Dear Parents & Community

On Tuesday we formally recognised and farewelled our Year 6 students - a group of students who have been outstanding role models to their fellow peers and an absolute credit to all teachers, staff, parents and community. On behalf of our school community we wish each of them the best in the future and know that they will be proud ambassadors of our excellent school.

To our new leaders, I know that you will lead 2017 to an outstanding quality and carry on the traditions and form new ones with your ideas and enthusiasm. You have a whole school community behind you!

The past fortnight has seen our 2017 Preppies transition, our 6’s at the High School and our academic reporting finish! The academic performance of our school has improved across all of our learning areas with over 95% of our students now receiving an A-C in English, Mathematics, Science and Technology. This is a vast improvement from less than 80% at this time in 2014. Congratulations to all students and to all staff for your continued excellence in our core business of teaching and learning.

As I draw to the end of my time at East Ayr as your Principal, I say thank you to every member who has embraced our school direction. Kids get one shot at education and confidently I can say that for the last 2 years, they have absolutely nailed their learning!

I also want to say thank you to the friends, family and colleagues who have supported my family and forged friendships with us.

I look forward to hearing more about our brilliant school in the future - the 2016 North Queensland State School of the year!

Kind regards

Helen McCullough
Principal
**Holiday cooking**

Holidays can be the perfect time to hone in on some reading practise while producing some delicious treats. When you are cooking or baking, ask your ‘assistant’ to help by reading out the recipe and instructions. It may seem a bit tricky but where there is a will (treats) there is always a way!

**Scavenger Hunt**

If you have some time over the break, you can create a scavenger hunt for your child to complete, with clues and hints along the way. You could also give them a treasure map to follow – this is all still part of reading! If you have more than one child, perhaps one of them could help you to create the map and clues while the other has to follow the instructions – the limits are endless!

**Clues with careful reading**

There are some great texts that you can find online that can be turned into a game. For example, there is a great poem about a green giant called Sam (below). Have your child read the poem to you and draw a picture of Sam. Remind them to read the whole poem first, as the clues don’t go in order. They may have to restart if they haven’t left space for a hat, or have drawn Sam’s face with no room for his beard only to find that clue at the end. It can be a lot of fun and encourages them to visualise while they are reading.

There lived a green giant whose name was Sam.
His hair was the colour of strawberry jam.
His coat and pants were oh so bright, Like a peppermint stick all red and white.
His socks were yellow as lemon pop.
He had one brown and one blue eye, And a beard the colour of pumpkin pie.
His hat was the colour of Gingerbread With a tall, tall feather of raspberry red.

Next time your child tells you he/she is bored, remember that there are endless hours of entertainment in books, and with our local library in abundance with books, this entertainment comes at no cost!

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**Our reading targets are**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep – Level 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 – Level 16</td>
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<td>Year 2 – Level 20</td>
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<td>Year 3 – Level 24</td>
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Kayla Hawkins
Master Teacher / Head of Curriculum

**Students’ Reports**

Students’ reports have been finalised. These will be printed and will be sent home, with students tomorrow, Thursday 8 December.

**Class Allocation**

All students returning to East Ayr will receive a notice tomorrow, Thursday 8 December informing them of their class placement for 2017. A lot of planning has been put into the allocation of students to each of the classes.

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**CHAPPY’S CHAT With Chappy John**

There is a real person behind the character we know as Santa Claus. His name was Saint Nicholas, and he lived in Turkey, some 1300 years ago. He had one brown and one blue eye, and a beard only to find that clue at the end. It can be a lot of fun and encourages them to visualise while they are reading.

Nicholas knew that Christmas was all about the birth of Jesus, who loved children. He lived in a town called Myra, and in the darkness of night, Nicholas would leave gifts of food, clothes and toys at the doors of poor people, with no-one knowing from whom it came.

Move forward to the 21st Century and we find St Nicholas comes as the jolly Santa Claus, who also gives gifts. We give at Christmas too: Our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes have begun arriving in Cambodia this year. Some poor kids there will have a wonderful Christmas.

I pray your Christmas will be a merry one.

Chappy John

**Defibrillator Prize**

Recently our school was the beneficiary of a defibrillator. This defibrillator was won for the school by Tiarnee Bolam. Tiarnee entered a drawing competition conducted by Westfund Health Insurance. Well done and thank you to Tiarnee for this important piece of equipment for our First Aid room.

**Awards Day**

Our annual Awards Day was held yesterday. It was a lovely day, thanks to all the proud parents and students who attended this year’s presentation. Below are the various academic, sporting and citizenship awards for this year. Congratulations to these students.

**Academic Awards**

Jessica Cox, Madisyn Grant, Brenton Flynn, Seth Malas, Joshua Mann, Nuzhatul Mannan

**Jack Sartori All Round Consistent Effort Award**

Kya Olsen and Danica Biffanti

**Jack Sartori All Round Consistent Effort Nominees**

Danica Biffanti, Sienna Tait, Kya Olsen, Madison Olsen, Tayte Malas, Damon Pitcher

**Liam Emerson Memorial Sporting Award**

Terry Connors, Tahlia Morello

**Cultural Award**

Taryn Delle Baite

**Vicki O’Hara and David Legg Memorial Award**

Paytont Rogers, Lila Martin, Charlie Shears

**2016 Water Festival Junior Ambassador**

Taryn Delle Baite

**Citizenship Awards**

Jessica Cox, Isabella Tait, Daynah Schofield, Aidan Calligaro, Patrick Kupke, Ellie-Mae Wellington, Taryn Delle Baite, Korban Gaviglio-Moore

**East Ayr Citizenship Award**

Madisyn Grant

**Encouragement Awards**

Taylah Koutsonis, Makaela Kerruish, Katherine Ellison, Harvey Arboit, Jack Edwards, Jack Malas

**North Queensland Sporting Achievements**


Congratulations to all students who attended the parade. Your behaviour was excellent.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

PA  Mitchell Jones
PB  Auraya Poots
PC  Lincoln Innes
P1D  Amelie Woods
1A  Jonas Musumeci
1B  Tyson Howie
1C  Natalie Batts
2A  Charlotte Falkenhagen
2B  Titus Doolah
2C  Jarren Wood
3A  Delta Krzel
3B  Olivia Pavone
3C  India Devow
4A  Jorja Bosworth
4B  Jade Emerson
4C  Ellie Taylor
5A  Adam Prior
5B  Darcy Power
5C  Joseph Malayta

CLASS AWARDS

PA  Seth Doolah
PB  Deon McIntosh
PC  Shyanea Campbell
P1D  Shaynade Nielsen
1A  Elizabeth Nielsen
1B  Casey Power
1C  Jordi Quagliata
2A  Trystan Corwin
2B  Sophia Moloney
2C  Simby Malayta
3A  Jye Ravizza
3B  Riely Hole
3C  Neenah Ivory
4A  Elijah Smith
4B  Thomas Rehein
4C  Farrah Barbagallo
5A  Dekota Cutuli
5B  Munynneu Humphrys
5C  Chloe Harmer

P&C News with Corryn Innes

Wow! I can’t believe the 2016 school year is almost over. What a great year it has been. Thank you all for your continual support of the P&C throughout the year. As a community we have together raised over $19,000 through our various stalls, discos, fun run, learnathon, family dance night and chocolate drive. This figure doesn’t include any profit made from the tuckshop. This is an awesome outcome for the year. The P&C committee looks forward to another very successful year for our school community in 2017.

The latest update on the arrival of our new school hats is that they will be here in January. I have set up a text message list for those parents who would like to know when the new hats arrive. If you would like to be added to the text list can you please text me your name to 0429 304 291. Don’t forget our hats and shirts will be available for purchase from Kids Crossing over the school holidays. If you are keen to purchase a new hat, hold off until the New Year.

We are still finalising the set-up of the tuckshop online ordering system, we have had a few delays due to sourcing of equipment. Hopefully it will be good to go in the first weeks of Term 1.

I would like to congratulate the East Ayr State School graduating year 6 class of 2016. You have all worked very hard, and we wish you all the very best in your high school years and beyond.

I would also like to thank the teaching, support and admin staff for your support throughout the year. We hope that you all have a safe and relaxing summer break.

Finally I would like to thank Helen McCullough for her hard work and dedication to the students of East Ayr State School over the past two years. You have had a huge impact on our school community and we are very grateful for all that you have achieved for our school. We wish you and your family the best of luck in the next chapter of your lives. We hope you find your new position at The Willows State School rewarding and fulfilling.

Our first P&C meeting for 2017 will be Monday 13th February at 6.30pm in the staffroom. Have a happy and relaxing holiday. See you in 2017.

Corryn

Year 1 and 2 Swimming Carnival
The Year 1-2 Swimming Carnival was held at Home Hill on Thursday 24 November. Thanks to all the parents and caregivers who came along to cheer on the students. Once again the junior swimming carnival was a huge success. Special thanks to Alannah Alli for organising a great day.

The results of the day were:
1st  Drysdale 673
2nd  Wickham 610
3rd  Leichhardt 584
4th  Cook 559

Learnathon
The 2016 Learnathon has concluded. Thank you to everyone who supported our students in the Learnathon. $2857.20 was raised which is a great effort from the school community.

Our highest fundraiser was 3C student, Chloe Hook, who raised $154 and will receive a $100 voucher. Korban Gaviglio-Moore from 6B raised $125 and will receive a $75 voucher. Raising the 3rd highest amount of money was Bella Lawry with $100. Bella will receive a $50 voucher.

The class that raised the highest amount of money was Year 1C with $345.50 and this class will receive $150 to use for a class activity.

The following students raised $50 and over and will receive a Zooper Dooper from the Tuckshop.

Prep B  Jorja Ahern
Prep C  Ruby Aguirre
1A  Brianna Cheyne
1C  Bella Lawry
2A  Angela Pucciarmati
2C  Farrah Sheppard
3C  Ayden Barnett
4A  Charlotte Falkenhagen
4B  Cailtyn Cheyne
5A  Kelsey Cox
5B  Hunter Oats
6A  Chloe Hook
6B  Lacy Horan
6C  Shonay Arroita
5C  Mia Power
6D  Matthew Trenfield
6E  Jessica Cox
6F  Korban Gaviglio-Moore
6G  Ellie-Mae Wellington
6H  Damon Pitcher

Thank you and well done to all students.

Congratulations to the Rooster Winners
CHARLOTTE FALKENHAGEN & ELLIE TAYLOR