Activities Day 1

Last Friday the 2014 Activities Program officially got underway with two cadet platoons out overnight and all other students from Years 6 to 12 beginning their skills preparation for the year ahead.

For most, the first day of the program will not be the most challenging of the year, but for very many it was significant as new responsibilities and activities were taken up. Over 50 cadets had new rank and new expectations of them and Rangers, Pioneers, Surf Lifesavers, Rural Firefighters and Pioneers Support all began new and different activities that they will stay with through 2014.

The Activities Program occupies a central place in our overall curriculum and our commitment to it remains as strong as it was when the program was instigated decades ago.

That we devote 12 school days through the year to this program highlights our commitment to presenting our students with experiences that will challenge them physically and mentally, encourage a spirit of adventure and stimulate the leadership that is within them. In the words of the great educator Kurt Hahn; “…it is culpable neglect not to impel young people into experience” and our Activities Program reflects that belief.

I was impressed by the reports I received on the performance of many of our boys on their first Activities Day and I look forward to seeing their development through the year.

NCIS Swimming

I was very pleased to hear of the performances of our representative swimmers at the annual North Coast Independent Schools championships yesterday, though I was disappointed not to be with the team this year.

Congratulations are due to our three age champions and one runner-up:

12 years age Champion: Finn Kennet
13 years age Champion: Hamish Cannington
15 years runner-up: James Hartog-Smith
Opens age Champion: Jay Kennedy

Perhaps even more pleasing than those fine performances though were the reports of how well the team carried themselves out of the pool.

Comments on the good sportsmanship, manners and behaviour of our students are commonplace of course. To take that for granted though would do an injustice to our teams as the way they represent the School does so much good for our reputation and drives the willingness of other schools to compete with us.

For that, as much as their efforts in the pool, I offer congratulations.

Murray Guest
Headmaster
### Week 6

**Thursday 6 March**  
Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews  
6.15pm Year 12 Parent Information Session  

**Friday 7 March**  
11.30am Parent Information Session  
Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews  

**Saturday 8 March**  
Year 9 Father and Son Weekend  
Sydney Independent Schools Expo  

**Sunday 9 March**  
Year 9 Father and Son Weekend  
Sydney Independent Schools Expo  
NEDRA Prize Shoot, Spring Ridge  
6pm Service at St Peters Cathedral  

### Week 7

**Monday 10 March**  
3.45pm Athletics Events  

**Wednesday 12 March**  
Year 10 Music Day (NECOM)  
NCIS Football at TAS  
3.45 Athletics Events  
6.30pm Choral Communion  
Headmaster’s Country Tour (HMCT) Narrabi  

**Thursday 13 March**  
HSC Music Day (NECOM)  
HMCT Gunnedah  

**Friday 14 March**  
Activities Day No.2  
HSC Music Day (NECOM)  
HMCT Tamworth  
3.30pm Rowers depart for Sydney  

**Saturday 15 March**  
Head of the River, Parramatta  
Armidale Autumn Festival  

### Week 8

**Monday 17 March**  
3.45pm Athletics Events  

**Wednesday 19 March**  
Junior School Athletics Carnival  
3.45pm Athletics Events  

**Friday 21 March**  
Middle and Senior School Athletics Championships  

### Week 9

**Monday 24 March**  
Year 12 Auto’s Work Placement  
2.00 - 500pm 6/7 Parent Teacher Interviews  
Teacher Interviews  

**Tuesday 25 March**  
Board Meeting  
2.00 - 500pm 6/7 Parent Teacher Interviews  
Teacher Interviews  
7.30pm West Side Story Boarders Review  

**Wednesday 26 March**  
6.30pm Evening Prayer  
7.30pm West Side Story Performance  

**Thursday 27 March**  
Year 7 Vaccinations (HPV, Boostrix and Varicella)  
7.30pm West Side Story Performance  

**Friday 28 March**  
5.00 - 700pm HMCT Function Tamworth  
7.30pm West Side Story Performance  

**Saturday 29 March**  
7.30pm West Side Story Performance  

### Week 10

**Monday 31 March**  
Summer Photographs  
Service at PLC  

**Tuesday 1 April**  
Junior School Parent/Teacher interviews  

**Wednesday 2 April**  
Junior School Parent/Teacher interviews  

**Thursday 3 April**  
Yrs 11/12 Art Excursion departs for Sydney  
HMCT Inverell  

**Friday 4 April**  
Activities Day No.3  
Yrs 11/12 Art Excursion Sydney  
HMCT Glen Innes  

**Saturday 5 April**  
Yrs 11/12 Art Excursion returns  
1st X1 v St Pauls Grammar  

**TAS TALKS 2**
A well known writer for the Herald recently quoted an even more famous atheist one-liner “There have been 10,000 gods through history, you reject 9,999 of them. I just go one god further!”

The author of this column went on to say that he has posed this idea to many Christians over the years and they haven’t been able to answer him. I wonder if they even thought it needed answering.

Nonetheless, since we are thinking about our school motto ‘Absque Deo Nihil’, I thought it a good time to pose a response. Is this a sufficient argument to suggest there is no such thing as God, which of course is the complete antithesis of our motto?

The idea it asks us to consider is something like this: when Christians reflect on why they reject Zeus, Ra, Vishnu, and the rest, they will come to see the good sense of the atheist who simply adds one more deity to the scrap heap. The arguments Christians use against other gods come back to bite the Christian god as well.

What can we say? Believers in any particular religion do not reject other gods in every regard. They may deny the stories and details of the others, but not necessarily the very idea of the existence of a powerful Intelligence which orders the universe.

This is why in the reading the apostle Paul in Athens can happily quote a line from a hymn to Zeus in his argument about God: “We are his offspring.” Paul did not think the stories about Zeus were true, but he agreed with the idea of divine power.

An analogy highlights the error in the atheist argument here. In choosing to marry my wife, I rejected all other potential spouses. Does this mean I have rejected the idea at the core of other people’s marriages? Of course not. But imagine a zealous celibate, who rejected the idea of marriage altogether and tried to use my own decision to marry one person as an argument against marriage: “When you consider why you rejected other women in favour of her, then you will see the good sense of rejecting marriage altogether.”

Rejecting particular partners is nothing like rejecting the idea of partnership altogether. The point is clear when the atheist says “we atheists just go one god further” it is no more compelling than saying “we celibates just go one partner further.”

And does nothing to diminish the idea of “without God nothing”.

With the Father-Son weekend coming up next weekend my mind goes back over some of the other times we have ‘gone bush’.

Some people have found the weekend very helpful in re-setting perspectives on relationship at a critical time.

We can so easily become so preoccupied and busy with the everyday round of events that we fail to take time out to show each other that the relationship we have matters more than anything else.

The mid-teens is an important time in a boy’s developmental path and it will not be long before he is a young man. A lot happens from here on to young manhood and it happens fast.

How we negotiate the relationship with him now can provide the platform for how we relate as older man to younger man in a few years time.

It would be good if later on we didn’t have to rebuild a relationship that became threadbare during our son’s adolescence. Life’s too short- take the time now.

CHAPLAIN, RICHARD NEWTON

‘Absque Deo Nihil’
Acts 17

COUNSELLOR, ROB HADFIELD

NSW Parents Council Newsletter 2014 - T1

• Government Engages Parents in 2014
• Arts Make Kids Smart
• 2014 Awards for Excellence
• Parents keeping a connection with their secondary school

Click the link below to read the NSW Parents Council Newsletter in full.

 Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews

These will be held next Thursday 6 March - 3.30pm-6pm and Friday 7 March 1.40pm-5.30pm.

You should have received details via email regarding the Information Sessions and the link to book parent/teacher interviews online.

If you are having any problems with this process please contact Mrs Vickey O’Brien (02) 6776 5806

HSC tutoring continues

MONDAYS
7:00 - 8:00 pm  MATHEMATICS  General Course - Room F12
8:00 - 9:00 pm  MATHEMATICS  Ext 1 & 2 Courses Room F 12

TUESDAYS
8:15 - 9:15 pm  ECONOMICS  Tyrrell Yr 12 Study Room

WEDNESDAYS
7:15 - 8:15 pm  CHEMISTRY (Prac Course)  Room F 12
8.00 - 9.00pm  MATHEMATICS Course  Room F11
8:15 - 9:15 pm  BIOLOGY (Prac Course)  Room F 12

THURSDAYS
7:00 - 8:00 pm  ENGLISH ADVANCED -  Room F 12
8:00 - 9:00 pm  ENGLISH EXTENSION -  Room F 12

Australian Computational Linguistics(OzCLO)

Last Wednesday eight students took part in the Australian Computational Linguistic Olympiad (OzCLO). OzCLO is a competition for high school students, designed to allow them to demonstrate their problem solving abilities.

It challenges students to develop strategies to solve logical and analytical puzzles related to real languages. This year OzCLO was held at seven Australian universities and of course being in Armidale we are extremely lucky to have been able to attend the competition hosted by the Linguistics Department at the University of New England.

The senior TAS team: Hadrian Wright, Dane Townsend, James Gilson, Sam Redhead and the junior TAS team: Lachlan Tonkin, Michael Harris, Nathan Rasmussen, Angus Simmons, all felt very proud of their interpreting, deciphering and problem solving attempts, especially due to the fact that they managed to even finish that all elusive final question!

Last Year one of our TAS senior teams was awarded silver honours for their entry. The two TAS teams are hoping they may have gone one step further and can continue to the National competition to be held later next month. Congratulations to all eight students.

P&F ASSOCIATION

SUE CARTWRIGHT - PRESIDENT

Liaison Parents

A big thank you to the parents who have offered to act as Liaison Parents - helping to maintain communication between the P&F, the School and the parent body. Without you we could not enjoy the success that the P&F has enjoyed in the past and hope to continue into the future. We look forward to working with you, and to meeting you at the Liaison Parent lunch next week. Hope you can spare an hour to come and say “Hi”. An invitation is on its way, I just wanted to flag the date - Tuesday 11 March

Athletics Carnival

Junior School Athletics carnival is on Wednesday 19 March, followed by Middle/Senior School on Friday 21 March. Lunch is provided for parents and students on both days and the Liaison Parents will be looking for volunteers to bake cakes and biscuits, and roster on the Cake Stall for each day. This will work on a roster system with each year group covering an hour.

Look out for an email or phone call from your Parent Liaison representative and please, please help where you can.

TAS Rugby Carnival

The 10th TAS Rugby Carnival is on 12 & 13 April, the first weekend of the school holidays.

This is a fantastic weekend of not only primary aged rugby for the nearly 50 visiting teams from NSW and QLD, but it’s also a great opportunity to show off our great school.

We are looking for volunteers to cook (cakes, slices and the barbeque at school), sell on the cake stalls, make up lunches and assist in the McConville Centre.

Any assistance you could spare over this HUGE weekend, whether it is baking or giving up your generous time, would be greatly appreciated.

If you can help at any time during this huge weekend please contact your Parent Liaison representative for your year or Sue Cartwright on 0409 973 247 or sue_333@me.com.
STUDENT SERVICES
MEG SADLER

Boarders Travel - Bookings for April Vacation

Travel dates for April vacation period are from Friday 11 April and returning Monday 28 April.

Bookings are now being accepted for vacation services using rail on the Sydney line, RailLink coaches on the other routes within NSW and Greyhound to Brisbane via Toowoomba.

If not already submitted, please make your bookings via email or fax to (02) 6776 5830 by the end of this week.

Cancellations may be made up to and including the day of travel.

Contact Meg Sadler by email at travel@as.edu.au

UNIFORM AND BOOK SHOP
VIVIENNE TEARLE

Winter Uniform Available from 17 March

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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CADETS - TREVOR THATCHER

Cadet Activity Day 2 - 13 - 14 March

Activity Day 2 commences with a back brief by the SUO and Coy Commanders to the CO MAJ Thatcher on Thursday 6 March at 1.15pm.

Orders will be delivered to all cadets on Tuesday 11 March during Period 3 (normally Assembly).

Cadets in 2 Platoon and 5 Platoon will attend an overnight bivouac on Thursday night 13 March.

Cadets in 1 Platoon and 4 Platoon who missed the first overnight bivouac will go out on Thursday evening.

Dismissal for all cadets will now be at 3.30pm Friday.

A Coy
1 Platoon - Dumaresq Dam
    Abseiling
    Roping Acty
    RATEL
    Parade 8.40am Fri 14 March
    Dismissal 3.30pm

2 Platoon - Mt Duval
    Overnight Bivouac
    Parade 3.45pm Thu 13 March
    Dismissal 3.30pm Fri 14 March

3 Platoon - Gara Gorge
    Canoeing
    River Crossing
    Fieldcraft Exercises

B Coy
4 Platoon - Dumaresq Dam
    Canoeing
    Water Safety / Survival
    First Aid / RATEL
    Tri-Lesson (2)
    Field Cooking
    Parade 8.40am Fri 14 March
    Dismissal 3.30pm

5 Platoon - Peatfields Overflow (Little Mt Duval)
    Overnight Bivouac
    Parade 3.45pm Thu 13 March
    Dismissal 3.30pm Fri 14 March

6 Platoon - UNE Property ‘Kirby’
    Navigation Training
    Team Building Ex
    Tri-Lesson (2)
    RATEL
    Parade 8.40am Fri 14 March
    Dismissal 3.30pm

C Coy
7, 8 & 9 Platoon - UNE Property ‘Kirby’
    Overnight Bivouac
    Parade 3.45pm Thu 13 March
    Dismissal 3.30pm Fri 14 March

Trevor Thatcher
Major (AAC)
Commanding Officer
Our first Activities Day was a great chance for the new cadets to get to know their leaders and to experience some of the kinds of things that we do. By far the highlight of the day was the raft building exercise, which required the boys to select suitable equipment and construct a raft capable of carrying their section across the dam and back again. Needless to say that a few boys got wet but all achieved their objective and enjoyed the challenge.

Our next Activities Day will be an overnight camp. More information will be available after our Company briefing on Tuesday 11 March.

Fiona Taber
OIC C Company

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Year 6 Rangers - Activities Day 1

Year 6 were excited to don the Rangers outfits and experience their first day of the Rangers program. After an initial safety talk, students rotated throughout the day completing a series of activities including wall climbing, obstacle course, first aid and knot tying. During the wall climbing, it was fantastic to see students encouraging and congratulating each other on their successes.

The obstacle course provided a terrific opportunity for students to test their patience and ability by crawling under a cargo net, running along a rope line and crawling through a tyre. Now imagine doing all this blindfolded. The teamwork displayed in this activity was exemplary. Additionally, students were given skills to assist in first aid situations and learnt how to tie various knots. We look forward to applying these newly learned skills at our next Rangers day in the field.

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Rural Fire Service Activity Day 2 on 14 March will start at 8:30 in Brown Street.

We will spend the day at the Fire Control Centre on Mann St continuing our training for the Bush Firefighter qualification. We will return to school by 3:30pm.

The RFS boys will learn basic firefighting techniques including over-run drills (this is how a crew protects itself when a fire engulfs their vehicle), filling tanks from dams, various types of attacks on a fire, dry fire fighting and basic theory of fire activity.

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A big two weeks in Science coming up:

On Tuesday 11 March, Year 11 Biology will spend the day at Long Point Rest Area studying the distribution of dry rainforest. (That's not a typo- dry rainforest is a rare vegetation association that occurs only in a few areas of the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park.) They will be collecting data for their first practical assessment task.

On Wednesday 12 March, a presenter from Education Interactive will be a TAS engaging boys in Forensic Science “A Case of Identity”. Each year group will participate in a ninety minute workshop.


10SciA will participate in the preliminary round of the Brain Bee Challenge and on Wednesday 19 March will travel to UNE to participate in the University of Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge.
NCIS Swimming

I was lucky enough to join our swimmers in Lismore on Tuesday and to witness the efforts of all our team at these championships.

What was most impressive to me was the way our boys and girls held themselves throughout the day from initiating a handshake with competitors at the end of the race to congratulating team mates and competitors with the same level of respect. It was this level of sportsmanship and camaraderie that enabled our school to shine in yet another arena. Thanks must also go to Mrs Christine Wright and Mr Jim Pennington for their outstanding leadership during the trip.

Another highlight for me was the effort of Matthew Haydon who does not seek the limelight and rather, works tirelessly and humbly at events like these. He was always happy to assist staff and swam in all the events availed to him. Matthew is the epitome of all that is good about TAS.

Armidale Youth Orchestra

On the weekend I was fortunate to witness the depth of the Armidale Music Society and the NECOM program in Sawtell. Our school was represented at all levels as a part of what was a very successful weekend.

Our senior boys participated with aplomb in the Orchestra which was conducted so ably by Mr Warwick Dunham and I was amazed at both the standard of the program and the quality of performance that was enjoyed by students and families alike.

Triathlon

On Saturday the TAS Triathlon Team again descended upon Inverell, this time for the 2nd Toughen Up Challenge.

Team adventure races are growing rapidly in popularity across the country and with this in mind, organisers increased the number of teams this year to 48. TAS supplied six of those teams, with boys from Years 7-12 competing.

The course covered just over 6km in total and included hale bale climbs, mud pits, tyre pull, tractor tyre flip, sled push, swimming, cross country running, sand bag carry and numerous push-up/burpees.

The Year 12 team of Matthew Hayden, Tom Lane, Jack Simmons and Pierce Hayden finished in an outstanding fourth place overall, quite an achievement given the competition. They were closely followed home by the team of Will Claridge, Lachlan Mills, Callum Bourke and Nick Bennet in 10th place. I must make special note of the Year 7 team of Samuel King, Hamish Moore, Joshua Jones and Connor Shaw.

These boys completed the course, much to the amazement of their fellow racers.

Many found the event daunting enough as adults and were therefore amazed at the tenacity and enthusiasm of these boys. I’m sure that they all slept very well on Saturday night!

Jim Pennington - MIC Triathlon

Tough Tests Accomplished

Congratulations to a large group of young men who are testing themselves in extraordinary experiences in recent times thanks to the leadership of Mr Jim Pennington. On the Back of the 110 km Mt Mitchell to Inverell race, boys participated in Toughen Up on the weekend which was 6.2kms of gruelling activities. Now a number of these boys are in Sydney for the NSW CIS Triathlon Championships.

The resilience of these young men has only been matched by the teamwork displayed as they continue to support each other through these challenges. We wish these boys well in Sydney.

Jarrod Bourke leaps ahead in the Inverell Toughen Up Challenge.
Equestrian Events

The Manilla Horse Sports Day is on Friday 21 March. Entries close 7 March.

Entries are now open to the 2014 North West Equestrian Expo held at Coonabarabran from 30 May - 3 June. Entries, the program and further information can be found at http://www.coonabarabranhigh.com/2012/North_West_Equestrian_Expo_2012.htm

For students wanting to participate, entries will need to be filled out and have attached copies of jump cards/letters re grading and a cheque covering entry fees made out to North West Equestrian Expo.

Entries with all necessary documents and payment need to be sent or given to Mrs Joanne Benham by Wednesday 19 March. This way entries can be checked/finalised and sent in together by the closing date of the 11 April.

Please note that this year stables are to be organised and booked by parents/guardians so as to prevent double booking. For the equestrian uniform, please visit Ms Tearle in the uniform shop.

For more information about these events or to enter, please contact Mrs Joanne Benham at jbenham@as.edu.au
**Students** - Do you want to be involved in New England Sings! 2014?

The New England Conservatorium will again present the mass choral project New England Sings! in 2014 featuring schools across New England. This year the event will be held on the weekend of 1 - 2 November at Lazenby Hall, University of New England.

The New England Sings! event presents a wonderful opportunity to TAS Year 3 - 12 students to experience performing as part of a mass choir.

We are seeking expressions of interest from students that would like to be involved in New England Sings! this year. Mr Lloyd at Junior School and Mr Harrison at Middle School will be canvassing student interest this week.

For more information and to register your interest - students and parents can contact Mr Finco in the TAS Music Department by email on afinco@as.edu.au or by phone on 6776 5890.

**Year 10 and HSC Music Days for Year 11 & 12 next week**

Year 10 Elective Music students will be attending the annual Music Day at NECOM next Wednesday 12 March from 9.15 - 3.30pm.

The workshop brings together Year 10 students from around the New England region for a day of fun, syllabus-based practical activities. Students will be transported to and from NECOM by TAS bus and the cost of the day is $25, which will be charged to parent school accounts.

Day students will need to bring their own lunch. Please contact Mrs Butcher at TAS on rbutche1@as.edu.au if you have any queries about the day.

Likewise, the annual HSC Music workshop will be held on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 from 9am - 3.30pm for Year 11 and 12 students around the region. It has been designed to prepare students for the written exam, performance exam and submitted works for the HSC. Students will be transported to NECOM by TAS bus and day students will need to bring their own lunch.

The cost of the two days is $75 or one day is $45, which will be charged to parents school accounts. Please contact Mr Finco on afinco@as.edu.au should you have any queries. Alternately call the Music Office on 6776 5890.

**Permission slips for TAS Trebles excursion**

Our young singers in TAS Trebles have an exciting performance coming up for Seniors Week on Tuesday 18 March. A group of 20 students will be heading to the CWA Hall to perform a concert for our senior citizens.

Students will be departing TAS at 11.35am and will return to school at 12.45pm and will be wearing their formal uniform. Conductor Mrs Butcher handed out the permission slips for this excursion to the TAS Trebles on Monday this week.

Please return these as soon as possible to Mrs Butcher, the music office or give to Mrs Chappell in the Junior School. With the concert coming up in only 2 weeks Mrs Butcher would like to see all TAS Trebles next Monday morning from 8am.

**TAS Ensembles**

The TAS ensembles are well and truly up and running for 2014 and preparing for performances later this year.

Just like any other commitment at TAS, students need to attend rehearsals regularly and are expected to inform the Conductor about absences.

On the schedule below are all the rehearsal times and also the name of the Conductor of each group. Please let your conductor know in advance if you are not going to be able to attend rehearsals.
Challenge

I’d be an inveterate liar if I said to you that I didn’t find my job challenging; it is and it is so, regularly. Frenetic is the best adjective to characterize the pace of Middle School activity. But, boring this place is not being very young, these boys don’t fully realize the significance of moderation and it won’t become significant till their Senior School years. To be honest, it shouldn’t either because younger boys need to be gainfully employed and such employment requires time to fly towards the end of 2014’s longest term.

They’ll be weary when they come home, but I guess this is one of the reasons for holiday and family time. The last week has been a ‘cusp’ one: being half way through the first term, summer sports are making way for winter options.

Athletics events will begin for us next week, lunch time cricket and tennis sessions are fewer for some because debating season is underway. Year 7 lunches with the Headmaster and Mrs Guest are in ‘full swing’ and we’re considering the extent of our involvement in the Autumn Festival and the ‘Campus to City Canter’. And, all the while, boarding house activities continue as do classes, prep work, assessment task preparation and more meaningful engagement in academic activity.

If your son has some difficulty completing tasks in the allotted time for prep sessions, be thankful that his awareness of this issue comes at Year 6, 7 or 8 level. What he needs to do is let his Homeroom teacher know and we’ll do our best to employ the strategies necessary to his easier management of same. Under this new Homework scheme, it’s important that we’re aware of the fact that the boys are actually doing their prep over a number of nights, rather than at the ‘last minute’ as boys in the past were wont to do.

We’re much better at dealing with issues before they progress to the ‘problem’ stage. As teachers and parents our job is to encourage, assist where appropriate and monitor progress so that all students can gain greatest benefit from utilizing time available to them.

I believe strongly that this clearly articulated Homework and Assessment schedule is beneficial for all, productive for most, daunting for some at times, but I know that without it boys’ awareness of their strengths, their capacity to manage challenge and knowledge of individual strategies employed to overcome such challenge just wouldn’t factor into their school lives until Year 11.

I’ve been teaching long enough also to know that the onset of academic self-awareness for a 16 year old can be far more a problem than it is an issue.

Activities

Friday was a ‘first’ in terms of Activities Days for most Middle School students. I spent most of the morning at Dumaresq Dam with all the Year 7 and some of the Year 8 boys. Activities consisted of construction of rafts, basic drill, bush craft and damper making; underlying all was the necessity of communication and cooperation with others outside specific friendship groups and this latter ‘activity’ was so interesting to observe.

By design, because it requires reliance on others, the occasion necessitated open communication and, despite initial hesitation, all boys acquitted themselves admirably. From their laughter I reckon they ‘ended up’ enjoying themselves as well.

It was also encouraging to listen to two new staff members who waxed lyrical about the style of activities: the day allowed them to ‘get to know’ the boys on a basis that otherwise formal class room interaction doesn’t often allow. As important (sometimes I think it’s more important) the day enabled boys to begin to get to know staff as people. I’m glad the day was a success because the boys will now be looking forward to the next day in two weeks time.

As well you know, I’ve been looking at John Dewey’s work lately and a fragment of it is instructive here: ‘the teacher is not in the school to impose certain ideas or to form certain habits in the child, but is there as a member of the community
to select the influences which shall affect the child and to assist him in properly responding to these. Thus the teacher becomes a partner in the learning process, guiding students to independently discover meaning within the (selected) area of operation.

These boys completed the course, much to the amazement of their fellow racers. Many found the event daunting enough as adults and were therefore amazed at the tenacity and enthusiasm of these boys. I’m sure that they all slept very well on Saturday night!

**Leadership**

After the completion of voting by boarding and day students, I’m pleased to announce leadership positions for the semester: Head Monitor Day: Nicholas Moar; Head Monitor Boarding: Sam Marshall (this position will continue till the end of semester 2). Day Monitors: Angus Apps, Angus Cornall, Henry Hughes, Nicholas Makeham Boarding Monitors: Dan Lethbridge, Sam Ruba, Henry Smith, Luke Vagg.

I’m looking forward to working with these boys this year, in particular to listening to and discussing issues that concern all students in the Middle School.

**Sports**

You will read elsewhere in TAS Talks a report about boys taking part in the Inverell Toughen Up Challenge. I must make special note of the Year 7 team of Samuel King, Hamish Moore, Joshua Jones and Connor Shaw.

Parent and Teacher interviews will be conducted for all Year 6 and Year 7 boys on the Monday 24 March and Tuesday 25 March. Information about the interviews will be emailed to parents next week.

Do I recommend your attendance? Yes. The best advice I can offer is that you access the site to get times that are convenient for your family.

What I like is the fact that, if possible, your son attends the interview sessions because, after all, they directly concern his academic progress.

Mark Harrison
Clothing Shop

I have been made aware this week of the need for our students to be accompanied to the Clothing Shop by their parents. Our younger students often need this parental support when clothes have to be tried on and decisions need to be made, and while older students can make these decisions, often younger students cannot.

Mrs Tearle also tells me that older students can be less "mindful" of others when trying on their own clothes and while everyone would prefer teenage boys to use the change rooms, this apparently, is not always the case! Ultimately, it seems like a good idea that we continue to ask parents to be with their children in the School Shop and we appreciate your support.

Junior School Contact Booklet

There was further discussion last week in relation to the JS Contact Booklet. Information gathered by the remains tightly regulated by the requirements of the Privacy Laws. Additional changes are occurring on 12 March, including that any information gathered must "relate to the business purpose at hand" and the School is very aware of its responsibilities.

Inquiries are being made into the password protected facility of the School’s website site which may also offer additional capacity increased communication flow between the parent body.

Our Liaison Parents have the authority and expertise to contact parents in relation to information about social and school business. If you have any questions about events at school, please feel free to contact your Liaison Parents and they will be happy to assist. A list of contacts is included below and the School can be contacted at any time if you require assistance.

Blue Light Disco

There is to be a Blue Light Disco on 21 March, at the Bowling Club organised by the PCYC. There is a fantastic opportunity to meet new friends outside the TAS community and I encourage you to get involved. These events are very well organised and run specifically for 8 - 12 year olds. For further information, please contact the PCYC.

Science and Engineering Day

Our Year 5 class will be attending the Armidale Highlands Science and Engineering Challenge on 19 March at UNE. The Challenge is being supported financially by the School of Science and Technology at the University of New England, the University of Newcastle and supported by Armidale Rotary Clubs and local businesses.

The Challenge is designed, through fun and practical hands-on activities, to inspire young people about the opportunities available in science, technology and engineering. We look forward to hearing how they fare, with the opportunity to move forward to the Regional Championships in August.

Armidale Show

This Friday, our Years 3 and 4 will be attending and participating at the Armidale show. The activities will be focusing on the life of the explorer Nat Buchannan and works of Banjo Paterson, which is highly appropriate as Year 4, have been studying some of his poems.

Some of our students will be asked to help re-enact Clancy of the Overflow, which promises to be quite a sight! We have a number of classes supporting this important community event and I look forward to seeing their art making on display.

Clean Up Australia & CSIRO

Last Friday, our first Activities Day on the year, Junior School focused on one of the Round Square pillars as mentioned in last week’s TAS Talks. Being environmentally minded is
increasingly important, as news of Climate Change is regularly in our news.

It was a busy day with a visit from the travelling CSIRO presentation for all classes, followed by classroom activities of the environmental kind. The afternoon was spent “Cleaning Up Australia” with a focus on recycling and the ways and means of keeping Australia (and TAS) that little bit cleaner and greener.

Looking Ahead

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<td>Science and Engineering Day for Year 5</td>
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Happy Birthday

This week we wish a very Happy Birthday to Millie Coupland and Harry Litchfield.

Clubs in Junior School

It is very pleasing to see the formation of The Pokemon Club, an initiative taken by some of our senior students to address their desire to bring their cards to School.

Rather than avoiding the difficulties often presented by such activities, a group of students led by Year 5 have formed a Club which meets on Tuesday and Thursday so they can enjoy what is sometimes a challenging activity.

The Club meets to discuss how to proceed with the games, and negotiations involved, and it has been a pleasure to see just how well it is operating.

As part of our move towards students taking on more leadership roles, clubs are an exciting example of the principle in action.

Student Absences

Please note that it is important for parents to contact the Junior School to advise of student illness, family holidays or appointments.

An Exemption from School form is required to be completed ahead of time if more than half a day is expected to be lost. An accurate record of student attendances is a legal requirement for the School.

Lost Property

William Gilpin has lost his school jumper. If you know the whereabouts of this jumper would you please return it to the Junior School?

Liaison Parent Contact details

Coordinator – Mrs Paula Rutledge - 0413 112 711
wprutledge@yahoo.com.au

Transition:
Dee Ford 0410 685 402
Dpford1@bigpond.com
Mandy Fenwicke 0437 722 162
ajcf@bigpond.com.au

Kindy:
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Year 1:
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Year 3:
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Year 5:
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ktamming@as.edu.au
Kate Lawrence 0488 062 858
klawrenc@as.edu.au
Scott Alcorn 0408 068 056
boorolong@gmail.com

The Pokemon Club in action from 1.30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the E&E classroom.
Sport

Winter sports choices were due last Friday to Mrs Wright. If you have not indicated which sport your child would like to participate in please email Mrs Wright with details of Year group, age and sport preferences.

We would like to finalise teams as soon as possible.

TAS Hockey Club 2014

Last Thursday, the committee members of the TAS Hockey Club met to begin planning for the upcoming 2014 Winter Hockey season.

Following a successful start to the club in 2013, a number of items were discussed to ensure the continued development of the club as an outlet for students, parents, teachers and other interested members of the TAS and wider community to develop their sporting and social interests.

As a result, we would like to ask for expressions of interest for the following:

• Senior players for both the Mens and Womens (depending on numbers) competitions.
• Coaches
• Team Managers
• Umpires

Parents interested in assisting with social functions and duties such as Hockey New England Canteen or Training Day BBQs.

Please email Mr Alexander Portell (aportell@as.edu.au), clearly stating the area/s you are willing to assist with.

Please include any relevant information such as player grading/experience, coaching/umpiring qualifications etc. that may support your EOI. Submissions will be due by Wednesday 12 March.

Swimming

Our junior school swimming team competed in Lismore on Tuesday in glorious conditions.

We had a very successful carnival with some outstanding results. Several children have made it through to CIS carnival in Sydney on 26 March. Congratulations to Oscar Henzell, Joseph Anderson, Isabella Rutledge, Sam Ball and Tom Ball for qualifying in their various events.

A full report, including individual results will be in next weeks TAS Talks.

Congratulations to all swimmers for outstanding sportsmanship and behaviour. You were a pleasure to take away. Thanks also to our supportive parent body who accompanied us on our trip.

The swimmers worked hard at stroke correction last week in our swimming session.
Gymnastics

After a warm up of swings, pit jumps, forward rolls and cartwheels as well as some important stretches, the gymnasts settled into their groups to complete an exciting array of skill based activities.

These included beam and ribbon work; vaulting box work combined with lots of springing and landing; bar glides and rings to work on our swinging, and finally, forward rolls combined with great fun performing rolls on the super wedge. We are fortunate to have a great team of coaches as well as Mr O’Hara who takes a keen interest in fostering gymnastic skills amongst our group.

TAS Football Club

The 2014 football season is rapidly approaching.

Anyone who is interested in being part of the committee which aims to support and assist Football at TAS is requested to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 18 March, commencing at 5pm in the TAS McConville Centre.

Any questions or enquiries can be directed to Luke Polson (MIC Football) at lpolson@as.edu.au

The TAS Swimming Team assemble in Lismore for the NCIS Swimming Carnival
New England juniors are planning to field teams in the U12’s, 13’s, 14’s & 15’s (yes U15s too)!!

Trials for squad selection will be held at Moran Oval on Sunday 2 March 1pm - 4pm.

All rugby players within these age groups are encouraged to attend. The age you turn this year is the age group you would try out for (e.g turning 14 this year then U14s).

The country rugby champions will occur as follows:

- U12s & U13s: 10th-11th May at Shoalhaven
- U14s & U15s: 3rd - 4th May at Newcastle

Please check out the country juniors website at: http://www.countryjuniors.com.au/

Please see Mr Thatcher if you have any questions.