Dear Parents/Carers and Community

Over the past fortnight there has been a number of good news stories at our school. Again, one of the proudest moments of our school year is the ANZAC Day school ceremony and participation in the March. Thank you to the many students, parents and staff who supported this.

**CROSS COUNTRY WRAP UP**

Congratulations to all students, staff and parents for a successful Cross Country/Fun Run on Friday. It was excellent to see the high team spirits and student participation throughout the 2 events. A special thank you to all staff and helpers who assisted before school and after school to make this sporting event a success.

**EVIDENCE STUDY – EAST AYR STATE SCHOOL**

Last week we hosted two members, Mr Phillip Reid and Mr Steven Newton, from the State Schools Performance Team in Central Office. Their job is to document 6 stories across the state of high performing schools. At East Ayr State School their purpose was to observe the work in our classrooms around Quality First Teaching and to talk with staff and students about teaching and learning and school curriculum processes that commenced at East Ayr in 2015 as part of the Great Results Guarantee agreement and how this has been built upon in the Investing For Schools Agreement 2016.

The success of our students learning, the curriculum processes and the monitoring and reporting of this work will be documented through the “Evidence Hub” for State Schools. I would like to thank all members who participated in this experience and we look forward to sharing the report around this. What was evident was the absolute clarity of our learners around their learning and their assessment. Congratulations East Ayr State School!

**NAPLAN**

From May 10-12, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will participate in the annual
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) to assess their skills and understanding in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The tests will be conducted in all state and non-state schools across the country. We wish all of our Year 3 and 5 students all the best in this – success is personal best! Good luck terrific 3’s and fantastic 5’s!

SCHOOL DISCO
See you all on Thursday from 6pm-8.30pm in our school hall for our school disco. This is a very exciting P and C fundraiser – we cannot wait to see our Preps to Year 6 dance the night away!

Kind regards

Helen McCullough
Principal

Reading At Home

Reading with expression is an important skill as it makes the reader aware of character feelings and emotions, types of events and allows them to interpret the tone of the text. Reading with expression assists with comprehension. When reading to your child, emphasise parts of the text and character speech with expression and discuss why you did it. You could even read a short part of the text aloud, without expression, and ask your child if it was interesting and what they could do to fix it. Have them read it back to you with expression and discuss the difference. Reading without expression can make the reading uninteresting, for both the reader and the listener!

Our reading targets are

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

Kayla Hawkins
(Master Teacher/Head of Curriculum)

Attendance

Attendance is a critical factor in any child’s school success. Children should attend school every day and on time, except in cases of illness or an emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with make-up work. Regular attendance and promptness are good habits that are expected and appreciated at all levels of schooling and in the workplace. For the upcoming terms, please make school a priority in your household. Commit to excellence in attendance. Your child’s future depends on it!

Interesting Fact: Chronic absence from school is defined as missing 10% of the school year at any given point in a school year, both explained or unexplained absences. For example, if your child misses 2 days of school out of 5 weeks, 4 days out of 8 weeks, or 18 days out of the entire school year, your child is considered chronically absent.

Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college, a trade school and keep a job.

Fun Run Sponsorship

Thank you to everyone who supported the “Fun Run Fundraiser”. A reminder that the date money and forms are due back is this FRIDAY, 6 MAY.

We will announce the highest fundraiser on parade on Thursday 19 May.

Prizes include:
- **Highest fundraiser class** receives $150 for a party of their choice.
- **Highest individual fundraisers**
  - 1st $100
  - 2nd $75
  - 3rd $50

All students who raise $50 or higher receive a $10 voucher from Toyworld, Sportspower, Sports First or Burdekin Delta Cinemas.

Year 3-6 Cross Country

Our annual Cross Country was held last Friday 29 April. It was terrific to see everyone out having a go at running a long distance. Our 11 and 12 year old students ran 2400m. The 9 and 10 year old students ran 1800m and the 8 year olds ran 800m. All students who ran on the day were rewarded with a Zooper Dooper at the end of the race. Thanks to the P & C Association.

Thanks to all students and teachers for making this a very enjoyable event. A special thanks to Alannah Aili and staff who set up the event and helped clean up after the event.

We had a number of parents assist in giving out place cards, assisting our younger students to place their place cards in their correct sports house buckets and giving out Zooper Doper. We greatly appreciate this help as without parental assistance it would have been difficult to hold the Cross Country events. Thank you.

Winners for the Year 3 – 6 Cross Country:

- **8Yrs Boys**: Zander DalleCort
- **8Yrs Girls**: Liyah Priddle
- **9Yrs Boys**: Angus McMullen
- **9Yrs Girls**: Lacy Horan
- **10Yrs Boys**: Cohen Marano
- **10Yrs Girls**: Charley Ruskin
- **11Yrs Boys**: Terry Connors
- **11Yrs Girls**: Tahlia Morello
- **12Yrs Boys**: Seth Malas
- **12Yrs Girls**: Mackinley Cox

Congratulations to these students. Each student who completed the course received points for their house.
The winning house for 2016 was Cook. The points for the various houses were:

- **Cook**: 594
- **Leichhardt**: 565
- **Drysdale S11**: 450

From this carnival the following students will represent East Ayr at the District Cross Country being held at the Ayr Racecourse this Friday 6 May. Our representatives for this year are:

- **Angus McMullen**
- **Jarvis Comford**
- **Nate Wyburg**
- **Lucas Cowen**
- **Ben Byers**
- **Lacy Horan**
- **Chloe Hook**
- **Shaye Malaponte**
- **Khyla Cursio**
- **Shelby Olsen**
- **Cohens Marano**
- **Jye Olsen**
- **Travis Wilkins**
- **Ashton Marano**
- **Noah Arboit**
- **Charley Ruskin**
- **Tyla Cox**
- **Mia Galbraith**
- **Emily Kerruish**
- **Jayla Tinus**
- **Nuzhatul Mannan**

These students received a permission note yesterday. This permission note is to be returned by **Thursday 5 May**.

Best of luck to these competitors on Friday.

**P-2 Fun Run**

The P-2 Fun Run was run after the Year 3-6 Cross Country on Friday 29 April. The Preps’ Fun Run was 300 metres while our Year 1 and 2 students ran 500 metres. All students are to be congratulated on their efforts. It was great to see everyone having a go and the Zooper Dooper at the end made the effort worthwhile.

Our winners on the day were:

- **Prep Boys**: Jehkiah Cole-Beer
- **Prep Girls**: Yarmanee Capper
- **Yr 1 Boys**: Jarvis Dowson
- **Yr 1 Girls**: Ella Gosper
- **Yr 2 Boys**: Tate Mann
- **Yr 2 Girls**: Zandi Bonanno

Congratulations to these winners and well done to all who participated.

The P-2 Fun Run Shield was won by Drysdale. Congratulations to Drysdale House on their victory.

The points for the houses were:

- **Drysdale**: 414
  - **Cook**: 352
  - **Leichhardt**: 336
  - **Wickham**: 290

**Good News Article**

The following is an excerpt from a short story written by Madisyn Grant (6B).

**Fred**

You may be wondering why I, a frill-neck lizard, am curled up on a little girl’s lap. You may be confused at this very unlikely friendship. The trust of it is, I too, am still slightly confused. So, I will explain it all to you from beginning to end.

It was a crisp, spring morning when we first met. I was stretched out under an old apricot tree, trying to catch the first warm rays of soft sunlight. My eyes were narrow slits in my sandy-coloured skin. My frill was a magnificent sight. The sound of the local kookaburra’s laugh filled my ears, and the sickly-sweet smell wafted up my nostrils was honeysuckle blossoms. All of a sudden, an excited scream nearby roused me from my daydream, breaking the peaceful atmosphere. With a strangled cry, the kookaburra zoomed away in panic, disappearing behind a dark cloud.

“A lizard! Mummy, look at the pretty lizard!” the voice came again, this time slightly calmer. Like lightning, I heaved myself onto my hind legs and hurtled up the tree as a black, shaggy spaniel pelted toward my resting place. I chose a clumped leaves along a sturdy branch to hide behind. After some time, when the screamer had disappeared back into her brightly-coloured home, I peered cautiously around a stray leaf to scan the area for danger. Meanwhile, the spaniel had fallen asleep at the foot of the tree. Despite the risk of total exposure, I knew I had to try and come down. Besides, I was getting quite peckish. Cautiously, I started to make my way down the slippery trunk of the tree. It was like trying to walk a tight rope with your eyes closed. I took a flying leap and hit the ground with a quiet thud, just two metres away from the silently snoozing dog. Grinning with relief, I sped away keeping one eye open for a four-legged pursuer, the other for passing insects.

**NAPLAN**

NAPLAN tests for Year 3 and 5 will be held next Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May. NAPLAN Parent Information leaflets will be sent home this week.

**Prep – Year 6 Disco**

The **Prep – Year 6 Disco** will be held on **Thursday 5 May**. 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 and then return to the hall.

**Prep, Year 1, 2 and 3 will come up for food at 6:30pm.**

**Year 4, 5 and 6 will be sent up about 7:15pm.**

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

Students can come dressed in green as this was the theme for the postponed disco in Term 1. There will be a prize for the best green outfit.

Students can still come in normal dress.

**Interschool Sport**

This term the Interschool Sport for students Years 5 and 6 will be held over two carnival days. The first carnival day is Friday, May 20 and the second carnival day is Friday June 3. Permission notes for these days will be sent out next week and should be returned as soon as possible.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

PA Maya Hudson  
PB Evah Miller  
PC Chase Bolam  
P1D Beau Ellwood  
1A Lincoln Bolam  
1B Tyson Howie  
1C Caydan Smith  
2A Ayden Barnett  
2B Camden Oats  
2C Kirryn Laidlow  
3A Delta Krzelj  
3B Nate Wyburg  
3C Liyah Priddle  
4A Chelsea O’Shea  
4B Braydon Bolam  
4C Ellie Dabelstein  
5A Dylan Raitelli  
5B Ashton Marshall  
5C Ethan Collins  
6A Stacey DaCorte  
6B Chloe Hutley  
6C Taryn Delle Baite

CLASS AWARDS

PA Parker Bonato  
PB James Ellison  
PC Jarred Laidlow  
P1D Millie Lyne  
1A Taylor Stockdale  
1B Case Power  
1C Mia Robertson  
2A Leyton Chatfield  
2B Lilliana Stafford  
2C Ruby Bartlett  
3A Peppah Siandi  
3B Jaxon Setter  
3C Ella Dabelstein  
4A Nikhil Duell  
4B Hayley Thompson  
4C Mia Galbraith  
5A Jordan Taylor  
5B Jorja Grabs  
5C Joseph Malaya  
6A Daynah Schofield  
6B Kane Kirkwood  
6C Bailey Glover

North Queensland Representatives

Over the last few weeks, various North Queensland Sports Trials have been held. Many East Ayr students have participated in these trials. All East Ayr students have displayed excellent sportsmanship and have competed to the best of their ability.

Congratulations and good luck to the following students: Terry Connors and Larni Vasta who were selected in North Queensland teams. Terry Connors was selected in the North Queensland AFL team and will travel to Hervey Bay to participate in the State AFL Championships from 9 June to 12 June.

After the NQ Rugby League Trials last Monday and Tuesday, Terry was again successful in gaining a place in the NQ Rugby League Team. Terry will now attend the State Rugby League Championships at Runaway Bay (Gold Coast) from 23 June to 28 June.

This is a tremendous effort by Terry to make two(2) NQ teams.

Larni Vasta will travel to Mackay with the North Queensland Basketball team to participate in the State Basketball Championships from June to 5 June.

All the very best Terry and Larni at the upcoming State championships.

Well done to Dylan Meinicke who was selected as a shadow for the North Queensland Football team.

CHAPPY’S CHAT

Thank you all!

On Thursday 21st April when we had our special bacon and egg sandwich for Brekky Club, each of you brought in items to help our Brekky Club continue. I was overwhelmed by the support you gave, and I am so glad that Brekky Club means so much to you. Thank you for being so generous and caring.

Out of this, we have decided to start up a second Brekky Club day on Thursdays. This will be a very simple breakfast of cereals only. We have 5 types of cereal, so you will find something yummy I am sure. The School Peer Mediators will be my helpers, and sound enthusiastic to volunteer and make it happen, so as of Thursday 12th May from 8am to 8.30am we will be serving in the Hall.

I was also impressed with our ANZAC observance at school on Friday 22nd. I feel we honoured our armed forces.
and showed we care for them, while cherishing the freedom they keep for us in Australia.

Finally: Congratulations to our Cross Country finalists – I will see you at the Burdekin final on Friday!

Chappy John

P&C News with Corryn Innes

Firstly a huge thank you to everyone who has returned the purple ‘Just One Thing’ form. Your response has been great. It is not too late to return your form if you haven’t done so already. We still have another disco and the two athletics carnivals at the end of the term. We urge you all to consider volunteering at one of the athletics carnivals, particularly if you are able to help out at the carnival your child/ren are not participating it. The more helpers we can arrange the easier it is for the school to run the carnival.

A big thank you to the parents who helped out at the cross country and fun run last week. The children put in a great effort. We are currently counting the sponsorship donations and we will provide a grand total of money raised in next newsletter. Thank you to all who sponsored children.

There are some lovely gifts on sale at the Mother’s Day stall. It is operating from the old tuckshop right through until Friday 6th from 8:30am. Come and purchase something special.

We have made a few minor changes to our tuckshop menu. We have decided to remove the half sausage rolls from the menu. Children who want to order half sausage rolls are able to order mini sausage rolls. The price of a packet of chips has been dropped to $1.20 and a packet of popcorn is now 60c. We have also decided to extend the days that fruit salad is offered from Tuesday through to Friday. Please if you have any feedback or suggestions about the tuckshop please let us know. Our email is pandc@ayreastss.eq.edu.au.

Don’t forget the green themed disco on Thursday night, 6pm-8.30pm. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to help out. See you there!

The next P&C meeting is Monday 9th May in the school staffroom at 6.30pm.

Corryn

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.