose change and bought a 'blue' cupcake and/or 'blue' icy cup. Special thanks to our cupcake 'chefs', Year 12 students, Brooklyn Ivory and Brianna Whittred. Our school event raised \$639. Thank you to our school community for your support and raising money for a worthy charity!!! Congratulations to our student and staff teams who participated at the 12 Hour Relay Swim - massive effort. We are proud of your efforts!





Parent/Student/ Teacher Learning Conversations

Thursday 29 April, 2021
3.30 - 6.30 pm, I Block

This year Ayr High is trialing our first face-to-face conversations after the release of Term 1 report cards.

Further details will be coming in Term 2.



Position Vacant

We are currently looking for a casual Teacher Aide for five days: 20 May and 24 - 27 May 2021.

Hours of duty will be 8.30 am - 3.00 pm with a 30 minute lunch break.

A current Blue Card is mandatory.

Please forward an Expression of Interest (no more than 1 x A4 page) to Priscilla Viero, Business Manager - pvier2@eq.edu.au.

Applications close at 4.00 pm on Friday, 16 April 2021.

Financial Assistance for Cultural and Sporting Endeavours

Students who are selected to attend cultural and/or sporting events may be eligible to receive financial assistance. Parents/carers/students need to facilitate these processes.

Cultural:

- **RADF Grant** - up to \$500 funding for 'Arts' development - the Ayr SHS Music Support Group (MSG) will facilitate your application
- **ASHS Music Support Group** - funding for students in 'The Arts' (music - choir, instrumental, band, drama and visual art). Families who are active in the MSG or Bingo receive more funding than those who are not actively involved in these groups.

Applications for both of these should be made in writing to the MSG.

Sport:

- **Emerging Athlete Pathways subsidy** - State government funding that can be accessed every two years - <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/emerging-athlete-pathways/apply> (can only be applied for after the event - within 6 months)
- **Local Sporting Champions Program** - up to \$500 funding, for students aged 12-18 years - <https://www.sportaus.gov.au/grants-and-funding/local-sporting-champions>

Both:

- **Saver Plus Program** for lower income families - <https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/programs/financial/saver-plus>
- **ASHS P&C** - The P&C Association will allocate funds each year when possible to support student endeavours for activities associated with the school. Applications should be made in writing to the P&C. <https://ayrshs.eq.edu.au/our-community/pandc/student-endeavour>

Upcoming Events

- 30 Mar** NQ Trials - 12 Yrs Girls/Boys Basketball
Yr 9 QMEA Beakers, Bots and Build (**cancelled**)
Musical Parent Information Session (5.30-6.30 pm, I Block) (**postponed to 27 April**)
- 31 Mar** NQ Trials - 12 Yrs AFL
Interschool Sport - 15/19 Yrs Rugby League & Netball
- 1 Apr** Pink Stumps Day
Funtivities (\$4)
- 2 Apr** **Good Friday**
- 4 Apr** **Easter Sunday**
- 5 Apr** **Easter Monday**
- 6-16 Apr** **School Holidays**
- 19 Apr** Choir Rehearsal (1st Break, A14)
Concert Band Rehearsal (3.15-4.30 pm, A13)
- 20 Apr** Interact Meeting (2nd Break, I Block)
Student Council Meeting (2nd Break, I Block)
Musical Rehearsal (3.15-4.30 pm)
Music Support Group Meeting (5.00 pm, A14)
- 21 Apr** Interschool Sport - 15/19 Yrs Rugby League & Netball
Interhouse Cross Country Carnival - Relay (1st & 2nd Break, Oval)
- 22 Apr** Blueprint Visit (Yr 12 VEP-S3, Yr 11 VEP-S4)
- 23 Apr** ANZAC Ceremony (S2, MPS)
Term 1 Reports Issued (Extended House Family)
Choir Rehearsal (1st Break, A14)
- 26 Apr** **ANZAC Day**
NQ Trials - 12 Yrs Girls Netball, 12 Yrs Boys Rugby League
- 27 Apr** Yr 11 AWP - Case Management Meetings
NQ Trials - 12 Yrs Girls Netball, 12 Yrs Boys Rugby League
Musical Rehearsal (3.15-4.30 pm)
- 28 Apr** NQ Trials - 12 Girls/Boys Hockey
Interschool Sport - 15/19 Yrs Rugby League & Netball
Interhouse Cross Country Carnival (Cross Country 1.30 pm, Fun Run & Colour Fun 1.50-3.00 pm, Oval)
- 29 Apr** Yr 12 AWP - Case Management Meetings
Music Camp (The Lighthouse)
Learning Conversations (3.30-6.30 pm, I Block)
- 30 Apr** Yr 10 Case Management Meetings (S3)
Music Camp (The Lighthouse)
Choir Rehearsal (1st Break, A14)
Concert Band Rehearsal (3.15-4.30 pm, A13)
Staff vs Student (Yr 12) Game - Mixed Futsal (2nd Break, MPS)
- 2 May** Musical Rehearsal (10.00 am-12.00 pm, 1.00-4.00 pm)