West Side Story
As I write, the much anticipated West Side Story season is underway, with performances for boarders from PLC and NEGS on Monday night and for TAS boarders last night. For those who are lucky enough to have tickets to a show in this sell-out production, you have a lot to look forward to. I will have more to say in TAS Talks next week, but in the meantime I congratulate all involved on the stunning productions for our boarder audiences.

Science and Engineering Challenge
TAS Year 10 scientists have again proven their metal by winning the regional division of the University of Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge for the third consecutive year. This annual competition brings together bands of enthusiastic young scientists from all Armidale secondary schools, as well as Guyra and Uralla central schools, for a hectic and pressured day of competitive practical science and engineering tasks, all in a wonderful atmosphere of camaraderie and intellectual challenge. The opportunity is provided through the excellent support of the University of Newcastle and University of New England and it is very encouraging to see our universities supporting school students well before they matriculate.

The tasks last week involved work with electricity, hovercrafts, catapults, Mars rovers, balloon powered cars and the traditional bridge building competition. The bridge building was again the highlight for TAS this year, with a strong win pushing them into first place overall with one of the highest points scores ever. Our team will now progress to the NSW Finals in Newcastle and I wish them well in their preparations for that.

Athletics Carnivals and Athletes
I was very pleased to see so many parents and other supporters join us for the Middle and Senior School athletics carnival last Friday, particularly as the carnival was moved this year from its usual place at the end of the school term. As has become the norm here, the carnival ran like clockwork, finished on time and every boy had the opportunity to compete. That level of efficiency is really very impressive and I congratulate Jason Lincoln and his very big team on it.

All those who competed will have their own highlights of the carnival, whether they be personal bests, the enjoyment of competing alongside mates or the impressive wins by Croft House in per capita points and Tyrrell in the overall points. For me, the highlight was the level of participation in all events, from the long distance early in the week to the carnival on Friday. The spirit that comes with that level of participation was best exemplified when a student from another school was at TAS during the 3km races on Monday. Seeing such a big field of runners, she asked; “is this compulsory?” to which the boys she was speaking to shrugged and said; “I don’t think so”. It seems that the spirit pervading our house competitions these days is such that it wouldn’t matter if events were compulsory or not (they are not).

I am often impressed by the appetite of TAS boys for physical challenge and last week was no exception. As equipment was still being packed up at the end of a full day of competition, a full contingent of TAS New England Rugby players were quickly changing for their training session that completed a long and demanding day for them. I also commend those boys who backed up from the athletics carnival by competing in the Inverell Triathlon Long Course event the very next day. Congratulations are due to the winner of the U/18 race, Brent Rees and runner up Sam Finlayson. Coming after the 5km Campus to City Canter last Saturday, the 3km on Monday night, 400m on Wednesday and main carnival on Friday, this was an impressive effort.

Whilst the school athletics season finished with the carnivals last week, the season is far from over for our representative athletes who will continue their training in preparation for the GPS championships in May, the NCIS in August and, for the most elite, state and national titles. I wish those young men well for the training ahead and again tip my hat to their great commitment.
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Week 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 26 March</strong></td>
<td>2.45pm Serpent Ceremony, Junior School Assembly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.30pm Evening Prayer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7.30pm 'West Side Story' Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 27 March</strong></td>
<td>7.30am Year 7and 9 Vacinations (HPV, Boostrix and Varicella) (Medical Centre)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7.30pm 'West Side Story' Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 28 March</strong></td>
<td>5.00pm - 7.00pm Headmaster's Country Tour (HMCT) Function at Treloars Tamworth</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7.30pm 'West Side Story' Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday 29 March</strong></td>
<td>2.00pm 'West Side Story Matinee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm 'West Side Story' Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 30 March</strong></td>
<td>8.00am - 6.00pm Armidale MSDS Tennis Tournament to be held at the Armidale Tennis Club</td>
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### Week 10

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 31 March</strong></td>
<td>Summer Photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 1 April</strong></td>
<td>Junior School Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td></td>
<td>No Assembly - Activities Briefings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 2 April</strong></td>
<td>Junior School Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 3 April</strong></td>
<td>Yrs 11/12 Art Excursion departs for Sydney</td>
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<td></td>
<td>HMCT - Inverell</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 4 April</strong></td>
<td>Activities Day No.3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.00pm - Scots International 7's Rugby, Scots College, Sydney</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yrs 11/12 Art Excursion Sydney</td>
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<td></td>
<td>HMCT Glen Innes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday 5 April</strong></td>
<td>Yrs 11/12 Art Excursion returns</td>
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<td>1st X1 v St Paul's Grammar</td>
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## Week 11

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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 7 April</strong></td>
<td>HMCT - Moree</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 8 April</strong></td>
<td>10.35am Middle / Senior School Easter Carol Service</td>
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<td>HMCT - Walgett</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 9 April</strong></td>
<td>2.00 - 5.30pm Year 9 Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.30pm Chapel Service</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 10 April</strong></td>
<td>2.00 - 5.30pm Year 9 Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Classes conclude</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 11 April</strong></td>
<td>Boarder buses depart</td>
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## April Holiday Activities

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 12 /13</td>
<td>TAS Rugby Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18 - 28</td>
<td>Young Round Square Conference</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kings College, Auckland, NZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 23 - 27</td>
<td>KYCK Conference (Katoomba)</td>
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<td>April 24 - 26</td>
<td>Tour de Rocks</td>
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Absque Deo Nihil #6
Psalm 8:4-6

It was my great privilege to work under Mr Tim Wheaton as his hopeful protégé at the Athletics Carnival, as he taught the young Jim Pinnington and myself a thing or two about running a high jump event.

The quote that stands out from the day is 'Absque Wheaton Nihil'. Of course this caught my attention as we have been thinking through the meaning of our school motto this term, and as you would have picked up there are some stark similarities between our motto and Mr Wheaton's quote.

Well Mr Wheaton, what can we say? I hope you understand if I suggest that there would still be something without you, and therefore to say 'nothing without you' is probably a stretch.

At the same time it would be equally as incorrect to say 'With Wheaton Nothing'. No, with Wheaton something, even much, even significant things.

You see, in the reading we hear that Mr Wheaton, you and I, along with all of humanity have been made with the utmost significance.

We have been made only second to God himself, and have been given autonomy and rule in this universe. We are to be God's ambassadors as we seek to care for creation. This is indeed something.

If you are sitting there thinking that you are not worth much, that your contribution amounts to 'nothing', think again, because God has created you in His image, such that you bear significance no matter what life throws at you, or how you respond, or your perceived lack of importance.

Every single one of us bear His image, every single one of us are something.

COUNSELLOR, ROB HADFIED

Sometimes we put a lot of work into something and become disappointed when the outcomes are not what we would like them to be. We can never be sure of outcomes though often there is a solid link between effort and outcome. This experience may hold true of our preparation for tests and exams, or an important game of cricket or football, or a swimming carnival, or a music performance. It's important to realise that great performers also know what failure looks like. Success is often built upon repeated failure. As the old saying goes: 'if at first you don't succeed, try, try again'.

When we are faced with disappointment it is important not to turn on ourselves and become harsh or cruel. That never does any good and does it change the reality.

What we have to do is dig deep and bounce back from such adversities, learn from our experience and re-commit to our future efforts. Such a capacity to recover and re-engage is called 'resilience'. It is a quality that we can develop, though it may not be easy. Sometimes we just want to hide away and 'lick our wounds', feel sorry for ourselves or even try to blame the outcomes on others, or a set of circumstances that was present at the time that excuses us. We can do that for a while but eventually we need to take hold and take stock, say to ourselves 'that's enough now', and look at what we need to do next to recover.

Sometimes finding words to say to a trusted friend, parent or teacher can help us take the first step back from failure. Their response of encouragement and belief can help us re-engage with the challenges ahead. We do not need to slide into a 'failure identity'.
TAS Rugby Carnival
This year the TAS Rugby Carnival (TASRC) celebrates its 10th anniversary.

We look forward to welcoming 50 different schools and clubs along with thousands of families and supporters that flock to Armidale from NSW and Qld over the weekend.

The award winning carnival is the largest event of its kind for 11 and 12 year olds in Australia. In past years the event has attracted many former rugby greats including, as special guests, former Wallaby captain Nick Farr-Jones, current Wallaby Paddy Ryan, and former Australian assistant coach and current Scotland coach Scott Johnson. Former Wallabies Phil Kearns and John Eales have also attended, in a private capacity as parents. The event has also received national media publicity, recognising its status and importance.

The carnival expresses all that is great about junior rugby, bringing together boys from city, coast and country in an atmosphere of friendly competition. It is truly a community event, and could not be held without support from many organisations including NEGS, PLC and the UNE Colleges who are assisting with player accommodation.

If you would like additional information about the event or registration, please visit our website by selecting the following link.

TASRC

All enquiries for this event should be directed to the TASRC Administrator, Mrs Sarah Broadbent by email or telephone 0428 765 836.

MUSIC MATTERS

Seniors’ Week Concert at the CWA Hall
It was Seniors’ Week last week and on Tuesday morning some of our angelic TAS students travelled to the CWA Hall to perform in the concert. Many thanks to the young performers who by all accounts, delighted the crowd with their singing and playing.

The children involved were: Josiah Alcorn, Harry Ashton, Poppy Broun, Ruby Broun, Scarlett Buntine, Camilla Coupland, Alexander Gibson, Mia Lincoln, Isabel Newton, Jasper O’Neil, Stewart Williams, Cassidy Williams, Dimity Chalmers, Zoe Streilitz and Flinders Ward.

Well done to our TAS Trebles and also our brave instrumental soloists on the day - Frank Perrottet, Joshua Miron and Ruby Straker. It is not easy to perform in front of so many people and you did a wonderful job!

TAS Ensembles recommence from next Monday 31 March

Sadly West Side Story will be all over by this coming Sunday. Congratulations to all students participating in the show as we heard it went off extremely well last night. Best of luck for your performances for the rest of this week.

Just a reminder that all our usual ensembles will be back on again next week.

Yours in Music!

Mrs Butcher, Mr Finco, Mr Tracy and Mrs Broadbent
Athletics Carnival
Thank you to all who helped at both the Junior and Middle/Senior School athletics days. Your contributions for sale and time spent on the stall all contributed to a successful couple of days. THANK YOU!

Primary Rugby Carnival *** 2 Weeks to go ***
Lots of work is happening to ensure that the 10th Primary Rugby Carnival will be as successful as past years. It is on 12 / 13 April, the first weekend of the school holidays and we are looking for helpers from across the school family.

This is a fantastic weekend of not only rugby for the visiting teams from NSW and Qld but a great opportunity to show just how proud we are of our great school. In previous years, visiting families have expressed surprise at the level of commitment and enthusiasm shown by staff, parents and students across the school – rugby players/supporters or not.

We are looking for volunteers to cook (cakes, slices and the BBQ’s at school), sell on the cake stalls, make up lunches and assist in the McConville Centre. Keep an eye out for a note from your Liaison Parents, or feel free to contact Sandra Kaynes directly on 0438 373 189 or skaynes@bigpond.com

If you could spare any time during this huge weekend, please contact Sandra and let her know day and time you are available. We’d love to see you there.

Funding Requests
Our next P&F meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 May in the Lower Maxwell Room at 7 pm. This meeting is one where we assess the Submissions for Funding received from across the school and parent body. If you have thoughts on where you would like to see the P&F spend their funds, please be ready to submit a request by Friday 9 May. More information on how to submit will be available next week here in TAS Talks.

Senior Secondary Student Concession Cards
Students 16 years and over will have received an email this week regarding the availability of 2014 travel concession cards. These do not replace the free boarders’ pass or the local bus pass but do entitle the holder to child’s fare on most forms of public transport.

Students are encouraged to advise msadler@as.edu.au so the cards maybe prepared, signed and collected prior to end of term.

Winter Uniform Now Available
During the holidays the shop will be open on Wednesday 23 April 9am to 5pm.

This day is ideal for any parents wishing to get winter uniform and avoid the rush on the first day of Term 2.

Please note the uniform and book shop is CLOSED Monday 7 April and Tuesday 8 April. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Please remember the new opening house of the shop are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1.30pm - 5.30pm</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10.00am - 2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1.30pm - 5.00pm</td>
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Chess
Last Thursday our TAS Chess team competed in the first round of the Junior NSW Chess League. Our first opponents were O’Connor Catholic College who had made it to State finals in 2013, so we knew they would be hard to beat.

After try outs and numerous games for training purposes our boards were set. It certainly turned out to be a day of unpredicted games: Harry Pollard’s win was over in five minutes, he then played three ‘friendlies’ winning all, as did Lachlan Tonkin. Joshua Stevenson playing board 3 played a long and nail biting finish, to also win.

The longest and most exciting game was, however, played by Ali Ahsan, pictured below, who took two hours to finish. Unfortunately, TAS was defeated by O’Connor by 5 boards to 3, and I congratulate all boys: Ali Ahsan, Charlie Wyatt, Joshua Stevenson, Michael Harris, Sam Thatcher, Lachlan Tonkin, Harry Pollard and Harry Gwynn-Jones.

The second round of the tournament will be played over the next two weeks.

OzCLO - Australian Computational Linguistics Olympiad.
Hadrian Wright, James Gilson, Dane Townsend and Sam Redhead representing TAS in the Senior division and Nathan Rasmussen, Angus Simmons, Michael Harris and Lachlan Tonkin, representing TAS in the Junior division, competed at the recent Australian Computational Linguistics Olympiad held at the University of New England.

This is a competition for students who enjoy problem solving languages and mathematics. The event is a national event hosted by the Linguistic department of several Australian Universities and certainly, lucky for TAS, by UNE.

This year we have recorded our best results, with the Senior team achieving Silver awards and the Junior team achieving Gold awards.

Unfortunately, the Junior team narrowly missed out on continuing to represent NSW North at the National round. 2015 looks good for this team.
Mountain Biking Success
Following on from the Headmaster’s report in TAS Talks last week, below is a photo of Michael Harris (right) who came 3rd at the Australian Mountain Biking Championships in Victoria.

An outstanding achievement for Michael, which is testament to his extraordinary skill and commitment.

Chess Challenge
Our TAS Chess team competed in their annual ‘grudge’ match with O’Connor last week in an away fixture.

Whilst our team was defeated 3-5 the games were hard fought. One in particular was played for close to two hours.

Congratulations to all members of the team as always on the way they represented our school and a huge thank you to Ms Boydell for her ongoing leadership and support of the boys in this unique program.

U14s Cricket Grand Final
A huge congratulations to the U14As Cricket team this year on an outstanding season culminating in a very close loss to Hillgrove in their Grand final on Saturday. I spoke to Mrs Dennis on Saturday afternoon and below is an excerpt from her feedback on the team:

“What an amazing group of boys. They have shown enthusiasm, teamwork and great sportsmanship all season. They play as a team, and have encouraged and supported each other in every single game. This was no more evident than in the Final where they lost by just 11 runs. Their disappointment was obvious, especially after heading into the Final as firm favourites (having come through the season undefeated) but there was no blame apportioned by any of them.

They accepted their loss graciously and were quick to congratulate Norths on their win. I am continually impressed by their maturity and attitude towards the game of cricket and to each other.

I know they are all very grateful to Josh Whitehead and Callum Gibson for coaching them this term. I was amused on Saturday to overhear Josh saying how nervous he was at about 10am last Saturday! Both he and Callum have taught the boys a great deal about the game and their enthusiasm has been shared by the boys.

Great work all round and looking forward to next season!

Helen Dennis”
TAS Blue Grand Final Contenders
I was lucky enough to be able to spend Saturday afternoon supporting our TAS Blue Cricket side in their Final against Guyra. The game was entertaining and the performance of the TAS team was outstanding.

Special congratulations must be given to James Fraser and Will Raleigh on their numerous wickets and it was a pleasure to witness our young men being supported in the game by our dads and old boys. The ideals of the TAS Cricket Club was at its best, where our boys would be immersed in experiences with adults has been a great success and I was thrilled to witness the banter and ongoing support of each other throughout the afternoon.

Football (Soccer) News
The new football season is almost upon us and those of us who may be coaching this year need to start to prepare. NIF (Northern Inland Football) have organised some coach training sessions, which I advise all potential coaches or assistants to get along to. On Saturday and Sunday 29 and 30 March there is a ‘Skills Training Certificate’ course running at Rologas Fields in Armidale. This is suitable for anyone coaching junior or youth sides (9 upwards) and on Tuesday 8 April at 6pm there is a ‘Grassroots’ course, also at Rologas, aimed at anyone coaching sides from 5 years upwards. These courses cover how to organise sessions, provide a number of drills you can run and are flexible enough to get your coaching questions answered. To book on either of these courses please go to www.myfootballclub.com.au/index.php?id=126 Any problems or for further information please call me Barry Knowles 0428 259 769.

Barry Knowles

Equestrian
Last Friday Ben Hamparsum rode at the very wet Manilla Horse Sports Day along with about 140 other students.

Ben won his riding class and achieved 5th in pairs. He retired after the ring events because it was too wet and slippery.

On Saturday he participated in the Manilla Show Jumping Day, where he achieved C Grade Champion.

Well done Ben!

POTTERY CLASSES
RICK HATCH

Our first term is nearly over, and the classes have been great. The children have tackled really challenging projects with skill and enthusiasm. Because of the scale and quantity of the work, I need to change the dates of the exhibition party to:

- K - 3 Tuesdays from 3.30pm - 4.30pm
- 4 - 7 Thursdays from 3.30pm - 4.30pm

If your child can’t make these dates please ring me and we will organise to get the work to you.

Cost $140 (including all materials and firing of work)

Enrolment By email to weemalapot@yahoo.com.au
By phone: 06772 5371

Please include your child’s name and age and your name and phone.

Rick Hatch
Science and Engineering Challenge
Last Wednesday 32 boys from all three Year 10 science classes participated in the Highlands Challenge round of the University of Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge at the University of New England.

We competed against most of the local schools in a range of engineering activities like building catapults, model hovercraft, electricity distribution networks, earthquake resistant buildings, Mars rovers and bridges.

All eight of our teams scored highly and at the end of the day we were placed first with one of the highest scores ever.

Congratulations to all the boys.

Thanks to the universities and especially to Peter Lye, David Stellar, Rotary and to all the helpers and supervisors of the event.

Win or lose, we always have a great day and we’re looking forward to competing in the state finals in Newcastle in August.

Geoff Derrin

TAS RFS
On Activity Day 3 the TAS RFS boys will be participating in a Hazard Reduction Burn off Kelly’s Plains Road on the southern edge of town, if weather permits. As it is impossible to exactly predict when we will have the area completely "blacked out" we can’t be certain of our finishing time. Boys should anticipate being away from school until 5 pm at the latest.

The performance of this year’s group has been outstanding on the last two activity days. This has given us the confidence to introduce the crew to actual fire conditions earlier than usual. We will expect the same high standards to be maintained on this activity day. Boys should bring a cap, full leather boots and a pen. If the weather prevents the burn from happening we will continue theory work and practical exercises.

Ralph Hunt
MIC TAS RFS

CADETS
TREVOR THATCHER

A Coy
1 Platoon - Dumaresq Dam
Canoeing
River Crossing
Fieldcraft Exercises
Parade 8.40am Friday April 4
Dismissal 3.30pm

2 Platoon - Gara Gorge
Abseiling
Roping Activity
RATEL
Parade 8.40am Friday April 4
Dismissal 3.30pm

3 Platoon - Mt Duval
Overnight Bivouac
Parade 3.45pm Thursday April 3
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday April 4

B Coy
4 Platoon - UNE Property ‘Kirby’
Navigation Training
Team Building Exercise
Tri-Lesson (2)
RATEL
Parade 8.40am Friday April 4
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday April 4

5 Platoon - Dumaresq Dam
Canoeing
Water Safety / Survival
First Aid / RATEL
Tri-Lesson (2)
Field Cooking
Parade 8.40am Friday April 4
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday April 4

6 Platoon - Peatfields Overflow (Little Mt Duval)
Overnight Bivouac and navigation exercise
Parade 3.45pm Thursday April 3
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday April 4
School Vaccinations
A reminder to year 7 and 9 parents that the first round of School Vaccinations will occur on Thursday 27 March at the Medical Centre.

Pioneers - Activities Day 3
Pioneers and Pioneers Support will head off to Dumaresq Dam and its environs for a day of rogaining practice for Year 10, and radio setup, monitoring and handover for Year 11.

Rogaining involves navigation with quick decisions, and this day is practice for Day 4 where teams will attempt to gain as many points as possible, with control points having more points the harder they are to gain. Prizes are awarded for the best team on the day.

Students will need a hat, running shoes, sunscreen, wet weather gear and a water bottle. Lunch is provided.

We meet at the Pioneers shed on Wakefield at 8.45am and should return to TAS by 4.30pm.

Full details on the Pioneers website.

MEDICAL CENTRE
JENNY MURRAY

School Vaccinations
A reminder to year 7 and 9 parents that the first round of School Vaccinations will occur on Thursday 27 March at the Medical Centre.

BULLETIN BOARD

Parents
Please click on the link below to access information about illness, absentee and leave for your child.

Absence, illness and leave

Alan Jones
Deputy Headmaster

PARENTING TIPS

Click here to view parenting tips for this week.

Photographs
Thank you to those parents who have been diligent in collecting their photographs. Please remember to arrange collection from TAS Reception prior to the school holidays.

All photos that have not been collected will be posted out during the holiday break with a cost of $5.00 being charged to your account.

Website
Don’t forget to visit the new TAS website.

We welcome your comments and suggestions via the feedback link on the front page of the website.

- News and events
- Parent Portal
- Pay account online

C Coy - UNE Property 'Kirby'
Navigation
Fieldcraft
Team building and initiative exercises
Parade 8.40am Friday
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday

Trevor Thatcher
Major (AAC)
Commanding Officer
Congratulations Mr O’Connell
Our intrepid Homeroom, Visual Arts and Drama teacher, Andrew O’Connell, has recently been appointed to the position of TAS Creative Arts Coordinator and Hoskins Centre Manager. He will assume his management responsibilities at the beginning of Term 2. On behalf of all Middle School staff and boys I congratulate him. This appointment clearly recognises Mr O’Connell’s skill as a teacher of English, Drama and Visual Arts. Such skills are real and unquestioned and his willing efforts over the last three years at TAS, organizing debating, public speaking and other co-curricular initiatives have been invaluable to the co-curricular cause and, as such, have been affirmed in the best possible way through this Head Teacher appointment. While Mr O’Connell’s will continue to be actively involved in Middle School organization and over seeing of Creative and Performing Arts pursuits, his appointment will necessitate the relinquishment of his Homeroom loading in the Humanities. Obviously we are looking forward to introducing to you Mr O’Connell’s Homeroom replacement in due course.

Athletics: Sports Psychology
There’s a difference between Athletics Carnivals now and those from years gone by: essentially, with the House points system there’s greater facility and incentive for all students to become involved. Due thanks go to Jason Lincoln and his sporting philosophy, arguably one that centers on such concerns as enabling and empowerment of the School’s senior captains. Yes, granted, the House points system has been around for a long time but, no disrespect whatever intended, the motivation, participation and encouragement of Senior House Captains seem to be undergoing a more ‘user friendly’ renaissance since I’ve returned to TAS. I’ve seen these senior boys in action; they’ve somehow perfected the ‘omniscience and omnipotence’ duality that attached to the New Kingdom Pharaohs of Egypt, being everywhere and all powerful at the one time.

As was the case with the Swimming Carnival, during the weeks preceding the Athletics day, the Captains invited our boys to their Senior House meetings and they’ve also attended our Town Meetings, encouraging individual participation and general Senior House support. The result is mass participation, regardless of individual sporting expertise. The effect, of course, was a day where Middle School boys were in ‘just about everything’ and they appeared to enjoy themselves at the same time, simply because they were actively involved. Needles to say, perhaps, the day was a real success. I enjoyed talking to parents, they enjoyed seeing their sons’ participation in events and…everyone enjoyed the rain that ‘held off’ till the evening.

Year 7 Liaison Parents Evening
Thursday evening saw many parents of Year 7 boys at the Wicklow Hotel, meeting one another again, enjoying food and drink and talking about their sons’ first eight weeks of Secondary School life. As a precursor to the more formal nature of Parent and Teacher interviews this coming Monday and Tuesday afternoons, the evening was as relaxed as it was enjoyable. Certainly, I had a good time. It’s important that these social gatherings occur and continue. Parents have the opportunity to meet those others whose sons are their classmates and friends and staff have the opportunity to speak informally to everyone. It was really
good for the boys, day students and boarders both, to be with their parents and their friends as well. These occasions don’t magically appear out of the ether – they require a deal of email communication, venue booking, ordering of food and phone calls, so I want publically to thank our Year 7 liaison parents, Bronwen Crosby (mother of Brendan Knowles) and Mags Woodburn (mother of PJ) and Sarah Edmonds (mother of Hamish) for their many hours and organizational skills to ensure the very real success of the evening.

**Ethics and English (Creative Writing) per Mark Harrison**

I was very happy, towards the end of 2013, when Seonia Wark and Murray Guest spoke to me about my Middle School responsibilities – not so much because my 2014 year would involve more duties in terms of administrative work; rather, because I would, in the event of a successful outcome, be able to teach boys in Years 6 and 8 respectively. I’m not in this profession for the money (it’s reasonable, of course, but the phrase ‘King’s ransom’ doesn’t attach and it never will), I’m in it because the classroom is my sanctum – at times it’s my sanity. Simply, I love teaching, enjoy discussing issues relevant to the wider Humanities and Philosophy and like to think that being around young people keeps me ‘thinking (though not looking) young’.

Some parents have asked me what it is that I do and this leads me to believe that their sons wonder about this very issue, as well. Good. The answer is simple, really. I want them to be aware of my views concerning their world. I want Middle School boys to come into the classroom prepared to think ‘outside the box’: I want them to leave it being aware of the way adults think about a range of subjects, including behaviors in given situations, about the authors I teach, also about the ways in which adults (generally) approach communication in written and oral forms and, especially, about those moral and ethical issues that are the concern of all adults who deal directly with children. As a senior teacher, I also give them ‘tips’ about the writing process in the hope that such tips may serve them well as they grow through school life. This is so especially in the area of creative writing, being that part of the discipline of English with which boys can have ‘trouble’.

In short, I want your sons to think about their world, the ways in which they learn and the ways in which they, as individuals, learn best. The structure I’ve selected is text choices that concern a range of ethical issues concerning the individual’s place, value and function in the broader social environment. This structure encourages and enables students to ask questions and make comments about ethical issues we study. Effectively, through our study of short story texts and scenarios I choose for discussion, we are looking at behaviors that can be classified as ‘good and bad,’ ‘wise and unwise’ and ‘fair and unfair’.

Mark Harrison
Parent Teacher interviews
Parent/Teacher Interviews are perhaps one of the most valuable opportunities for discussion between classroom teachers and parents. They occur twice a year and the feedback given enhances the focus on the student needs for both parents and teachers and provides the chance to plan ahead. If you are having trouble with the online booking system or you have not received an email from the Junior School with your Password and Username, please email us on junior@as.edu.au and we will be in touch.

Junior School Sports Coordinator
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Christine Wright for what has been an outstanding term of sport. Term 1 is very busy, with the conclusion of summer sports and two carnivals. Her organisation in this department has been as competent as it has been successful and her leadership is greatly appreciated. Photos from the recent swimming and athletics championships can be found at: http://teams.as.edu.au/groups/juniorschoolnewsandevents/

CIS Swimmers
Isabella Rutledge, Sam and Tom Ball will all be attending the Combined Independent Schools’ Swimming Championships in Sydney on Wednesday 26 March. We congratulate them on their efforts and success so far, and wish them well for their time away and hope the experience is an enjoyable one for all concerned.

Prudence Campbell
We welcome Ms Prue Campbell to Year 3 as she begins her 10 week practicum. In her fourth year, she comes to us with an outstanding reputation and I wish her well for her time with us.

Science & Engineering
Year 5 travelled to and participated in a wonderful day of Science and Engineering at UNE. They took part in many activities, as you will read elsewhere, and they had a very productive day. As pleasing, was that they embraced the opportunity so enthusiastically and demonstrated a very high level of participation and behaviour. Congratulations to them all and to Ms Dowse, who was with them throughout.

The Junior School Serpent is complete
Seven years ago, the concept of a boundary between playground and lunch area emerged and the idea of the Junior School Serpent was created. During our assembly today, we have the opportunity to hear more about its planning and construction from Mr Rick Hatch, who along with his team, has created a truly wonderful addition to our playground. We are very grateful for the time and effort he and others have given throughout its construction and the visual impact it has on our playground is clearly evident. Further information and photos can be found here.
TAS Trebles and Soloists
I was so pleased to be able to see the TAS Trebles and a number of soloists perform for the Morning of Melodies, held at the CWA Hall in front of a very large and ‘experienced’ but adoring audience. Josh Miron, Frank Perrotet and Ruby Straker played very confidently as soloists and, Jasper O’Neil sang beautifully along with the TAS Trebles. Our thanks go to Mrs Rachel Butcher, who was so thoroughly prepared and organised for the occasion.

Happy Birthday
We wish a very happy birthday to the following students: Asher Game-Lopata, Wilkie Davison, Jude Piper and Harry Pennington.

Daylight Saving
Just a reminder that daylight saving finishes Sunday morning, 6 April when clocks are put back one hour.

Science and Engineering Day
On Tuesday 18 March Year 5 attended the Highlands (Armidale) Science and Engineering Discovery Day at Lazenby Hall (UNE).

The Science and Engineering Discovery Day was a daylong event designed to provide senior primary school students with a positive experience of science and engineering.

There were eight school teams at the event and each school team was divided into eight groups of two to four students. Each group worked on two half-day activities during the day: one activity in the morning and a different one in the afternoon. However, three groups were assigned to one activity for the day. The following activities were covered:

Electra CITY
Who gets the Water?
Helter, Skelter, Shelter
Puff Puff Golf
Catapult
Hover Frenzy
Mission to Mars and Bridge

The following are some quotes from students on about their experiences on the day:

“It was fun” – Archie Chick
“It was interesting” - Jack van Roy
“It was hard but worth it” - Lochlan Nicoll
“Frustrating” – Hamish Chalmers
“The Catapult was hard to make – but we had fun” - Harry Chandler
“It was challenging but fun” – Nick O’Neil
“We failed to plan so we had to start again” – Harry Litchfield

Looking Ahead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26 March</td>
<td>Completion of JS Serpent Assembly – Guest Mr Rick Hatch</td>
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<td>CIS Swimming - Sydney</td>
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<td>Monday 31 March</td>
<td>Junior School Summer Photos</td>
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<td>Tuesday 1 April</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews Memorial Hall</td>
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<td>Wednesday 2 April</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews Memorial Hall</td>
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<td>Friday 4 April</td>
<td>Activities Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 6 April</td>
<td>Day Light savings ends</td>
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<td>Wednesday 9 April</td>
<td>Transition Assembly</td>
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<td>Dance Club performing at Assembly</td>
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<td>Thursday 10 April</td>
<td>Term Ends</td>
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<td>Friday 11 April</td>
<td>Staff PD Day</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
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<td>Monday 28 April</td>
<td>Staff PD Day</td>
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<td>Tuesday 29 April</td>
<td>Classes Commence</td>
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TAS Trebles with Mrs Butcher
And finally, it has been fascinating challenging the JS classes to some team building exercise recently. Asked to construct structures out of building blocks in various sized groups, the opportunity arose to discuss the concepts of leadership, initiative cooperation and many others, (including raising your voice to be heard!) While the exercise can lead to frustration, it has provided many learning experiences for students from Kindergarten to Year 5. I would be interested to hear if this experience has been a memorable one for your child?
The boys’ conduct and participation during the day was of a very high standard. I was delighted to be approached and receive comments from one of the assistants on the day about how well behaved the boys were. She mentioned the words ‘respect and maturity’ which was very pleasing. Well done boys!

Ms Dowse

Holiday Borrowing
The coming holidays are the ideal time for children to catch up on reading time. Please note that children are able to borrow two books from the Library for the holidays without a permission note but if they would like to borrow more books, parents need to sign the permission note, which is attached to this newsletter.

Chapel Street Carpark
We continue to ask for our parents cooperation in keeping the turning circle a safe and effective ‘drop-off and pick-up’ area. Please help others waiting in the Chapel Street turning circle by:

* Always drop-off or pick-up your child from the designated area.
* Please have your child’s school bag in the car with them, so the driver does not need to get out of the car to open the boot.
* Drivers should remain in their vehicle at all times and drop-off or pick-up within a 2 minute timeframe.
* Make sure the children use the footpath-side-door when getting in and out of the vehicle.
* Never double park or reverse your vehicle.

If your child is not ready for collection at the time you are entering the turning circle, please continue around and park your vehicle or rejoin at the end of the turning circle queue.

Junior School Athletics Championships
Last Wednesday was a fabulous day for our athletes to enjoy some terrific competition in both track and field events. A large thank you must go to our staff and Gappies, who spent the entire day timekeeping, marshalling, announcing, recording, assisting with field events and helping to supervise the children. Thank you also to our supportive parents who supported events, cheered the children on and assisted in the cake stall. The children certainly appreciated the efforts by all who baked and served the treats on the day. The track certainly looked superb thanks to the efforts of our Mr Chet Davies and all the grounds staff.

We had some outstanding performances on the day. Congratulations to all children who participated so enthusiastically, with great sportsmanship. Particular congratulations go to the following children who received age and division championship awards.

4 yearr boy: Andi Li
5 year boy: Fletcher Connor
5 year girl: Penny Pezzutti
6 year boy: Charlie Ryan
6 year girl: Peyton Slade
7 year boy: Lachlan Litchfield
7 year girl: Ruby Broun
8 year boy: Thomas Ball
9 year boy: Sam Meehan

9 year girl: Chloe Lincoln
10 year boy: Asher Game-Lopata
10 year girl: Sophia Rutledge
11 year boy: Nick O’Neil
11 year girl: Casey Smith

Sub Junior Girl: Peyton Slade
Sub Junior Boy: Fletcher Connor and Charlie Ryan
Junior Girl: Ruby Broun
Junior Boy: Thomas Ball
Intermediate Girl: Sophia Rutledge
Intermediate Boy: Asher Game-Lopata
Senior Girl: Casey Smith
Senior Boy: Nick O’Neil

Highest Point Score: Nick O’Neil on 108 points.

Winning House: Broughton
Miniball
Wow! What a productive two weeks we have had at Miniball. The improvement in the Year 4 players’ ability and skill development has been outstanding. All members of the Year 4 team have grown in confidence and skills over the course of the season. However, as the season draws to an end, we can now reflect on where we all started and what we have all achieved. These boys have trained hard each week and given 100% effort at the games as well. It is reassuring to see young boys showing sportsmanship with each other as well to the others teams involved in the competition. A special mention for this week goes to Hudson Eichorn for his sportsmanship and skill development. Hudson has encouraged other members of the team each week and his skills have improved ‘out of sight’. Also a special mention goes to Byron McCann for his humour and ‘have a go attitude’. Byron’s skills have also improved out of sight. Thanks boys for your commitment and dedication this term. You have all been a pleasure to coach.

Ms Dowse

Gymnastics
Our final Gymnastics session for the summer season was held on Monday as the beautiful rain pitter pattered on the tin roof of the Gymnastics Club. After the warm up circuit and stretches, the gymnasts broke into groups to complete a rotation of skill based activities. These included: backward and crash mat rolls; front and back supports, handstands and bar work; trampolining and marching in a team, and finally, springing and landing into the pit. The students have thoroughly enjoyed their gymnastics sessions and have been fortunate indeed, to have such a well run program coordinated by Carole O’Hara and her team, Mandy, Cassidy and Bianca. In recent weeks we have also been lucky to have the expertise of Terry Tomes. The progress of each and every student is there for all to see and it has been a pleasure to have been part of this great summer sport.

Mrs Trenerry

Library Permission Note
Please return signed note to Library ----------------------

Permission to borrow Library books during the holidays
I give permission for my child …………………………………
in Year ……………………………
to borrow two books from the TAS Library during the holiday period, and will return these books in good condition in the first week of Term 2, 2014.

Should the books not be returned, or are returned damaged, I agree to the purchase cost of the replacement books being charged to my child’s school account.

Signed ……………………………………………………..
Date…………………………..

This form can be downloaded here
The Armidale Junior Blues invite you to “Coach & Play RUGBY”

Junior Rugby Championships - New England Squads U14s & U15s

Squads have been selected with all boys emailed the lists.

Key details from here on are:

Training - every Friday afternoon from 3.45pm to 5.30pm on Wakefield

Trial Games - Sunday 30th March at TAS Wakefield, kick-off 10.00am. Games against Mid-North Coast and Central North.

Country Championships - weekend of 3-4 May in Newcastle, depart Friday after lunch. Accommodation for the trial will be at Hunter Valley Grammar School in Maitland on the gym floor in swags.

Armidale Youth Orchestra’s Garden Party

Details: Sunday 6 April.

In the magnificent garden of our host Rosemary Leitch, 58 Garibaldi Street, Armidale at 10:30am for a 11am start

Tickets $45 (Adults), $20 (Children) and $25 (Pensioners) available from NECOM Office

A beautiful lunch is served following the concert with complimentary wine and juice.

The Armidale Youth Orchestras offer music students from 8 to 21 years a weekly program during term with peer mentoring, advanced performing opportunities, master classes with professional performers, and above all a chance to share the love of music making with other young musicians from Armidale and beyond.

Tickets on sale now – every year is a sell-out, get in early!

Registration - registration with Armidale Junior Blues will need to occur. I will provide paperwork asap.

Costs - The cost is expected to be around $250 including transport, registration, kit (jersey, shorts and socks), meals, laundry etc.

Coaches - U14s Mr Will Mazzei and Mr Morgan Martin U15s Mr Geordie Marchant and Mr David Drain.

Manager - Mr Trevor Thatcher