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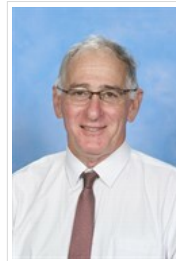


8 December 2021

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 10 December	Final Day Year 7, 8 & 9
Friday 10 December	School Office Closes 3.30pm
Monday 17 January	School Office reopens 8.00am
Monday 24 January	First Day Year 7, 11 and 12
Tuesday 25 January	All Year Levels attend
Wednesday 26 January	Public Holiday
Friday 4 February	Inter House Swimming Carnival
Monday 7 February	Meet and Greet
Friday 11 February	School Leader and Senior Badge Ceremony
Friday 18 February	School Photos

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



CLOSURE OF 2021

As this is the final newsletter for 2021 I would take this opportunity to thank the many parents and caregivers that have assisted and supported the education of our students, their children throughout this time. It is clear, even after all the disruptions, the school was able to provide an educational base for curriculum delivery and the supportive, nurturing provided by families that ultimately make the difference.

Our focused goal is to create an atmosphere that is conducive to learning, socially just and interactive so that every student can access, grow and succeed in their chosen curriculum that leads to their future career pathway. Throughout 2021 we have witnessed some amazing moments, especially the resilience displayed by our students, in particular our now departed Year 12 students. We look forward to the release of their results in the near future.

For all other year levels, all parents and caregivers will receive a mail-out early next week. This mail-out contains information for the start of 2022 and the Semester 2 Report Cards. Where requested in early 2022 we will make necessary arrangement for parents and caregivers to discuss their child's results with the classroom teachers.

We will be facing some significant challenges in 2022, an increase in student enrolments in our Junior School and overall, a growing student population. To match this challenge, we have reinforced our commitment to ensuring students have the opportunity to study in fields of learning that lead and support their future aspirations. The introduction of the Certificate in

Automotive in Year 10 was very successful and in 2022 the new Certificate in Health has received strong support from our Year 11 cohort.

Our future is stamped by 'higher engagement' and 'improved student outcomes'. In 2022, William Ross will be creating a more responsive approach to student engagement and student responsibility by setting individual class targets for improved student performance, something I look forward to discussing with all parents next year.

In closing 2021, I would extend best wishes and a relaxing and safe Christmas break to all and look forward to the new year. Our school office will reopen in 2022 on Monday 17th January.



STAFF LEAVING

Thank you to the dedicated and committed staff, who will be departing our community, for their many years of service to William Ross State High School. We wish you all the best of luck on your new adventure.

Eddie Zhu
Hollie Dean
Leanne Russell
Leanne Paul
Steve Gowdy
Grant Madden
Tatham Leeton
Donna Jones

UNEXPECTED EVENTS – “OUR UNPREDICTABLE FUTURE”

Townsville offers many opportunities and challenges and we are well versed in our Cyclone Season and understand the intricacies involved.

Although our latest experience with COVID is not as simple, the future here is not as simple, with the many and varied complexities involved any decisions and actions to be taken will be determined direct advise from the Department of Education.

I would ask parents and caregivers to be aware, that in the event of any change to the start of the 2022 school year, I will be communicating any such changes directly to you using the following:

- email
- school's website
- school's Facebook
- text messaging

I look forward to a positive start to 2022.

Allan Evans
Principal
tevan38@eq.edu.au

FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SCIENCE NEWS



With only a few short days to go, students, teachers and support staff are working to reflect and celebrate their achievements for the year and consider where to go from here in 2022.

Achievement across the sciences

- An overall improvement in student writing and ability to refer to evidence when stating conclusions or ideas.
- 80% or more of students studying science are passing across year levels 7-9, 11 and 12. Well done students!
- High attendance, effort and achievements in the 2021 BIG science competition
- Success in solving real world problems through participation in STEAM lab and the Virtual STEM academy
- Growth and release of 48 very healthy barramundi into the Ross River.



A big THANK YOU to staff, students and parents for their dedication, commitment and creative problem solving throughout year. The staff in the Science Department have put in endless hours of work to develop strong interactive programs to support students to reach their full potential, and gain a greater understanding of the importance of science in the world around them.



Have a Happy and Safe Festive Season!

NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to Year 11 student, Ashleigh Dalton, for being nominated and accepted to participate in the 2022 National Youth Science Forum (NYSF). In addition to her acceptance, Ashleigh has also received a scholarship of \$750 to support her attendance. The National Youth Science Forum is a highly competitive program to get into and will see Ashleigh heading south to Brisbane for 12 days of Science and STEM

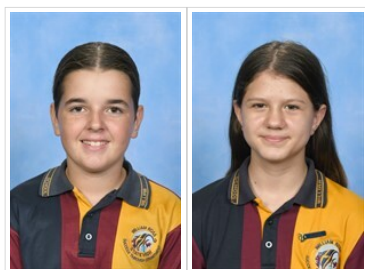


enriched activities. She will engage with other students from around Australia and professionals in the field through in-person and digital STEM experiences, hearing from keynote speakers, lectures and attending hands-on workshops, debates, expos, and enriching social activities.

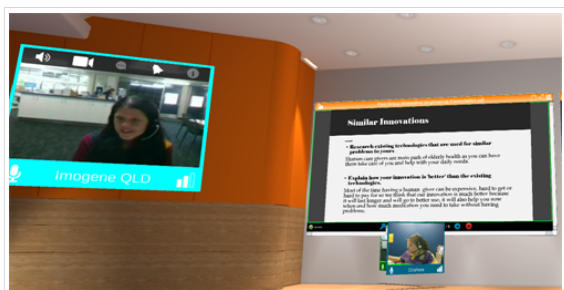
Good Luck Ashleigh! So well deserved.



GLOBAL TROPICS FUTURE



Well done to two outstanding achievers, Imogene Larson- Hague (Yr. 7) and Haylee Atkinson (Yr. 7), who have just completed Round 3 in Global Tropic Future Virtual STEM Academy. Imogene and Hayley have worked collaboratively with students in year 7-9 from across Australia and New Zealand to learn about bioengineering technologies. They worked with experts from James Cook University and The University of Melbourne to innovate ways of improving the health and wellbeing of our elderly through biomedical engineering and worked to design a solution to support elderly in rural and remote communities across the two countries.



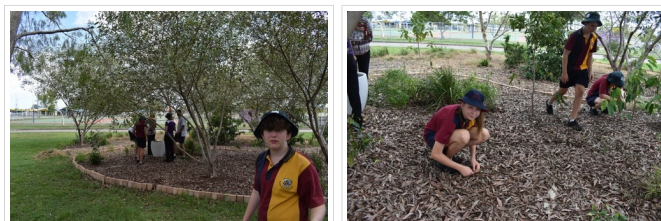
REEF GUARDIAN



Our Reef Guardians wrapped up a very busy year with one final working bee in our Yin Yang Garden. This year, our Reef

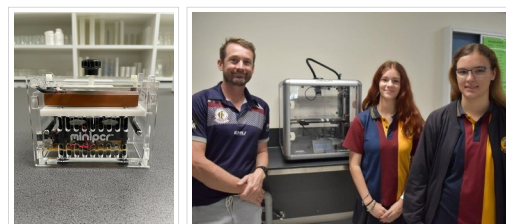
Guardians have tackled a range of issues, from microplastic pollution to reducing fast fashion. On top of this, these kids have continued to keep our native Yin Yang garden looking fabulous. During our final working bee for the year, we removed rubbish and weeds, we repositioned bricks and tidied the garden, we also added some native aquatic plants and fish to our water feature. The addition of a water feature to our garden will improve this

habitat for local wildlife, enabling water-loving animals, such as frogs, to also enjoy our garden. The Science Department would like to congratulate these students for their hard work this year, and the positive contributions they have made to our environment and community!



NEW SCIENCE EQUIPMENT

Thank you to the P&C for their donation of \$2000 towards the purchase of new science equipment in 2021. This money was used to purchase a miniPCR Machine and a 3D printer! These pieces of high-tech equipment will give students exposure to modern technologies that will complement and extend their studies in senior science.

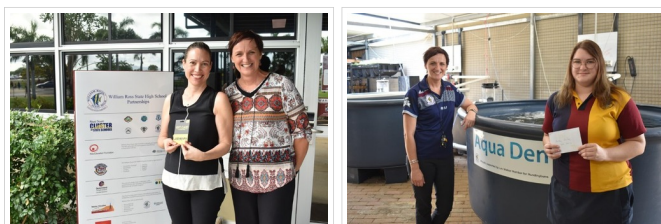


P & C RAFFLE

Congratulations to our WINNERS of the P&C Raffle!

- 1st Place - Michaela Tantillo - \$300 JB HI-FI Gift Card
- 2nd Place – Ainsley Ensbey - \$200 Bunnings Gift Card

The Science Department would like to say a huge “THANK YOU” to the P&C and to all who supported the fundraiser by purchasing tickets. The money raised will be used to enhance our ‘Aquaden’ facility. Future plans include the growth of macroalgae for the purpose of research and bioremediation of aquaculture systems.



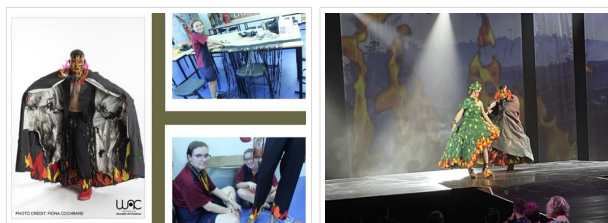
STEAM Lab and STEAM education

STEAM education should be conceptualised as both inclusive of the separate disciplines (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) as well as interdisciplinary. This approach to education uses an enquiry based pedagogical

approach which is highly inclusive for all students as it allows for the integration of skills, strengths and knowledge to culminate in the formation of a creative and innovative solution to a range of contemporary, real world problems.

This year, STEAM challenges and experiences included:

- Wearable Arts
- Pedal Prix (Ranked #1 for the 2021 series!!)
- Virtual STEM academy
- Girl STEM Power Camp
- Army Aviation Simulation experience
- CO2 and Wind Powered Cars
- People Country Culture
- Bridge Engineering
- Drone Flying and flight simulation
- Coding Nao the robot
- Construction of Eco-zone (freshwater pond and natural habitat space to enhance habitat for wildlife)
- Aquaculture
- STEAM fair



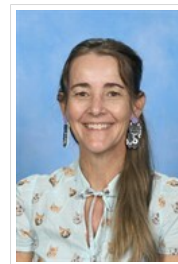
Advancements in Science in November/December, brought to you by @ScienceAlert:

- A mysterious corridor of glass shards in Chile's Atacama Desert may be the result of a large meteor explosion
- NASA's Curiosity has discovered previously undetected organic molecules on Mars, using a promising new technique
- Zinc really might help treat a cold, new study suggests. But it only makes a noticeable difference if taken before you get sick

Shelley De Ruyter
HOD Science
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FROM THE PRACTICAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



It has been a very productive year for our department. Our senior subjects have a strong focus on vocational training as we prepare students for the workforce. This year we successfully transitioned 17 students into trade apprenticeships, assisted 7 students in finding employment in the childcare sector and we congratulate Emily Ridge on her employment at Moduline as a draughtsperson.

Our junior students have been enjoying the chance to get hands on in the classroom with a variety of task across our different subjects. The junior foods students have been showing off their skills by decorating cakes and gingerbread biscuits in line with the Christmas theme. In the textiles classroom students have been designing and making monsters, tote bags and gift hampers. Hopefully some of those hampers made their way home to some lucky recipients. The Year 9 Industry students have been involved in making moving toys and LED night lights. The Year 10 Industry students designed and built birdhouses and the results were architecturally brilliant. It is always a joy to see the students excited and proud of their finished products.



Veronica Farina
HOD Practical Technology
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FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICERS

FUTURE PATHWAYS



The three Guidance Officers, Mrs Holt, Mrs Murdoch and Mrs Moore, would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for a wonderful 2021 and we hope that your students have found some successful mental health and wellbeing outcomes at William Ross State High School.



We would like to wish all students who are moving on to new schools and career pathways all the very best for the future. William Ross State High School Guidance Officers will be here to support students in 2022 with educational support for mental health and wellbeing and careers advice. Thank you for your support and engagement in 2021 and we hope all of your families have a safe and happy holiday season. On that

note there are some helpful resources to support your children to have a safe and happy holiday season on the **Positive Choices** Website: <https://positivechoices.org.au/>

Help your students stay safe at parties this festive season with some tips from Positive Choices. Here is what they recommended with regards to parties and alcohol:



“If your teenager is invited to a party, arrange a time with them to discuss their attendance. It’s also a good idea to contact the parents who are hosting the party to confirm details and provide your phone number. Other discussion points could include:

The Alcohol Issue

- Let your teenager know your expectations around their use of alcohol. Setting clear rules can help to delay your teenager from starting to drink alcohol and prevent alcohol-related harms.
- Providing alcohol for your teenager to take to a party is not recommended. Research shows that supplying alcohol to your teenager increases the likelihood that they will start to use alcohol at a younger age, as well as having higher levels of alcohol use.
- If you think your teenager will be drinking alcohol, talk to them about how they can reduce the risk of harm. This can include reminders to:
 - Never drive or get in a car with a driver who has been drinking;
 - Stay with their friends and don’t wander off alone;
 - Don’t get involved in activities like swimming, riding a bike and other physical sports.

Dealing with Peer Pressure:

- Talk to your teenager about what to do if they are faced with peer pressure to drink alcohol or take drugs (see tips for resisting peer pressure in our student booklet or on our website).
- Remind them that most teenagers do not use alcohol or drugs and by not using they are part of the majority of young Australians.

Some Example Questions to ask the host parents:

- Will there be alcohol at the party?
- If the answer is yes, let the parents know whether your teenager will still be attending the party and whether or not you give permission for your teenager to drink alcohol.
- What supervision will be provided?
- Ask the hosting parents about their plan for supervising the party, such as how many adults will be there. Make sure you are satisfied with this level of supervision. If you can help supervise offer this to the parents.
- What time will the party start and finish?

- Ask the hosts for a clear start and end time. This will help you monitor transport to and from the party and know where your teenager is if you are not taking them yourself.
- Plan with your teenager how they will get home after the party, and make sure they have a safe option.
- Exchange Contact Numbers
- Save the phone number of the hosting parents in case you need to contact them during the party and ask them to save your number as well.”

Other Sources of Help:

Emergency Help: 000

National Alcohol and other Drug hotline: 1800 250 015

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

Lifeline: 131114

Online safety, eSafety Commissioner:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

Headspace: <https://headspace.org.au/>

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Service Townsville: 4433 9600

RATEP NEWSLETTER

Rebecca Holt, Helen Murdoch and Astrid Moore

Guidance Officers

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Little Lifesavers is a program where highly skilled lifesavers introduce children to board paddling, wading, dolphin diving, beach sprints, flags, rescue techniques, patient care and CPR.

Prices starting at \$150 pp*. All participants receive an activity book, water bottle and wet bag.

*Includes return ferry tickets for the participants. QGOV FairPlay Voucher can be used with this program.

MAGNETIC ISLAND

Alma Bay (North Barrier region)

PROGRAM 2 | 2 DAYS
16TH - 17TH DECEMBER 2021
8AM - 12PM

lifesaving.com.au | littlelifesavers@lifesaving.com.au | (07) 3846 8000

For more information
and to register scan
the QR Code

