**East Ayr State School Newsletter**  
*Strive for Success*

**Issue 15: 12 October 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 4</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td>10 October</td>
<td>11 October</td>
<td>12 October</td>
<td>13 October</td>
<td>14 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews Prep, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 Year 5 Camp</td>
<td>Brekky Club Year 5 Camp</td>
<td>Newsletter to go home Year 5 Camp</td>
<td>Brekky Club Yr 3-6 parade: 1:45pm Yr P-2 parade: 2:35pm Religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
<td>17 October</td>
<td>18 October</td>
<td>19 October</td>
<td>20 October</td>
<td>21 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY</td>
<td>Year 5 Transition to Ayr High NO BREKKY CLUB</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brekky Club Yr 3-6 parade: 1:45pm Yr P-2 parade: 2:35pm Religion Swimming Lessons Yr 1 &amp; 2 Wk 1</td>
<td>Interschool Sport Week 1 Swimming Lessons Yr 1 &amp; 2 Wk 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 October</td>
<td>25 October</td>
<td>26 October</td>
<td>27 October</td>
<td>28 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brekky Club</td>
<td></td>
<td>Newsletter to go home</td>
<td>Brekky Club Yr 3-6 parade: 1:45pm Yr P-2 parade: 2:35pm Religion Swimming Lessons Yr 1 &amp; 2 Wk 2</td>
<td>Interschool Sport Week 2 Swimming Lessons Yr 1 &amp; 2 Wk 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land – the Juru people.  
We pay our respects to elders both past, present.  
We believe we can walk together for a better future.

---

**PRINCIPAL: Helen McCullough**

Dear Parents & Community

Welcome to the last term of 2016! The term ahead is one that will go quickly with many fantastic opportunities for students, staff and parents. My focus this fortnight is preparing everyone for the work ahead around transitioning students to the next milestones. If you could start (if you haven’t already and I know lots of you have) talking with your child/ren about this, this would be great!

As we head towards the end of year, we commence the formal transitions to junior secondary at Ayr State High School. The last term is always one of mixed emotions – excitement, sadness, nervousness are all very common as our Year 6 students finish strong in the Primary School setting and prepare for secondary life. Our job is to continue the learning and celebrate with these students not just in Year 6 but for the vast majority 7 years of schooling at East Ayr State School. Planning around the end of year graduation and activities are well underway and we will provide confirmed information to parents/carers and students shortly.

As we transition Year 6 students to secondary, we transition our 2017 Preps to school. We have already had the majority of interviews with students and parents and we are looking forward to having the children visit us this term. These days are the same days that our Year 6 students are at high school (1/12 and 2/12). Parents of 2017 children will be required to stay at school. This is when we run some further information sessions and also talk about some of the strategies that can be used at home to support literacy and numeracy. Further information
will be provided to you as the time draws nearer.

On this day, we also transition our current Prep students to classrooms in the main part of our school. Last year, this was a very exciting time for students as they experienced other playgrounds and areas of the school that they were a little less familiar with.

Our Year 5 students are currently on the Leadership Camp – Magnetic Island. The excitement of our Year 5 students as they transition to being the leaders at our school is great. This term we run our leadership and peer mediator training programs with all students and run our processes to select 2017 Captains and Leadership positions. I look forward to announcing the 2017 Leaders at our end of year Awards Day (6/12/16).

In amongst setting up for a great 2017 school year, the work of 2016 continues. Student learning is the absolute priority and every single day at our school is a learning day. While I fully understand (and can relate) children get sick or need to attend medical appointments, please work with us to reinforce the importance of attending school every day! Thank you for your ongoing support of this key message.

2017 classes and teacher allocations all depend on final numbers (day 8, 2017). There has been a form that has been sent out to all families to assist us in planning the 2017 school year. Please take the time to fill this in if you are leaving the area and return as soon as possible. Thanks for your co-operation with this.

We look forward to a great term, thanks for being part of our school!

Kind regards

Helen McCullough
Principal

Brekky Club
Unfortunately due to the hall not being available there will be no Brekky Club next Tuesday 18th October. Brekky Club will continue as usual on Thursday 20th October.

Writing Showcase

Students have hit the ground running this term and already, we can see that students are producing high quality samples of work. Well done!

Last term, we finished the term celebrating some writing samples from our early year’s classes. This week, we are celebrating the work of our middle and upper years’ students.

In Year 6, students were required to reflect on the unique writing style of author, Elizabeth Honey, and present this in a panel discussion. Students needed to question their peers’ opinions and ask for justification. The questions asked of other students were fantastic! Well done Year 6 students. Some of these samples can be found below.

“Do you think Henni was the best option to narrate the story? Why or Why not? Who do you think would be a better narrator and why?” – Brenton, 6C

“You stated that you enjoyed reading ‘Don’t Pat the Wombat’ more than ‘45 + 47 Stella Street and Everything that Happened’. I disagree – I enjoyed reading ‘45 + 47 Stella Street’. Can you tell me how you came to this conclusion?” – Taryn, 6C

Year 3 this week, students were exploring a great poem about a wasp stuck in a car – the students had a great time pretending to think like the wasp at different stages of the poem!

Year 4 students finished their unit on Rowan of Rin with some fantastic blog responses. Students have been using their ICT skills to post their opinions about the character of Rowan and the language features used by the author, Emily Rodda.

“I think Rowan has changed from the beginning to the end because of the verbs Emily Rodda has used at the start such as strong John called him a weakling, Marlie and Allan disliked him, Val and Ellis pitted him, and Borden who despised him. Towards the end alum, Borden, Val, Ellis and Marlie liked him because he saved RRin. Strong John loves him because he saved Rin. Rowan knows that because strong John called him a hero!” – Mikayla, 4A

“Rowan has changed because he has defeated da dragon and saved strong John. At the start of the book Emily Rodda used a noun group to describe skinny rabbit as rowan. At the end they call him a hero.” – Breana, 4A

“At the start rowan is weak and scared of everything but in the end he is the hero and is not as scared because he faced the dragon alone.” – Cornelius, 4A
A huge congratulations to all students on the high quality of writing we see across all learning areas. Well done!

Kayla Hawkins
Master Teacher / Head of Curriculum

Interschool Sport
This term our Year 5 and 6 students will be participating in interschool sports. Boys can choose to play touch football or mixed tennis while girls can play mixed tennis or softball/teeball. The dates for interschool sport will be 21st and 28th October and the 4th, 11th and 18th November. Permission notes detailing the transport costs will be sent out this Friday.

Please assist by returning permission notes and money as soon as possible.

Year 5 Transition to Ayr High
Next Tuesday, 18th October, Year 5 students will participate in a transition day at Ayr High. Permission notes were sent home last week. Could these permission notes and bus money be returned as soon as possible.

Swimming Lessons
Swimming lessons for students in Years 1 and 2 will be held over a five week period starting next Thursday 20th October and concluding on Friday 18th November. Swimming permission notes have been sent home this week.

Students in Years 1 and 2 will swim at the Burdekin Swim School and the cost will cover bus travel to and from the swim school, pool entry and coaching. Swimming lessons are substantially subsidized by school funds. As well, bus costs for the Year 1 – 2 Swimming Carnival held later in the term are included in the swimming levy.

All students are required to attend swimming lessons as it is a compulsory component of the Physical Education program. If students are unable to attend, parents are asked to send a note or contact their child’s teacher.

Learnathon
This term we will be having a Learn-A-Thon. The Learn-A-Thon will consist of questions from various curriculum areas. The Learn-A-Thon will commence on Monday 24 October when Learn-A-Thon sheets and sponsor sheets will be handed out.

From Monday 7th November to Friday 11th November students will be tested on the Learn-A-Thon knowledge. All Learn-A-Thon money needs to be at the office by Friday 18th November.

The P & C have continued their support of the Learn-A-Thon with a few incentives. These incentives will be published in our next newsletter.

We look forward to your support of our Learn-A-Thon.

2017 Prep Interviews
These prep interviews are nearly completed. If you have a prep child for 2017 and have not had an interview please contact the school office for an interview time.

For children to be allocated to a 2017 prep class they need to have attended an interview.

Welcome back to the final term for 2016! We are banking for the first 7 weeks of Term 4 and our final banking day will be the 17th November 2016.

Rewards Orders
At the time of placing our last order in Term 3, some items were out of stock and the order could not be placed. I will send a note out to the students affected and they will need to select another reward item (that will include the option of the new

Look out for your student number in the newsletter in week 4 to see if you are eligible to order a reward. Please fill out your rewards coupon that was distributed at the beginning of the year, or, on a piece of paper; include your name, class, banking number as well as the reward item you want and we’ll see that it is ordered for you.

Available Rewards
Please note: Mud Splat Handballs and Flying Snake Tails are out of stock and cannot be ordered.

Reward items for Term 4 include:
- Bush Fly Fan – New
- Wriggley Glow Worm – New
- Backtrack Eraser Pen
- Jump and Skip Rope
- Dollarmites Money Box – 2014
- ET DVD – 2015
- Galaxy Glider - 2015
- Intergalactic Rocket - 2015
- Outerspace Savers Money Box – 2015
- Outback Pat Bag Tag

Competition Time
During the final few weeks of banking, we are running an in-house competition with the support of The Commonwealth Bank. The competition starts in week 4 (20th October 2016) and those students who bank three or more times between Week 4-7, will be eligible to enter the prize draw. This will also be advertised on the school Face Book page. The lucky student will be presented with their prize on parade during week 8 or 9.

Thank you for your continued support with school banking. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to leave us a note in your child’s bank book, or drop by the office staffroom at 9am on Thursdays.

Neva Neal
School Banking Coordinator
I am grateful so many Year 5’s sacrificed their little and big lunches to help me wrap the boxes in Christmas paper, sort the gifts, and then pack the boxes with something of each of the six types of gifts included for each of the age groups receiving. It was a lot of work! Thank you for your caring. My sincere thanks to all the school families who donated gifts to make Operation Christmas Child a reality. There will be a group of blessed kids somewhere in Australasia this Christmas because of your heart.

We have a busy Term 4 happening - Free Dress day / Rewards Day / Book Fair / End of year parties. This week we have year 5 going to Camp – hope you have a wonderful time away. Remember to look after each other, care for your teachers and parents going, learn something each day – and have a great camp!!

Chappy John

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.

Hi Everybody, hope you all had an enjoyable holiday. Just a quick update from the P&C.

This term we will be having a disco. Final details are still yet to be made, this will happen at the next P&C meeting. At this stage the date is Thursday 3rd November. We will need parent helpers on the night so please consider volunteering some time. Keep an eye out for more details.

The P&C committee are currently in discussions about the possibility of introducing online ordering for the tuckshop next year. We are still researching options. More
information will be provided at a later stage.

There have been comments made by some students, parents and staff about our current hats that they are always falling off and the colours fade. As a result a decision was made by the P&C committee at the end of last term and after discussion with our current manufacturer that the school hats will now be made using a polyester material that is fade resistant. The other change that will occur is that our hats will also have a cord and toggle so that hats can be secured tightly on our children’s heads. The hats will still remain reversible and in our school house colours with the logo and house name embroidered on them. Our updated hats should be available in the new year. We will keep you posted.

There are second hand uniforms available from the tuckshop. If you have any uniforms that you no longer need or use please consider donating them to our collection. Please contact or see Bronwyn in the Tuckshop.

Upgrading the school computers is one of the major priorities for next year. As a result discussions have begun for fundraising ideas/events for 2017. If you have any thoughts or suggestions please feel free to contact the P&C, or come along to one of the meetings. Our next P&C meeting is Monday 17th October 6.30pm in the staff room.

Corryn

**Absent from School**

*(Don’t let it be Unexplained)*

Ph: 0417 003 685  
Send a text or leave a message  
Drop by the office or send a note  
**All Day - Every Day!**  
**Aiming for 95% or Better**

---

**Stay Safe from Swooping Magpies**

Protect yourself from swooping magpies this spring.

*August to October is peak magpie nesting season. During this time, magpies often display territorial behaviour to protect their young including swooping at passers-by.*

There are a few techniques that can be used to avoid or minimise the chance of a magpie attack.

The best is to simply avoid the area where magpies are known to be swooping.

The Department of Environment and Resource Management also suggest the following safety tips:

- wear a hat, helmet or sunglasses  
- get off your bike and walk  
- walk in a group  
- never approach a baby magpie

- keep an eye on the magpie, as they don’t tend to swoop when being watched.

If you are swooped, don’t stop or run, just walk away.

And, most importantly, never deliberately provoke or harass a magpie.

For more information visit [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)

**Message from DG of DETE Clowing**

As widely reported in the media, there is a current trend of people dressing as clowns and going in public with the intent to scare or intimidate others. Yesterday a number of Queensland state schools were named as targets for this behaviour in a Facebook post.

Any behaviour by members of the general public with the intent to scare or intimidate others should be immediately reported to the police and the principal will take any action deemed appropriate to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

Any behaviour by students (including that related to clowing) with the intent to scare or intimidate others will be dealt with according to the school’s Responsible Behaviour Plan. Principals have been asked to be alert to this issue and where required, communicate with their school community to reassure all concerned that the safety and wellbeing of students continues to be their highest priority.