Welcome to Week 6! The term has certainly gone quickly and there has been much cause for celebration around the student learning achievement and progress to date. It is great to see that students are giving it their all – the writing samples that have been shared with me across P-6 have been outstanding and I congratulate students and teachers on their team work in classrooms on a daily basis! Well done, everyone!

Equally great to see is that students are right on track with their mathematics units. I am very excited to see our students working towards their assessment pieces. Teachers are sharing and moderating this work this afternoon. This year, as a school we are working on our basic facts – I am sure you would agree that basic maths facts and knowledge about time, space, shape, number etc. is important. For some students, this will be a challenge, for others maths comes easy.

As the term progresses, we see our Prep students ready to take up new things. Shortly our Preps will join the rest of the early phase at our school parade. We will be inviting them in Week 8 to join us, as this is our last parade of the term and there will be no parade or religion in Week 9 this term. Parents/Carers are welcome to attend parades. We ask that you sit to the back of the parade.

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

Our Year 6 Transition is a program for ALL Year 6 students to experience high school (regardless of whether they intend to enrol at Ayr State High School). This program is a requirement for our Year 6’s and attendance is expected. Our first transition day is coming up in week 8 for Year 6 students. A permission note and travel arrangements will be forwarded to parents/carers shortly.

In Term 4 we will be running a transition program for our Year 5 students with Ayr State High School (further details will be released closer to the day).

**The orientation days** (later this year) are designed only for those Year 6 students who will be attending Ayr State High School. East Ayr continues to provide their normal Year 6 program and teaching and learning during orientation days for those students not enrolled at Ayr High (2017).
**Attendance Update**

Last week we had Matty Bowen visit our school. Our Year 3-6 students were able to meet with him. Matty Bowen captured perfectly our messages around regular attendance and doing your best, 100% of the time. Thanks to our Cowboys for supporting our school, in turn you have many supporters out in our crowd. Our current attendance rate sits above 95% - our overall yearly target is 96% average and no unexplained absences - we can do this!

**Positive Behaviour Learning Update**

The first of the wristbands have been distributed to students who have earned the number of chook slips required. The wristbands line up to our four school rules (colour). The PBL committee have worked hard to establish a rewards system that enables each of our students to achieve and be recognised for the positive behaviour at our school.

The wristbands are able to be won on student’s arms to school – they are easily identifiable. **No other wristbands are permitted.** Students are very excited about these and we thank parents/carers and community for their positive reinforcement and support of our behaviour support team.

The Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students has been reviewed and endorsed by myself and the P and C committee and is now available at [www.ayrestss.eq.edu.au](http://www.ayrestss.eq.edu.au) or hard copy in our school foyer.

We would also like to thank our P and C who, as part of their annual contribution to our school, provided $5000 towards PBL – this is a fantastic contribution to one of the areas of school focus in our Annual Implementation Plan.

**P and C**

Our P and C contribute significantly to our school annually. The committee has provided financial support for us to upgrade some of our computers, support teaching and learning, upgrade some of our learning areas and provide students with the sunscreen in their classrooms for the 2016 school year. On behalf of our students and staff we thank our committee for this support. If you are able to help in tuckshop, at our upcoming Year 1-6 School Disco (17 March) please don’t be shy and see either myself or Linda or one of the P and C members.

Have a great fortnight everyone, we look forward to seeing you at the various school events coming up.

Kind regards

Helen McCullough
Principal

**Reading At Home**

At East Ayr State School, we are modeling and expecting behaviours that ‘good readers’ do. Good readers often don’t realise that they are doing these things. Our good reading behaviour focus for this week’s newsletter item is the use of decoding strategies (strategies to work out a tricky word).

As proficient readers, we use a range of strategies to work out unfamiliar words. Surprisingly, sounding out a word is often less helpful than other strategies. The decoding strategies in use at our school are:

- Syllabification (break the word up into the syllables – e.g. tap / ping = tapping)
- Look for a smaller word inside (e.g. important – I can see the words port and ant)
- Look for the base word (e.g. batting – I can see the base word bat)
- Say the first sound, read on and re-read
- Flip the sound (e.g. is it ow as in cow or snow?)
- Look at the picture
- Check the punctuation (often the question starters of who, what, where, when, why and how are tricky words and a clue to solve these may be to look at the question mark at the end)
- Stretch the word out and piece it back together
- Think about a word that would make sense

If your child is stuck on a ‘tricky’ word, encourage them to use a range of these strategies to work it out. Good readers don’t rely on just one!

**Our reading targets are**

- Prep – Level 8
- Year 1 – Level 16
- Year 2 – Level 20
- Year 3 – Level 24

**Persistent Lateness**

A number of children are arriving to school late and after the roll has been marked. They are required to show at the office to collect a late slip, to present to their teacher.

Your child must be in class by 8.55am daily to be marked present for the **whole** day. This is a requirement of Education Queensland.

**Interesting Facts:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Late</th>
<th>Lessons per day</th>
<th>Lessons per week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 mins</td>
<td>½ a lesson</td>
<td>2.5 lessons lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 mins</td>
<td>1 lesson</td>
<td>5 lessons lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 mins</td>
<td>1 ½ lessons</td>
<td>7.5 lessons lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>2 lessons</td>
<td>10 lessons lost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These lessons could be Reading, English, Maths, Health, PE, Science, History, Music, Art or Assessments. Consider where you may be in this table. **EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS.**

**School hours start at 8.55am and school finishes at 3.00pm every school day.**

**Religious Education (Catholic)**

There is a fee of $20.00 per family to cover the costs of materials provided to the child/ren throughout the year (i.e. if parents have three children at the school, the total fee is $20.00). The fee is payable by cheque or directly to the Sacred Heart Parish Office, 98 Edwards St Ayr, or PO Box 2006 Ayr Qld 4807.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

PA Addison Bonato
PB Shyla Stinton-O’Brien
PC Jorja Jerkic
P1D Mac Olsen
1A Dylan O’Shea
1B Amaya Boland
1C Tyler Sheehan
2A Sienna Olsen
2B Titus-Jeheli Doolah
2C Hunter Oats
3A Ryley Siandri
3B Locklyn Thomas
3C Chelsea Juan
4A Lacy Horan
4B Archer Swindleby
4C John Cislowksi
5A Halle Bengoa
5B Isabella Moloney
5C Chloe Harmer
6A Patrick Kupke
6B Mackinley Cox
6C Scarlet Jenkins

CLASS AWARDS

PA Gordon Malaya
PB Linken Darr
PC Declan Bozzetto
P1D Hannah Eakins
1A Kendra Butler
1B Lawson Sorohan
1C Ella Gosper
2A Ryley Bailey
2B Lila Martin
2C Maya Flanagan
3A Scott Albizu
3B Caileb Jerkic
3C Bradley Cahill
4A Angelo Minuti
4B Shanay Arrota
4C Emily Kerruish
5A Layla Bonato
5B Munnyaneu Humphrys
5C Pacey Horan
6A Stacey DaCorte
6B Shaquarn Morris
6C Ryan Laidlow

Congratulations to the Rooster Winners
JORJA JERKIC & LACY HORAN

PA Wassie Ghee
PB Rylee Delle Baite
PC Bettina Benoy
P1D Max Kelly
1A Elizabeth Nielson
1B Cooper Christensen
1C Rylan Peters
2A Leyton Chatfield
2B Moomal Unar
2C Kelsey Cox
3A Neenah Ivory
3B Shaye Malaponte
3C Leylan Lampton
4A Angel O’Keefe
4B Charley Ruskin
4C Cadence McShane
5A Cohen Marano
5B Jack Shears
5C Kayla Byers
6A Jessica Cox
6B Korbah Gaviglio-Moore
6C Kory Jordan

Congratulations to the Rooster Winners
RYLEE DELLE BAITE & NEENAH IVORY

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.

P&C News with Timmone Feeney

AGM – Our next P & C meeting will be our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday, 14th March at 6:30pm in the staffroom. The AGM will then be immediately followed by our usual monthly P&C meeting. All committee positions will become vacant at the AGM and need to be filled at this meeting. 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.

DISCO – We will be having a disco on Thursday 17th March. Entry is $2 and this will give a ticket into the lucky door prize. We are going to try a slightly different format, the disco will be held in the hall in the hope that the fan will make it a bit cooler for everyone.

The students will be allowed to visit the tuckshop in the below times only – They will eat the food at tables set up in front of the tuckshop then return to the hall.
Grade 1,2,3 will come up for food at 6.30pm
Grade 4,5,6 will be sent up about 7.15pm

We will be selling hot chips $3, pieces of meatlovers or ham and cheese pizza $2.00 and drinks for $2.

Thursday 17th March is St Patricks Day so we are having a green theme. Kids can still come in casual dress, however we will have a prize for the best green outfit.

TUCKSHOP MENU CHANGES!!
The Department of Education and Training is committed to improving children’s health and learning through better nutrition. The changes that have been made are consistent with the current Australian Dietary Guidelines and the National Healthy School Canteens Guidelines and have the support of the Department of Health’s Chief Health Officer, Principals’ Associations, P&C Queensland, the Queensland Association of School Tuckshops (QAST), NAQ Nutrition and the non-state schooling sector.

Three major changes have been made to the classification of foods and drinks under Smart Choices, the
Healthy Food and Drink Supply
Strategy for Queensland Schools:
- The only drinks to be supplied in
  schools are plain water, milk
  (plain and flavoured) and 99% -
  100% non-carbonated fruit or
  vegetable juice. All other drinks
  will be classified as RED.
- All potato chips and similar
  snacks will be classified as RED.
- All products with added
  confectionery, icing and sweet
  fillings will be classified as RED.

Basically for our school tuckshop we
believe this means removing Quench
drinks, icing on cakes and potato
chips. These items must be removed
from our menu by the start of Term
3. This will have a major impact on
our tuckshop. We will keep you
updated as we find out more on this
matter.

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. We also have more
stock of the printed tuckshop
bags. You can purchase 40 bags for
$4.00.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING – All
positions on the newsletter have now
been filled. Thank you to the
businesses who have supported the
school in this way. Please support
these local businesses.

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 schools Facebook
page has some great things on it –
follow this page to find out what
happens at school.

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

Timmone

CHAPPY’S CHAT
With
Chappy John

Leap!
“...except for February, which has 28
days clear and 29 days each leap
year.”

2016 is one of those amazing years
when we cram in an extra day to
count 366 days for the year. But why
do we have Leap Years?

My story goes like this: When God
created the universe, he decided he
needed us to experience seasons,
and seasons depend upon our Earth’s
position in space with the Sun. As
people, we like things neat and tidy,
for example the decimal system,
where everything is divisible by 10.
God messes things up and tells us to
forget numbers, but just enjoy!
God’s year is 365 days, 5 hours, 48
minutes and 45 seconds long!!

So mathematically every fourth year
we need to add on a day to keep
Christmas happening in the same
season each year. Poor February is
the shortest month because Roman
Emperor Augustus stole days from it
to make August bigger! The games of
mice and men which change the
world!!

Anyway, I hope you enjoyed Monday,
the 29th of Feb – it is a day we do not
usually have, so we can look at it as a
gift! What fantastic thing did you do
with your gift day?

Chappy John

East ayr Easter
Eggstravaganza!
As part of our end of
term celebrations, the
students in Year One
and Prep will be
involved in an Easter
Hat Parade. The
parade will take place in
the covered area near the stage, on
Thursday 24th March. Parents and
friends are invited to assemble by
9:10 so that the students can parade
their hats and give a short
presentation of songs and poems
beginning at 9:15am.

Following the parade, we have an
amazing hour of fun ‘Easter’ activities
in the Prep area organised as a
reward for students who have been
‘safe, respectful and responsible
learners’ throughout
the term.

We are so looking forward to this
day. Hope you can join us in
the celebrations. Mark it
on your calendar.

Enviro Club
With registrations still coming in, the
Enviro Club boasts a running total of
105 active members. What a great
effort to see so many young people
keen and interested in helping our
environment. In recent weeks the
group has weeded the play areas and
last week we explored the school’s
worm farms. This provided lots of
discussion and intrigue for the Year
1’s. This week we weighed more of
our aluminium cans which continue
to grow each fortnight. We also
collected all the worm castings in
readiness to bag and sell. Castings
make a fantastic additive to potting
mixes and add natural nutrients
that plants love. In the near future a
new sprinkler system will be hooked up
to our vegetable garden to give it full
coverage. The heat has been a
consideration lately so members have
been instructed to hydrate and stay
out of the direct sun as much as
possible.
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