Activities Week

Activities Week was as successful as it was challenging and I am sure that the week will stand out in the school memories of many. The heat wave conditions that I described from Nymboida last week did not last past Tuesday night, but adventure continued and I particularly enjoyed seeing what Mr Pennington described as probably the fittest group of surf lifesavers he has worked with going through their paces at Sawtell. It is no surprise then that all passed their test and are now qualified to serve at beaches around the country.

I also pay particular respects to our rural fire service team who replaced their scheduled training exercises with live fire fighting right through the week. None of us like to see bush fires burning, but there is no doubt that the experiences presented to our students in this group, including a flight in the water bombing chopper for some, will stand by them and inspire them to serve in RFS units in the future.

Once again I offer special thanks to the very many staff who spent the week with our students in the field. We simply could not provide opportunities like this without the generosity and enthusiasm of our staff. It is a special feature of TAS and one that we should never take for granted.

Tamworth Tough Man Event

Activities Week was clearly not enough for some as 24 boys, led by Jim Pennington, headed to Tamworth to compete in the 10km mud and obstacle event known as ‘Suck it up, Buttercup’. Jack Boydell and Sam Finlayson performed particularly well and congratulations are due to all who put their resilience to the test by backing up from the week away with this commitment. It is to be admired.

Armidale Sports Council Awards

Whilst all our secondary students were out in the field, the Armidale Sports Council held their annual gala evening to recognise the best of sporting achievement in 2014. Four TAS teams featured in the school age section; our 1st XI cricket, 1st XI football and 1st XV rugby teams, all of which had great success last season, but it was the duo of David Williams and Harry Wright who won the Junior Sports Team of the Year award after their record breaking effort in the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic. We had the opportunity to celebrate that success in assembly yesterday and I congratulate them again.

Douglas Shield Cricket

Our 1st XI cricketers continued their strong season on Monday as they travelled to the Central Coast to play Lakes Grammar School in the second round of the Douglas Shield. The team had a good win and will progress to the next round of this state wide knock-out competition early in the new year and I wish them well for that and the annual cricket festival in Sydney in January.

Year 10 Steps Program

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week Year 10 have been rotating through 8 personal development lessons that are designed to be part of the transition into their senior years at school. The program is a diverse one, ranging from ironing skills to lessons on the law from the police, a women’s forum, healthy masculinity, financial management, the art of conversation, reflections on TAS and handshaking and table manners. It seems that the sessions have been as enjoyable as they have been useful and I offer thanks to all those who have contributed to them again this year.
Wednesday 3 December
Year 10 STEPS Program (Period 1-2)
1.00pm Junior School closes
1.00pm Middle School Family Luncheon
1.45pm Middle School Final Assembly
3.30pm Board Finance Meeting
5.00pm Junior School Speech Day

Thursday 4 December
10.00am Speech Day

Holiday Activities
4 - 8 December Rowing Camp - Grafton
8 - 12 December Mountain Bike Camp
6 - 11 January Taree Rowing Camp - Oxley Island
18 - 21 January 1st XI Cricket Festival - Riverview
19 - 22 January Musical Camp - TAS
20 - 22 January Forensic Science Management Camp
23 January Staff Day No #1
26 - 31 January Senior Australasia and South East Asia Round Square Conference - Cheong Shim, Korea
27 January Staff Day No #2
Boarders Return

The Headmaster, Mr Murray Guest requests the pleasure of your company at

Speech Day 2014
Thursday 4 December at 10am
TAS Sports Centre
Guest of Honour
Prof. The Hon. Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO
Former and second longest-serving Governor of New South Wales

UNIFORM AND BOOK SHOP

Clothing Shop Opening hours
Open by appointment only during holidays.

Term 1, Week 1 2015
Tuesday 27 January - 9 am to 5 pm - NO appointment necessary
Wednesday 28 January - 1.30 to 5.30pm
Thursday 29 January - 10 to 2pm
Friday 30 January 1.30 to 5.00pm

STUDENT TRAVEL

Vehicle Conveyence Diaries
Boarders' parents with approved applications are reminded to please have your completed Semester 2 diary at the school no later than Speech Day 4 December, so payments can be processed without unnecessary delay.

Mrs Meg Sadler
Hark! Part 2: John 1:1-18
Hark, the herald angel sings: Verse 2

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Immanuel.

A number of people will say “if only I could see God, then I would believe.” It seems like a fair thing to say. The trouble is as this Bible passage explains, “no-one has ever seen God.” So its problematic, if we need to see God to believe in him and yet no one ever gets to see him, what are we to do?

Well there is one way. John 1 verse 18 says “but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.”

This is what we sing of in the second verse of ‘Hark, the herald angel sings’, Jesus, who is God the Son, who was at the Father’s side, came to earth and made God known.

This school is made up of over 600 students and many staff members, some teaching some non-teaching, that’s quite a few people, but not so many that you would see someone and think, ‘I have never seen that person before, who are they?’

Yet, the people that you actually know well will be a much smaller number. The point is clear, you observe some people at a distance, you can make guesses about them, what makes them tick, what they are passionate about. However, to truly know someone requires time and conversation. They will need to reveal to you who they are, what their internal working are like.

We cannot assume that we can work everything about God out by ourselves. We may be able to make some observations, for example it would appear that he is quite creative. However, to really know the heart of God, and for that matter to genuinely consider even the existence of God, we must listen to the claim that he has revealed himself in His word. This word is not simply his book the Bible, but His son who is refered to as The Word, God speaks to us most clearly in the person of Jesus. This was God the man, dwelling amongst humanity. This is God revealed. We cannot begin to know God aside from his revelation in Jesus.

God has been revealed, through His own words, and through His Word, of course we sing “Glory to the newborn King.”

There are many people who are mourning the tragic death of Phillip Hughes. Whether a cricketer or not we are all affected by the loss of someone with such talent, not yet at the zenith of his powers. Young and old grieve his untimely death. Sometimes the loss of one person can cut deeply into the community and his death has certainly done that. In a sense our shared grief unites us and we become a community of mourning.

It is important for us to allow things that cannot be changed to be what they are without avoidance and without diminishment. Making room for these experiences, allowing ourselves to remain open to the whole range of thoughts and emotions that inevitably arise, enables us to connect with the deeper meanings of what it means to be human and to be connected to each other. The deep sense of sorrow felt by the close family and friends of Phillip Hughes resonates with us and we too become part of the circle of loss and grief. That is how it should be.
Thank you to everyone

As we break up for the 2014 school year, I would like to firstly thank, on behalf of the P&F Executive, everyone who has contributed in any way to the successful year we have enjoyed. Students from across the school, parents both near and far, LPs, teachers, school staff and other friends of TAS, your support has always been appreciated, and we look forward to working with many of you again next year. But in the meantime, we hope that you have a safe, peaceful, blessed and happy Christmas with those you hold dear.

Christmas Puddings

All our puddings have been sold! Pre-ordered puddings can be collected and paid for from Veronica at the front office. Please ensure all puddings are collected by Thursday afternoon.

Save the date

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in McConville Centre on Wednesday 18 February 2015 at 7pm. All Executive positions will be declared vacant and all members are invited to stand for election. The AGM will be followed by a General Meeting to get the year started anew. We welcome all interested Parents and Friends to join with us in supporting the work of the P&F and the Liaison Parents.

Mrs Sue Cartwright

LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND ADVENTRUE

Any fatigue from Activities Week was quickly replaced with enthusiasm and energy as 24 athletes contested the appropriately named ‘Suck it up Buttercup’ mud race in Tamworth on Saturday. Lead by Triathlon Captain, KB Fergusson the race measured 10km in distance with competitors having to negotiate 34 different obstacles and the mandatory mud! Outstanding performances were achieved by Sam Finlayson and Jack Boydell in the Opens, with Hamish Moore, Hamish Cannington and Joshua Jones in the Juniors.

Mr James Pennington

Liam Donaldson, Jarrod Bourke, Brent Rees in the Suck it Up Buttercup event at Tamworth on Saturday.
2015 Art French Cultural and Language Trip – Information Evening

An outstanding opportunity

A short time ago an email went home to all current Years 8, 9, and 10 students of Visual Arts and/ or French about the 2015 Art French Cultural and Language Trip. If your son hasn’t done so already, please ask him to share this information with you. This biennial trip is also open to interested members of the TAS family who have an interest in French and Art.

This excursion will be an excellent opportunity for you to experience the language and the culture of France first hand, as well as to practise your language skills and appreciate the artistic diversity of Paris and the Loire Valley.

If you would like more information about this opportunity and wish to be sent a copy of the itinerary, or were unable to make the Information Evening this week and wish to know more, please contact Madame Kathryn Tamminga, either on 0410 952 648 or via email at ktamming@as.edu.au or visit the TAS website to find out more.

Merci beaucoup!

Mme Tamminga
Congratulations to Nick Farrar in Year 8 on his selection into the Northern Inland U15s cricket team to play at the Macquarie Generation Carnival in Maitland in January. Nick has been selected based on performances in the inter-town rep competition where he has taken a number of wickets so far this season as a leg spin bowler.

Mrs Helen Dennis

**Attention all Cricket Dads (or Mums!)**

Do you miss the sound of willow on leather? Have a spare set of whites in the closet? Then TAS Cricket needs you!

Over the summer TAS needs to field three open cricket teams in the Armidale competition. With boarders returning home we have a number of places to fill on the pitch. We’d love to fill these with parents, uncles, siblings, Old Boys - we’ll take anyone!

There are games on 6, 13 and 20 December and 10 and 17 January. You don’t need to play all games but if you are interested in a game or two please contact John Farrar at chook5@activ8.net.au.

We need you! Our open cricketers are seeking help to fill spots over the summer holidays.
ACTIVITIES WEEK
The Armidalian 2013 has finally arrived! The school’s annual magazine of record will be available for distribution to families on Speech Day.

There is a limit of one copy per family, and it comes at no additional cost. Distribution will be according to the eldest child of a family - if your eldest child is in Junior School, a copy will be sent home in their bag. If your eldest child is in Middle or Senior School, please come to the collection desk outside the Sports Centre after Speech Day and your name will be marked off. Compilation of the 2014 edition is already well underway and it is hoped that this will be published in the first half of 2015.

Best wishes also to the boys heading away with Mr Moore and Mr Slade in the last week of the January holidays to attend the regional Round Square Conference in Korea.

KB Fergusson
Hadrian Wright
Charlton Grant
Liam Cooper
Callum Sellar
**MUSIC MATTERS**

**Instrumental and Vocal Lessons for 2015**

Are you interested in learning an instrument or taking voice lessons next year? Getting in early is the best plan as our music tutor spots fill up quickly in the new year. Please contact the music team to have a chat if you are keen.

**REMINDER: Lesson Cancellations by End of this Term**

A timely reminder that if students wish to cease lessons this term the tutor must be notified by the end of this term to avoid another term's fees. Students - If you wish to try for another lesson time slot please have a chat to your tutor by the end of this term. At the end of each term there is often some shuffling around of lessons and a more suitable spot might come up next term if you ask.

**Annual Instrument Recall**

Instruments are being checked this week and will be ready for collection by Friday. Please email the Music Administrator with any queries or if you require an earlier pick up.

Thank you for your support in keeping our hire instruments in peak condition!

**Once Upon a Mattress - TAS Musical Camp**

19 - 23 January

A reminder from Ms Roobol and Mr O’Connell to complete the forms for the Musical Camp and send them back in!

**Final Week Rehearsals and Performances**

There are many important events involving our TAS Ensembles coming up next week! Please see the list below regarding rehearsal times and performances...

**Wednesday 3 December**

- Combined Big Band rehearsal 10.30am – 11.40am
- MS Assembly rehearsal 11.40am - 12.25pm
- Final MS Assembly 2.00 – 2.45pm
- Big Band/Senior Jazz/ TAS Singers rehearsal 2.45 - 3.30pm (in Gym)
- JS Speech Day 5.00pm

**Thursday 4 December**

- Combined Band sets up 9.00am
- MS / SS Speech Day 10.00am

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher, Mr Finco and Mrs Broadbent
The time has come

This is a good thing, too. I'm pleased to report that the Activities for all year groups are completed and that boys are well, though from the looks on faces, very tired. Such tiredness is not entirely attributable to the activities just completed – it’s more the manifestation of a year just ‘done’. The good news is that we’ve days to go and, on this note, I hope all goes well for all!

Academic work does continue – ‘loose ends are being tied up’, cadet gear is being returned, practices for music, the Carols Service, our final Middle and Senior School Assemblies and also the School's Speech Day will occur this week and of course boarding students will begin their clean up in both White and Dangar Houses. In short, while general activities have ceased, they’re all replaced by new ones in preparation for the Christmas break.

We’re looking forward to welcoming parents to our end of year functions and even though we’re likely to see you before you read this we hope that your time at TAS this week is an enjoyable one. Certainly, I’m looking forward to catching up with you, even for a brief chat as we go to various activities that concern your sons.

To give some idea of how valuable and also the variety of end of term activities are, this edition of TAS Talks will contain images of your sons’ engagement in a number of them. Last week I was lucky to be involved in a number of them.

On Monday we welcomed boys from Mosman Prep and I went on their excursion to Uralla's McCrossin's Mill on Wednesday and to Grant Harris' property for the stalk the lantern activity on Wednesday night. It was good this year to welcome parents to this event for a BBQ. Thanks go to Grant and Kim Harris for making this activity possible and to Year 6 teachers, Kirsty Brunsdon and Luke Polson for its organization.

I also went to Nymboida to see the Year 7 and 8 boys. I'm not sure how I became involved in it, but I participated (badly I think) in the bridge building activities with three groups of Year 7 boys and then went abseiling with the Year 8s – even though I say so myself, this second activity was much better done by me. I was also drenched one afternoon but wasn't quite smart enough to bring back the rain with me to Armidale.

Special thanks also go to Ms Fiona Taber for her masterful organization of the Year 7 cadets. There's no other description for it - her organization of the week at Nymboida was flawless - no mean achievement especially considering the weather conditions and the number of activities that Fiona had to oversee.

In between times I saw a number of parents about various matters and Mrs Alison Evans and I were able to get a much work done on our Final Assembly arrangements. Needless to say, perhaps, but the week was ‘full’ and tiring but, as indicated, a productive one and practically every person I spoke to was happy.

In fact, the whole year has been ‘full’ and I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of us. On the whole, it’s been very productive and I believe we’ve only been able to achieve what we have because of amazingly hard-working staff and boys who have been accommodating. Of course, there have been occasions when, for whatever reason, ‘things’ have been a bit shaky, but these situations have been few and all they do is confirm that we’re normal. I reckon that to be perfect all the time is almost impossible – especially when we remind ourselves that we’re dealing with young adolescents.

We’re just about to embark on the year’s longest (and definitely the warmest) holiday break: whatever it is you do and wherever it is you go, I hope your time with family and friends is wonderful and safe. Be of good cheer and have a happy Christmas holiday. Again, here’s to some good soaking rain.

Good wishes to all,

Mr Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School
Many have said that the Junior School should consider creating a franchise for our rainmaking abilities as, not for the first time this year (it is becoming a little predictable) we wrestled with the lovely rain that attempted to dampen our parade. However, with Mrs Rachel Butcher, Ms Leanne Roobol and a couple of ring in’s, the Junior Vocal Ensemble provided a lovely focus for us as they sang a number of lovely songs. It was greatly appreciated and added to what was a wonderful catch up for many of us.

I would like to thank our group of Liaison Parents publicly for the outstanding role they have all played this year. Under the experienced guidance of Mrs Polly Rutledge, they have been able to welcome new families into our community, organise social occasions and fundraisers and generally assisted in binding our school community together. It is a vital role they play and on behalf of us all I thank them.

Mr Allan Moore and Mr Neil Druce are departing for the biennial trip to visit The Tezukayama Elementary School in Osaka Japan. We wish them well, knowing that they have been preparing a number of speeches that will be presented in Japanese, and musical items, which will be performed, all designed to bring both schools and the students together culturally and socially. We look forward to reciprocating their very generous hospitality in 2015, with the August date yet to be confirmed.

Junior School BBQ

Junior School Reports

Well wishes for the Tezukayama Visit to Japan
Visual Arts Classes - TAS Junior School Term 1-4 2015

Years: 1-2 Tuesdays 1-2pm
Years: 3-5 Thursdays 1-2pm
Teacher: Mrs Ingrid Evans (B.art.ed)

Term 1 Lessons Start: Week 2 and finish in Week 9

Private Visual Arts Classes for Infants and Primary aged students will be available in the TAS Junior School during 2015.

Classes will provide students with fun, thematic, ‘hands on’ 2D, age appropriate art making experiences, based on the study of artists and the use of a variety of art materials and techniques.

Students will predominantly work in a sketchbook learning skills that will lead to the production of thematic artworks.

Students will need to commit to a term of lessons for 8 weeks. A fee of $100 will be payable at the beginning of each term. Classes will have limited numbers.

Please contact Ingrid Evans for more details: nickgrid@bigpond.com or 0428966842.
As the year draws to an end, I would just like to thank all of our dedicated coaches who, each week, spend time training our children, coaching them through another game in the summer competition or encouraging them to keep fit and healthy.

Our Junior School children have had a terrific start to the summer season and have trained and played hard in their respective competitions.

I encourage you all to maintain your energetic nature throughout the holiday period by joining in as many physical challenges as you can, enjoying outdoor pursuits and participating in family activities.

Be safe, enjoy your well-deserved holiday and see you in the New Year.

Mrs Christine Wright

Junior School Triathlon – Results

(For more photos, please visit the Junior School Photo Gallery on the TAS website.)

Teams events:

Kindergarten
1st – Blake Whitehill, Mitchell Evans and Penny Pezzutti

Year 1
1st – Ruby Broun, Evan Kwan and Flinders Ward

Year 2
1st – Lochlan Gerdes, Alistair Newton, Lennox Neilson and Thomas Dundon

Year 3
1st – Alexis Langlois-Peters, Lachie Thomas, Conal Nicoll and Michael Janda

Year 4
1st – Byron McCann, Ben Rowe and Hudson Eichorn

Year 5
1st – Hamish Chalmers and Fletcher Jackson

Individual events

Year 2
1st- Tom Ball
2nd- Banjo Lawrence
3rd- Jack Lincoln

Year 3
1st- Sam Meehan
2nd- Daniel Morgan
3rd- Will Nash

Year 4
1st- Isabella Rutledge
2nd- Sophia Rutledge
3rd- Alexander Zuber

Year 5
1st- Nick O’Neil
2nd- Joseph Anderson
3rd- Stewart Williams

Sarah Heagney Memorial Trophy: Nick O’Neil

Winner of the Sarah Heagney Memorial Trophy - Nick O’Neil, with Mrs Heagney

Grace Pennington & Chloe Lincoln enjoying the event in fine spirit

Isabell and Sofia Rutledge - competing to the very end
**Bike Day and Triathlon Recount – by Poppy Broun**

Last Tuesday I brought my bike to school, my friends did too! Everyone in the Junior School had their bike for Bike Day!

Firstly, we did a long distance course around the Middle School playground. There was a hill at the start that some people found a bit difficult. We went under a set of stairs and they were quite low.

Secondly, we did an obstacle course. My friend, Dimity and I swapped bikes every second lap. Firstly you went through witch’s hats, then you went in a tight maze, after that you went in and out of cones, then you went over a bridge. Some people found that a challenge!

Finally, we did the Triathlon. I was in a team with 3 people. Dimity, Jasper and I. Jasper swam, Dimity biked and I ran! We competed against other teams and came in second.

---

**Letter from Camp Australia – After School Care**

Dear TAS Families

The School Executive has approved in principle, the management of the school’s After School Care program with Camp Australia.

Established in 1987, Camp Australia is a reputable family owned and operated business and the leading OSHC provider in Australia, offering a range of services in childcare, sports coaching and events. They currently run OSHC programs in over 530 schools nationally, including 80+ schools in New South Wales. Independent schools partnering with Camp Australia have given us positive feedback about their working relationships.

This decision has been made with careful consideration of a number of major factors, which include: Implementation of the childcare rebates and benefits, growth in administration volume and increasing government operating compliance standards and the introduction of the National Quality Framework.

In addition to the above, the following points were considered and reviewed by the School Executive when making its decision:

- Camp Australia will take over all the administration of the OSHC program and includes staff training and professional development, payroll, licensing, account management and provision of food, equipment and materials
- Re-hire any existing employees of the current program in consultation with the school
- All staff members will have a current Working with Children Check and child protection at each session
- The Program will be run in accordance with the current Child Care Act and National Quality Framework
- Camp Australia staff and current OSHC staff will incorporate the school’s culture and values into all aspects of the program
- Camp Australia will provide comprehensive and well-presented information and promotion materials on a regular basis
- Camp Australia will provide professional and comprehensive progress reports for the School administration.

We have every confidence we are moving in the right direction and look forward to providing a fun, safe and engaging OSHC program in partnership with Camp Australia for our school community.

We thank you and value your support.

Camp Australia