PRINCIPAL: Helen McCullough

A warm welcome back to our school! Our school is a great place and we welcome all existing and new families and staff to our school. It is excellent to see students well rested and ready for their year of learning – excitement always surrounds a new year at school and we look forward to working with every member of our school community in 2016.

Who remembers their very first day at school? I am sure this milestone is a memorable one for all. It is an absolute honour for us to be part of the first day of school for 80 Prep children last Wednesday. These children came in very well settled and have started to get into the routine of school life. A very big thank you to teachers, aides and parent/carers for preparing students every day as the children transition from home/kindy settings.

I am very proud of all students at our school and how settled they have come into school. Each year, every student transitions – new teacher, new class, new playground, new eating area – East Ayr Students you have done a fantastic job, thank you!

Our year has started with outstanding attendance across Prep-Year 6, outstanding pride in our uniform and exceptional behaviour of all students. Thank you to all parents/carers for supporting our school dress standards and expectations around “Every Day Counts”. I would also like to thank all parents/carers for contacting front office or the attendance mobile number to advise of children being away from school.

This year we have started our school year with 22 classes across Prep-Year 6. All parents were advised of the pre-day 8 classes for their child last year or upon enrolment. We are currently in the middle of the system-wide Day 8 Process which determines the levels of funding and resources for all State Schools. Once these numbers are finalised on Friday, we will be confirming the arrangements at our school. Any changes as a result of this will be communicated as soon as practicable. Thank you for your patience with this, any questions please see Mrs Scott or myself.

Kind regards

Helen McCullough
Principal
Reading At Home

It has been fantastic to visit the classrooms of our school and see so many happy, smiling faces! The students I have spoken to have all spoken about beginning their learning and exciting units of work. What a great start to 2016!

A recent study by Oxford University “Books beyond Bedtime” revealed that just 10 minutes of reading with a carer can make a big difference. This report can be found on the World Book Day website. The report revealed the top 6 strategies that parents and carers can engage in at home when reading with children.

1. Make the time – Just 10 minutes each day can support your child in their reading journey.
2. Choose different types of books – Find interesting stories, poems, informative texts, recipes (just to name a few).
3. Take turns to read – children reading aloud helps to develop their fluency and expression but it is also great to model the expression and ‘funny’ voices, letting them enjoy the story.
4. Talk about the book – ask lots of questions! Some sentence starters are below
   - What will happen when…?
   - Who will …?
   - Why do you think … did that?
   - How did …?
   - Why did the author ….?
   Feel free to share your own thinking with your reader.
   - Statements beginning with ‘I think’, ‘I remember’ or ‘I know’ are a great way to show how you can find and connect to information from the text.
5. Pay attention to the language – don’t assume your young reader understands the words or phrases, even when they read them correctly. Check their understanding.

6. Just enjoy reading! Reading together is a great way to promote a love of reading and learning.

Keep an eye out for the Reading At Home section in our newsletter each fortnight. Each newsletter will feature a different focus on reading and ways to assist our readers to be successful at home and school.

Our reading targets are
- Prep – Level 8
- Year 1 – Level 16
- Year 2 – Level 20
- Year 3 – Level 24

I am looking forward to working with staff and students to continue the amazing work at East Ayr this year.

Kayla Hawkins
(Master Teacher/Head of Curriculum)

Year 3 – 6 Swimming Carnival
This carnival was held today. Those students who were successful in gaining age champion will be presented with their trophies tomorrow, on parade at 1:45pm.

As well, the winning sporting house will also receive their trophy on parade.

Recognition Certificates
Every week each classroom teacher from Prep to Year 6 will award two certificates to students in their class.

Student of the Week Certificate will be given for behaviour. The behaviour awards are lined up to the four school rules: At East Ayr State School we are Safe Respectful Responsible Learners. From these certificates, two certificates are randomly selected and these students will win a Red Rooster Award; one for the Prep to Year 2 and the other for Year 3 to Year 6. Michael and Judy Taylor are sponsoring these Red Rooster Achievement Awards and we thank them for their generous support.

Class Certificates will be given to acknowledge academic success or improvement.

These certificates will be presented on Thursday’s parade. Prep will not be attending parade for the first few weeks and these certificates will be presented to the students in their classroom.

Beginning of a New School Year
Starting a new school year involves another change for your child as they settle into a new environment / classroom and renew or begin forming relationships with peers and school staff. Even if your child’s transition to school goes smoothly, it is likely that they will encounter some ups and downs throughout the year.

Helping your child to learn coping skills will allow them to develop and practise skills that will enable them to cope with future changes and challenges. This will help to strengthen your child’s mental health and wellbeing now and into the future.

What are coping skills?
Coping skills are what we think and what we do to help us get through difficult situations. This may include asking for help, talking with friends, problem solving and taking time out when they need a break.

You may also explore how you can help your child manage strong emotions, promote helpful thinking and assist them to break down tasks into smaller, manageable chunks. Following your child’s lead will help you work out what approach will be best for them. For some children, talking about a problem too much may lead to an increase in anxiety.

One way you can help your child to cope is by helping them to begin to understand that how we think affects the way we feel and how we behave. This means that how we think also affects how we cope with a challenging situation. You can begin to teach your child that sometimes
we have ‘helpful’ thoughts that make us feel and act in positive ways.

To support your child’s helpful thinking try some of the following ideas:

- Acknowledge and validate how they are feeling (eg “it sounds like you’re feeling worried because you won’t know anyone at school”). Dismissing what children are feeling (eg “don’t think like that”) can lead them to believe they are wrong to think or feel that way and stop them from expressing their feelings with you. The next time a problem arises.
- Help your child to look at the situation from a more helpful perspective. Thoughts such as “I can be brave” or “I can only try my best” can help to replace negative thoughts.
- Remind your child of a time they coped with something similar in the past (eg “Remember when you started preschool you felt worried, but then you got to know everyone and you felt okay”).
- Model helpful thinking. Children learn a lot from watching family members use helpful thinking to cope with challenging situations. Thinking out loud can help to teach your child how to come up with helpful thoughts (eg “I’m feeling nervous about meeting the other parents too but I can just be friendly and say hello”).

Helpful thinking is about promoting positive coping skills and encouraging children to feel good about themselves. This will help your child to feel more confident now and throughout the coming year.

Parent Information Sessions
These sessions are provided for parents to find out what is happening in their child’s class throughout the year. These sessions start on Tuesday 9 February and will continue until Thursday 18 February. Teachers will discuss class/year level procedures, homework expectations, excursions/camps and curriculum content.

A separate note regarding the times and venue for these sessions was sent home yesterday.

Hot Shots
East Ayr students now have the opportunity to sign up to Hot Shots Tennis for the 2016 year. For every registered player the school will receive $2 which will go towards equipment.

To register online go to http://hotshots.tennis.com.au/registration/ (or google hotshots tennis) and follow the prompts or complete the paper form and return it to the school by February 26. Be sure to select the second button on the list as illustrated below.

School Leaders Induction
Our 2016 school leaders will be presented with their badges at a full school parade on Wednesday 17 February. Our School Leaders, Sporting Leaders and Peer Mediators will be introduced to our school community.

Happy New Year!
Welcome back to East Ayr State School for another exciting year of learning, of growing as people, and of enjoying the experience of school. Let’s jump into this brand new 2016 God is bringing us, with a passion!

Hello to our new families. I am John Mackay, the School Chaplain, and my prime role is in the pastoral care of your children. Students are welcome to come to me with their tears and problems, and as a caring school, we shall do our best to help. I am also happy to speak with parents and carers about concerns related to your children.

You will find East Ayr School a place of excellent learning; a place of a great variety of sports; and a place where the students are introduced to a mixture of activities in which they may excel and find friendship. It is a great place for kids to mature into youth, while learning the ABC.s and 123.s.

I am at the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so if you would like to have a chat with me, please ring the Office and they will book a time for us.

I am looking forward to a rewarding and joyous year!

Chappy John

P&C News
with Timmone Feeney

UNIFORMS
We now have all sizes of hats and chook shirts in stock. Chook shirts are now $25.00. Please remember that the tuckshop is a cash only facility.

TUCKSHOP – if you have any spare time at all please think of volunteering at the tuckshop. The kids just love it when their mums are on for the day.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING – We have 2 spots available in our newsletter. Our newsletter goes out to approx 360 families every two weeks so it is fantastic value for money. The cost for advertising is $200 for the whole year. Please let me know if you are interested in advertising on 0409 627766.

SCHOOL BANKING – If anyone has any free time on a Thursday I am sure Neva and her ladies would appreciate any help.

Q SCHOOL APP – this is a great app to have. The school push out messages through this app so download it as it is quite helpful.
FACEBOOK - the school now has a Facebook page.

LEFTOVER BOOKS/SUPPLIES – if you have any left over books/pencils etc. you can no longer use please consider donating them to the school.

AGM – Our AGM is coming up and all positions will become vacant. Please think about being involved with the school in this way as it is great to know what is going on around the school and having input into the decisions made.

NEXT MEETING - our next meeting is Monday 8th February 2016 at 6.30pm in the staffroom.

Timmone

Enviro Club
Classes have been informed and notes have gone home to parents regarding the school’s Enviro Club. The club meets every Tuesday lunchtime and activities include: preparing the school’s vegetable garden, tending to the worm farms, weighing aluminium cans for the class competition, mulching garden beds as well as monitoring the electricity usage via the Power Police.

Children use gardening equipment under staff supervision and require a pair of gardening gloves, a hat, drink bottle and a signed note to participate. The club operates for years 1 - 6. If you would like your child to participate in the club please fill out and return your child’s note to Mr Kiloh.

At School Before the Bell?
Please remember that all students are to remain under Block C until the first bell at 8:30am. While waiting under Block C all students are to be reading.

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING
Parents are required to apply for an exemption from schooling if their child will be away for more than 10 school days.
Compulsory-Schooling-and-Compliance-Participation.aspx

The Addams Family
A NEW MUSICAL COMEDY
Book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice  Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa
Based on Characters Created by Charles Addams

Six shows only, don’t miss out! Book your tickets now!

8:00pm Friday, 29 January 8:00pm Friday, 5 February
8:00pm Saturday, 30 January 8:00pm Saturday, 6 February
2:00pm Sunday, 31 January 12 noon Sunday, 7 February

Book online at www.burdekintheatre.com.au or at the Burdekin Shire Council Chambers

Grasso Financial Services
Proudly presents the Burdekin Singers & Theatre Co. Inc. production of...
BURDEKIN NETBALL ASSOC
Invites you to come, join and play the exciting game of netball

Sign up for 2016 at 56 Twelfth Avenue, Home Hill on

THURSDAY 28th January, 2016

4.00 pm  Boys & Girls Fun Net 5 – 7 yrs
          Boys & Girls Moddies, 11,12 yrs

5.00 pm  Boys & Girls 13 - 16 yrs

7.00 pm  Senior Women
          Senior A Grade Trials

Contact Persons: Cara Trindle 0439822051 or
Shalon Gibson 0409487035
Clubhouse Phone: 47822335
Email: burdekinnetball@gmail.com

BURDEKIN TOUCH ASSOCIATION

Under 14 Touch Competition

WHEN:  Wednesday afternoons at 5:15 pm starting on 10 February to 17 June.

WHO:   Boys and girls in Years 5, 6, 7 or 8 at school

WHAT:  Touch competition for younger touch players. Enter with a group of friends or
        BTA can organise a team for you.

COST:  $50 per player (includes player insurance and covers 18 games)

REGISTER:  Phone Bruce Johnson on 0408 060 476, complete a registration form at the
            BTA clubhouse or email the BTA at burdekinouchassosciation@outlook.com