Year 9 Father and Son Weekend
The second of our parent and son weekends for 2014 saw over 50 fathers and their Year 9 sons get together at the Nymboida Canoe Centre last weekend with the simple idea of spending some real time together while away from the distractions of home and the modern world. Having been amongst the fathers with their sons some years ago, I know what a powerful and uplifting experience it is and I am not surprised at all by the glowing reports I have heard from those whose turn it was this year.

This is the eighth year that the Year 9 program for dads and their sons has run and I am very pleased to see it enjoying such a well established place in our school calendar. I am very grateful to Martin Levins who instigated and continues to run the program as well as our School Counsellor Rob Hadfield for their continued support of the weekend.

Armidale Show Competition
I was pleased to see that the Armidale Show continues to have more to it than sideshows and rides and that a good number from our school community were a part of the competitions and events this year that make the Show a genuine community event. Amongst some very good efforts, I single out two achievements that I think are worthy of special mention.

As a regional event, the Armidale Show offers the opportunity for our cattle team to compete on home turf and I offer congratulations to those boys involved. Brad Doak’s success in being named ‘Grand Champion Junior Judge’ over a field of more than 100 other young judges was a wonderful achievement and the ribbons for ‘Reserve Junior Champion Bull’ and 2nd place for ‘Heifer Under 12 Months’ were very encouraging for the team as a whole. Our stud manager, Mike Ball, has told me that he was particularly pleased with the results of the team and I know that he reserves such praise for high achievements. The highlight for him was the good work from the seven new young members of the team and I applaud their efforts too.

The second of those achievements was from an individual and in a very different field. Year 7 student Hudson Morris entered three of his building projects in competition and his winning of two first prizes, two ‘champion’ prizes and one third prize was a wonderful personal success. I know that Hudson had been working on one of his projects for the past six months and seeing this work rewarded so heartily is great encouragement to him and others who might aspire to similar commitment.

Sporting Congratulations
Much of the attention we give to our sporting program is on the team sports that see our boys representing their school in competition against other schools and this is quite fitting. A good number of TAS students take on their sporting challenge as individuals though, often competing against wider fields, and I draw attention to two of these this week.
Congratulations are due to Michael Harris who finished 3rd in a field of around 30 riders in the 17 years section of the National Mountain Bike Championships in Victoria. Many will know how well Michael has been achieving in local competition in his chosen sport lately and to see him continuing this success at national level is worthy of high praise. Few of our sportsmen have the opportunity to compete with the best in the country and that rare privilege is worthy of our applause.

Beyond the regular coaching and training sessions, TAS shooters have their pre-GPS competition dominated by ‘prize shoots’ against open adult competition and there is no doubt that this sharpens their skills. Last weekend, out team traveled to Spring Ridge for the high profile prize shoot that is part of our regular calendar.

Our Master in Charge of Shooting, Trevor Thatcher, was particularly pleased by the number of new shooters who performed very well in their first shoot and I commend them too and offer individual congratulations to Hugh Morton who won the C Grade competition.

Headmaster’s Country Tour
The annual country tour that sees our Registrar Pip Warrick, Middle School Housemaster Andrew Junge and myself travel through our region to meet prospective and current TAS community members begins this week. As this edition of TAS Talks is published, we will be in Narrabri, before heading to Gunnedah on Thursday and Tamworth on Friday. The schedule of interviews this year is encouragingly hectic and I am looking forward to meeting parents, Old Boys and those new to TAS at functions over the coming weeks.

GPS Head of the River Rowing
While a few of us are in Narrabri on Wednesday, boys in Middle and Senior School will gather during Advisor Period to farewell our rowers who head to Sydney to compete in the 2014 Head of the River on Friday morning. The significance of this championship goes well beyond being simply the highlight of our season. It is amongst the most significant rowing events in the country and will see a crowd of many thousands cheering their schools on.

TAS has three crews competing this year, in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd IVs, and this will be a memorable experience for them all. I wish them every success for the day and look forward to seeing them there.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Week 7

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

Thursday 13 March
HSC Music Day (NECOM)
HMCT Gunnedah

Friday 14 March
Activities Day No.2
HSC Music Day (NECOM)
HMCT Tamworth
8.30am 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
1.00pm - 3.30pm Tri-Schools Debating in Hoskins Centre for years 6, 7 and 8
3.45pm Athletics Events

Friday 21 March
Middle and Senior School Athletics Championships

Week 9

Monday 24 March
Year 12 Auto’s Work Placement (all week)
2.00 - 500pm Years 6/7 Parent Teacher Interviews
Teacher Interviews

Tuesday 25 March
Board Meeting
2.00 - 500pm Years 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
5.00pm - 700pm HMCT Function Tamworth
7.30pm West Side Story Performance

Saturday 29 March
7.30pm “West Side Story” Performance

Sunday 30 March
8.00am - 6.00pm Armidale MSDS Tennis Tournament
Armidale Tennis Club
This year, we will be attending SISER KYCK on the first weekend of the holidays.

If you are interested in joining us, please email Mr Newton on rnewton@as.edu.au.

Founders Day 2014

Every year the whole school celebrates Founders Day where we pause and reflect on our past and all those people who helped to make TAS what it is today.

For those of you who may not realise, this year is the school's 120th birthday and we thought it fitting to make this the focus of Founders Day 2014 and specifically those students who are the direct descendants of the original 55 boys when the school first opened. While it is impossible to cover the whole spectrum of TAS history in 20 minutes, there is one incident that occurred long ago that may amuse the audience.

The invitation is open to any parents who would like to join us at 11:20 on Monday 17 March in Memorial Hall. The whole school will be there to see a brief presentation, be entertained by the TAS Jazz Band and to then feast on birthday cake.

TAS is a recognised leader in its use of social media to engage with our parent community, Old Boys, and many others in the wider world who are keen to know what is happening here.

If you would like to follow TAS on Facebook go to www.facebook.com/TASarmidale and 'Like' us.

If you would like to follow creative happenings at TAS search for TAS Hoskins Centre on Facebook; the P&F also has a Facebook page, www.facebook.com/TASPandF.

Twitter is becoming more widely used for quick and concise information. Follow us on Twitter: @TASarmidale

And join our network at Linkedin by searching for 'TAS The Armidale School'.
Liaison Parents Lunch
Our Liaison Parents are incredibly important to the smooth running of our fundraisers and also for general year liaison - helping new families get settled and acting as the link between class and P&F. A small but enthusiastic group were able to meet for lunch yesterday in Big School. It was a lovely opportunity for us to say thank you in advance.

We look forward to working with you!

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 its also a great opportunity to show off our great school.

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.

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 email sue_333@me.com.

The Autumn Festival is a great way to showcase our school to the local community. We encourage you come along and support our TAS boys in the Autumn Festival Parade this Saturday from 11.30am. TAS will be represented by our new Drum Corp marching behind a group of TAS cadets and also by our fantastic Senior Jazz Ensemble playing on the truck.
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 hours of the shop are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Opening Time</th>
<th>Closing Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CADETS - TREVOR THATCHER

Cadet Activity Day 2 - 13 - 14 March
Activity Day 2 commenced with a back brief by the SUO and Coy Commanders to the CO MAJ Thatcher on Thursday 6 March at 1.15pm.

Orders were 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
Parade 8.40am Fri 14 March
Dismissal 3.30pm

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
RURAL FIRE SERVICE

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.

CATTLE TEAM

Another very successful weekend for the cattle team and stud.

Congratulations to Brad Doak in Year 11 who won grand champion junior judge beating a field of more than 100 other young judges.

Brad also led TAS Lieutenant H06 to reserve junior champion bull behind the eventual champion bull. A decision which the judge himself said he had much difficulties splitting our bull and the eventual winner.

Cooper Gerdes in Year 6 led TAS Lady Magic J02 into 2nd place in the heifer under 12 months, another strong class.

I was extremely impressed with the efforts of all the new boys on the team which included Toby Markerink, Cooper Johnson, Jacob Smith, Cooper Gerdes, Will Young, Marcus Braham and Jack Ackling - Mr Mike Ball, TAS Cattle Club
U16s Cricket Final
Whilst the U16A's team didn't win the Final yesterday, there were some impressive individual performances including a good spell from bowler Dom Pilon who put TAS back in the hunt. Dom took three wickets in the first half hour to finish with figures of 4/31. Jack Evans then took another two and Hillgrove only managed to add 53 runs to their day-one score. Sam Weston also finished with two wickets. Hillgrove's bowlers then shone during the afternoon making the batsmen's experience a tough one overall.

Congratulations must go be offered to Hillgrove who finished victors, however the TAS team should be proud of their efforts on making the final.

ADCA Junior Presentation
The ADCA Junior Presentation will be held at 12noon on Saturday 29 March in the BBQ area of the Armidale City Bowling Club. Barbeque lunch will be provided free of charge.

I encourage both TAS teams (16s and 14s) who have made the Final to attend the Presentation. Individual and team awards will be presented on the day.

Thanks must also be offered to Mrs Helen Dennis for her ongoing updates and support of the TAS Cricket program this season.

Winter Sports Choices
These appear on the following link and boys will be asked to choose their winter sport over the next week. I encourage families to discuss this prior to boys making these selections.

http://teams.as.edu.au/groups/sport/wiki/3a4aa/Sports_Coaches_and_Choices.html

TAS Speakers
This week our boys were visited by Mr Peter-Annis Brown as a part of our life skills section. Mr Annis-Brown was the EO of NIAS for 15 years and has recently begun a business called Ruralfit whose premise is mental and physical wellbeing.

Mr Annis-Brown spoke to the boys about mental health and active lifestyle and the implications of not acting or seeking support when things are not going as well as they could be for you.

At TAS our boys have many people they can talk to from Teachers, Advisors, Housemasters, Mr Bunting, Director of Pastoral Care, our Counsellor, Mr Hadfield and our Sisters' in the Medical Centre. We strongly encourage them to do so.

We actively encourage our boys to become engaged in the broader life of the school as we too believe that an active body and mind are an essential element to a happy and successful life for our young men.
Football
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. Nominations are being called for the following positions and should be indicated to Luke Polson via email lpolson@as.edu.au.

The anticipated committee structure is as follows:

President
Vice President
Secretary/Registrar - TAS Appointed MIC Football
Social Convenors (2)
Committee Representative - Junior
Committee Representative - Senior
Coaching Convenor
Ex-Officio: TAS Appointed Director of Co-Curricular

There will also be a range of subsidiary roles that will come up from time to time, for those not interested in being on the Executive Committee.

2014 Bill Turner Cup Football
TAS will again this year be entering into one of the worlds largest team sport competitions, the Bill Turner Cup.

Over 400 teams nominate each year for this prestigious knockout competition for 15 year old boys & under. Christian Nexo will be coaching the side for this year.

Trials will be held on Thursday 13 March commencing at 1.20pm on Adamsfield. All interested boys should be attending.

If you are unable to make these trials, please let Mr Nexo know (cnexo@as.edu.au)

Tennis
Armidale will be the centre of tennis activity on Sunday 30 March. Armidale will host a Medibank Junior Development Series tournament. The Medibank Junior Development Series (MJDS) consists of a series of round robin events in each region, providing junior players with an introduction to tournament play. The series culminates in a Champion of Champions tournament in each region, followed by the Medibank State Final. Entries will be called for soon. Anyone interested in this tournament should email lpolson@as.edu.au

Tennis Changes due to Athletics and Activities
As per emails sent to the boys by Mr Lincoln, the following sessions of tennis will not be held to accommodate for both athletics events and activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tennis Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 13 March</td>
<td>No training at 4.00pm or 4.45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14 March</td>
<td>No competition for MS/SS due to Activities Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18</td>
<td>No training at 4.00pm or 4.45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19</td>
<td>Back up day for Athletics. No training at 4.45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21 March</td>
<td>No competition for MS/SS due to MS/SS Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tennis will run as normal for the remainder of the term.

Cricket
TAS Cricket have reached finals time with numerous teams competing in the finals this weekend in the Armidale District Cricket Association competition.

In the Seniors, we have the two TAS 3rd Grade sides taking on one another in the semi-final to be played at TAS Oval. Good Luck to both TAS Blue and TAS White. A big thank you go to Marcus Laurie, John Farrar, Alex Smith, Geordie Marchant and Scott Waterson who have facilitated the success of these two teams and have created a great environment for our young men to grow and develop as cricket players.

In the U/14’s TAS Yellow take on Norths in the Grand Final to be played at Newling 1. Good luck to all players involved.

The TAS 1st XI have two games this week. A Toad Cup fixture against O’Connor to be played on Wednesday 12 March at 3.45pm and a game against the touring Downlands 1st XI this Sunday atTAS Oval, starting at 9am. It would be fantastic to get as much support as possible to these two fixtures to celebrate a fantastic season for the 1st XI.

Training continues for all cricketers this term regardless of the competition winding up, unless otherwise told.

Thanks to parents, staff and students for their continued commitment to TAS Cricket. - Mr Jim Pinnington
NSW All Schools Triathlon
Six athletes descended upon Penrith Lakes for the annual NSW All Schools Triathlon. A wonderful affair with the TAS boys performing with consistently across all races. Pierce Hayden and Thomas Lane contested the Opens event, and true to recent form, raced outstandingly well finishing strongly in an extremely competitive field. In the intermediate division, Jack Parker raced away to finish 31st and Brent Rees 46th out of more than 100 competitors, a great result. The Juniors were up next with Joshua Jones and Samuel King racing their first All Schools Titles. The boys demonstrated great determination throughout the race and were justifiably stoked with their results.

Mr Jim Pennington

Tom Lane
Brent Rees

Equestrian Events
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

MUSIC MATTERS

What a big week it is in TAS Music this week! With the Year 10 and HSC Music workshops at NECOM this week and the Autumn Festival parade coming up this Saturday too, everyone has been working hard.

TAS Drum Corp rehearsed again yesterday and were heartily congratulated by Mr Lincoln and Mr Lloyd who heard them marching around TAS. You are doing a great job boys! They should make quite an impact and will certainly leave an impression when they march for TAS in the Autumn parade. Below you will find information on the arrangements for the things happening this week.

Autumn Festival 2014 - What are you doing this Saturday?
Why not come down to support our TAS boys in the Autumn Festival Parade this Saturday? TAS will be represented in the parade by our new Drum Corp marching behind a group of TAS cadets and also by our fantastic Senior Jazz Ensemble playing on the truck. This was great fun for all last year and we expect the same this year as we will be making heaps more noise!

Arrangements for Drum Corp and Senior Jazz
The TAS Truck will be decorated and loaded with the music equipment outside the Music Block this Saturday morning from around 10.30am - to leave around 11am. We will be marshalled in Section B between 11.15 and 11.45 am on the corner of Markham and Beardy Street, the TAFE car park corner. Drum Corp and Senior Jazz members can meet us at the marshalling area at 11.30am.

The parade commences at 12.30 pm and it is expected that the TAS float will be moving at 12.45 pm - this should have us all through by 1.30 to 1.45 pm.

Parents if you are dropping off students you will need to be mindful of road closures in the area.

Please note that the ONLY pick up option is at the swimming pool, there is NO OTHER pick up option.

Year 10 Music Day - Wednesday 12 March
Year 10 Elective Music students will be attending the Music Day at NECOM tomorrow from 9.15 - 3.30pm. 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. Please note that 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.

HSC Music Days for Year 11 & 12 - Thursday 13 and Friday 14 March
Likewise, Year 11 and 12 Music students will be attending the HSC Music workshop this Thursday and Friday from 9am - 3.30pm. Students will be transported to NECOM by TAS bus and day students will need to bring their own lunch. Please contact Mr Finco on afinco@as.edu.au should you have any queries. Alternately call the Music Office on 02 6776 5890.

Yours in Music!

Mrs Butcher, Mr Finco, Mr Tracy and Mrs Broadbent
No, it’s not (quite) self-medication time and being fully aware this is a newsletter, not a lesson on dramatic irony concerning Polonius’ farewell comment to his son, I want to draw your attention to a theme that’s relevant to the Middle School at the moment.

I’ve been speaking lately to boys in my Ethics classes and also to Year groups about ‘real friends’ – you know those with whom we forge connections, often as young people, that have the potential to be longstanding. Their basis is simple: their strength is attributable to honesty; their longevity, likewise, is dependent on the enduring nature of such honesty. Their opposite is the ‘fair weather friend’, being those people who are ‘there for us’ on the proviso that we can give to them what they need, but who aren’t ‘there for us’ when we need them.

It’s difficult to be everyone’s friend, provided we’re honest with ourselves. Life just doesn’t work this way. One of the best aspects of community life is variety and the only way of ensuring such variety is through development of the confidence necessary to be ourselves, to be comfortable being ourselves. Significant alteration of behavior in order to ‘fit in’ with others can equate, ultimately, with denial of ‘self’ and there’s little chance in such situations of fulfilling personal development.

Your sons are growing up and they’re beginning to think in abstract ways. In fact they’re becoming critical thinkers and critical thinkers need an environment where they feel comfortable about what it is that distinguishes them from their peers. Their real friends will be those whose personalities complement, support and encourage them.

Such complementary relationships of course can include those who are opposite to us in terms of personality, provided such relationships are formed on an honest footing. Then there are those others who have vastly different interests and I (all adults should, I think) encourage boys to be friendly in their interactions with such people. There’s no necessity to be their friend, especially if being so involves considerable denial of personal interest.

It follows that one of the sure signs of emotional and social growth is the capacity to accept others for who and what they are despite essential differences. This belief is the ideal and, while it is hard to effect, we need to keep working at it till boys realize that it can become a reality. Such a situation is one in which students can begin to feel happy and when they are so they’ll find themselves comfortable enough to tackle, with greater ease, some of the difficulties their social and academic lives present to them. I reckon we all function better when we’re happy.

Needless to say, perhaps, I don’t speak to your boys in these terms, but I do speak to them about ‘being yourself’ in an environment that allows, enables and encourages them to pursue personal interests. Because of the relative youth of its members the overall ‘health’ of the Middle School depends on its capacity to manage difference and variety. Provided that other people’s behavior does not interfere with their enjoyment of school life, I also tell your sons that they have no right to make another boy’s enjoyment of his life an uncomfortable experience simply because your sons don’t like it. However, if...
someone else’s behavior does interfere with their or anyone’s well being, it’s every boy’s brief to tell me/us about it and we’ll help boys to deal with and resolve the issue.

I feel very strongly about issues of wellbeing, resourcefulness and self-reliance and I urge your support of me and the way this place needs to operate. TAS Middle School needs to be a friendly place and all of its students have the right to be happy.

You may be wondering whether there’s a subtext here: is there a reason why I’ve included my views on these topics in a publication that so often simply catalogues events of the ‘past week’? Isolated (and known) instances that are a part of communal life notwithstanding, the general answer is ‘no’ – simply, at this stage of the term I feel it is appropriate to tell you about some of the things that I do, daily, and some of the things I think about – always. You’re the fee payers and you’ve the right to know what it is that I think and do.

Student Leaders
I intend, this week, to meet all Middle School Monitors to canvass views on sports participation, prep, assessments and school life generally. We’re fairly busy here (a good thing, overall) and we need to assess how well we’re doing things, how well these boys think others are managing what, at times, can seem to be a juggling act. Because they’re our primary focus, it’s necessary and healthy to get student feedback – sometimes they see things that we teachers, for whatever reason, do not do not see. Again, I encourage you to let me know about well you think your boys are managing their time at TAS. It’s important that we adults maintain contact.

I hope your week is good and that it’s raining where it’s supposed to be…

Mark Harrison
Autumn Festival
You will have seen in your weekly teacher notes, the Armidale Autumn Festival being advertised. This is an important showcase for our School each year and Junior School plays a major role in this community event. While this year, the Music Department has arranged much of the entertainment value for our float, we are encouraging our students to join the parade and the details are as follows.

Marshaling from 11.30 am and wearing formal school uniform, all students should meet our staff at the start of Section B, on the corner of Markham and Beardy St (the TAFE car park corner). TAS is at the start of Section B in the parade, which I am assured is quite near the front! Please be mindful of road closures in the area. The parade commences at 12.30 pm and it is expected that the TAS float, will be moving at 12.45 pm and completed by 1.30 pm. All pick-ups will be at the Town Pool car park area. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

CIS Swimmers
Congratulations to all our swimmers who have recently attended the NCIS Swimming Championships recently in Lismore. Reports of both their participation, behaviour and School spirit were well received and I wish those Junior School students, Tom and Sam Ball and Isabelle Rutledge, travelling to Sydney the best of luck for what is a wonderful achievement and a very exciting opportunity.

Activities Day and Athletics
This Friday, TAS and Minimbah will again join together for the first session of our Athletic Championships. From 9.00 am until lunchtime on Wakefield, weather permitting, we will be hosting some long distance events and two rotations of field events. Details will be posted on our Sports web page and I welcome you along to join the fun.

Founders Day
This year TAS has its 120th birthday and students from Years 3 – 5 will be joining the School for Founders Day on March 17, in the Hall to hear some of the history behind those years. We will all celebrate with a pieces of cake, but hearing from some of the descendants of those first enrolled in 1894, will be quite a thrill –especially as one of them is in Year 4.

There is to be a Blue Light Disco on March 21, at the Bowling Club organised by the PCYC. This 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 in the Classroom
We were fortunate enough last Friday to host William Gilpin’s father, Kenneth to TAS along with a box of ultra dried Carbon dioxide – Dry Ice. Well what excitement and our sincere thanks to Kenneth. Not only did the students get to learn the meaning of the word sublimation (just ask them?) they also saw the principle in action. What a buzz?!

Science and Engineering Day
Our Year 5 class will be attending the Armidale Highlands Science and Engineering Challenge on March 19. 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.

On the same day, we will have our TAS Singers entertaining an elderly audience at the CWA, in a celebration of Melody. The Singers have been rehearsing for some time and I look forward to being with them and other TAS musicians on the day to hear them perform. We wish them luck and will report about their success.
Year 3 and 4 at Armidale Show

I was really pleased to see the involvement that TAS Junior School had with the Armidale Show. Our engagement with the community has come under renewed focus as part of our push towards adopting more of the Round Square IDEALS, and supporting the Show was an obvious opportunity. Our classes benefitted from the involvement in many ways, and it was very satisfying to see Years 3 and 4 make the most of the presentation relating to Nat Buchanan and Banjo Paterson. Others were particularly involved in classroom artworks and even some who worked on projects at home; to you all well done on your participation. For those who were successful in your particular categories, special congratulations to you, and we have included a list of these achievements below.

Further, as a result of our visit I received some wonderful feedback from the organisers about our students, and the School received the generous donation of two books for the library - Packhorse & Waterhole and Cattle Australia.

The Three Steps

TAS Junior School continues to focus on the use of a conflict resolution strategy for our students we call The Three Steps and where possible, we would like you to discuss this at home and help them put it into practice. The philosophy is for the children to begin to understand that they can make a difference themselves in some situations while allowing them to have the support they may need in others. We explain that it is OK to miss step 1 or 2 if behaviour is dangerous or very serious, but it encourages them to make a decision and take some ownership of the situation confronting them as well.

Rather than simply going to "tell" we are encouraging the kids to say:

Step 1 - "Please stop doing/saying that. I don't like it."
Step 2 - "I've asked you to stop. If you do it again, I will go and talk to a teacher."
Step 3 - "I am going to talk to a teacher."

We encourage students to talk to the teachers, rather than "tell": In doing so, the students have the opportunity to retain some of the responsibility for "fixing" the situation. Of course, this skill is a difficult one. Please discuss this strategy with your children at home and perhaps let them have a practice with you when you have the chance. If you have comments or questions about this, please contact me at School.

Looking Ahead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12 March</td>
<td>Kindergarten Assembly (Memorial Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14 March</td>
<td>Activities Day – Athletic Field Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 15 March</td>
<td>Autumn Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18 March</td>
<td>Science and Engineering Day Yr 5-UNE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TAS Singers to CWA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19 March</td>
<td>Junior School Athletics Championships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21 March</td>
<td>Senior Athletics Championships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Happy Birthday

This week we wish a very happy birthday to: Eli Evitt, Sam Ball, Blake Whitehill, Fletcher Connor, Penny Pezzutti and Max Barnsley.

Activities Day next week 14 March

This day will be dedicated to field events for the athletics carnival and peripatetic music lessons will not be possible on this day. Parents are asked to please make alternate arrangements for these lessons.

News from the Armidale Show

Below is a list of children who received a placing at the Armidale Show held last weekend.

We hope all children who participated in the Show are as proud of themselves as we are of them here at TAS. Supporting this fantastic local event shows what a great community TAS is proud to be a part of.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hugo Cotterell</td>
<td>Model Construction</td>
<td>1st place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millie Coupland</td>
<td>Painting Jnr 8 years and under</td>
<td>1st place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby Broun</td>
<td>Painting Jnr 8 years and under</td>
<td>3rd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Ryan</td>
<td>Drawing Jnr 8 years and under</td>
<td>1st place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zac Macfarlane</td>
<td>Drawing Jnr 8 years and under</td>
<td>3rd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Ford</td>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Brownlie</td>
<td>Drawing Pre-school and under</td>
<td>3rd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maddie Buntine</td>
<td>Drawing Pre-school and under</td>
<td>2nd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Zuber</td>
<td>Indigenous Art</td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Miron</td>
<td>Indigenous Art</td>
<td>3rd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Fenwicke</td>
<td>Colour-in Competition 8-9 years</td>
<td>3rd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel Newton</td>
<td>Pottery 8 - 9 years</td>
<td>1st place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver Belson</td>
<td>Colour-in Competition</td>
<td>1st place</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities Day next week 14 March

This day will be dedicated to field events for the athletics carnival and peripatetic music lessons will not be possible on this day. Parents are asked to please make alternate arrangements for these lessons.

News from the Armidale Show

Below is a list of children who received a placing at the Armidale Show held last weekend.

We hope all children who participated in the Show are as proud of themselves as we are of them here at TAS. Supporting this fantastic local event shows what a great community TAS is proud to be a part of.
Student Absences
Please note that it would be appreciated if parents would contact the Junior School to advise of student illness, family holidays or appointments. This enables us to keep an accurate record of our students' attendances.

The Application for Exemption of attendance form is available on the TAS website.

Premiers Reading Challenge (PRC)
We have had 13 students register for the 2014 Premiers Reading Challenge which is great. It isn't too late to join up! If you would like your child to participate in the PRC this year, just fill in the permission note on the next page and return it to the Library so we can register online and give your child a reading log and rules booklet. If any parents have any questions they can be emailed to jranck@as.edu.au, phone the Library 6776 5833 or call into the Library and see any of the library staff. We have made this as easy as we can for the children so their participation is an enjoyable experience.

Scholastic Book Club
The second issue of Book Club should now be coming home with your children. If you would like to purchase from the brochures, simply select any books and return the order to the RED LETTER BOX, which can be found in the Junior School office by Wednesday 19 March. Make sure your child's name and year is on each order. Payment can be made by cheque or credit card using the Scholastic Online Payment System. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.

The Book Club is now run from the TAS Library, so if you have any questions, please pop in, phone on 6776 5833, or email to nramazan@as.edu.au. If any of the books or items you order are gifts for your child please let me know so that I can deliver it to you personally, rather than to your child. Happy Reading!

Natalie Ramazani
Book Club Co-ordinator

CIS Swimmers to Sydney
Congratulations, once again to our swimmers heading to Sydney on 26 March. We look forward to hearing of your experience in Sydney. The following children were selected to participate and will be competing in the following events. We wish them the very best of luck.
Tom Ball – 8 yrs 50m Free, U10 50m Breaststroke.
Sam Ball – 10 yrs 50m Butterfly
Isabella Rutledge – 10 yrs 50m Free, 50m Butterfly
Oscar Henzell – 12-13yrs 50m Free, Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly, 100m Freestyle.
A full list of Lismore NCIS results can be located in the JS Sports Section of our website.

Gymnastics
Once again we were fortunate this week to have Terry Tomes, our star gymnast GAP student, join us for the afternoon. He was able to assist the students to refine their forward roll execution.

The activities this week also involved swinging on the high bars whilst improving our arm strength; springing and landing using the mini tramp and lastly, a variety of jumps into the pit and some more refining of our cartwheels. Everyone's progress is impressive.

Mini Ball
Firstly, a big thank you to Mrs Eichorn who filled in for Ms Dowse at the Year 4 game last Monday. Mrs Eichorn your assistance in an unavoidable situation is very much appreciated. And secondly, congratulations to the Year 4 team who just went about their usual business of being polite and courteous as always. Boys you all bring a smile to my face every Monday with you enthusiasm and commitment.

This week saw the boys competing with a long time favourite opponent PLC. The boys all played well assisting others in both attack and defence. It was so lovely to witness both teams passing the ball to players who had not had the opportunity to have a shot for goal. This provides a learning opportunity for all players and develops team and game spirit. Once again we all made a new friend and he fitted in very well to the team.

This week a special mention needs to go to Hugo Catteral who played solid for the entire match. He was there to give a sneaky pass when required and also helped out in defence. Hugo is new to the TAS Junior School but it feels like he has been here for many years. He has fitted in very well to the Junior School and the Year 4 Miniball team.

Ms Dowse

This group are about to perform a tuck jump into the pit.
Hot Shots Tennis
This week the children were taught a variety of specific skills for serving.

This included positioning of their body, height of the ball and correct tennis grip.

They had a series of ball tasks to demonstrate how to produce the fluid movement of throwing the ball up with one hand whilst attaining the correct movement of the racket in a series of steps.

The photo demonstrates how the children had to apply this technique to the tennis perimeters before using this in their games. It may appear easy, however, the technique for a perfect “Leyton Hewitt” serve was challenging for most. After playing a game using serving skills, we then went on to learn about the importance of footwork, particularly for enhancing their forehand and backhand shots.

All students have been encouraged to use a shorthanded bat until the specific skill was mastered. Register online now to claim your free backpack. To do this, http://hotshots.tennis.com.au/start-playing/claim and register your details.

Register as a Hot Shots player by 16 March to receive this deal.

Permission Note For The 2014 Premiers Reading Challenge
Dear Parent/Guardian,

We will again be running the PRC in 2014. Even though the Challenge officially runs from 1 February to 1 September 2014, books read from 2 September 2013 can count towards the 2014 Challenge.

Your child has expressed an interest in completing the 2014 Premiers Reading Challenge. It would be great if they could participate, however we need your permission to register them. If you are happy for your child to participate can you please complete the tear off slip below and have them return it to the Library.

The book lists and rules for the Challenge are available on the Premiers Reading Challenge website along with other details at: https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

Please remember if your child is going to be in Year 3 in 2014, they will need to read books in the 3-4 challenge and if your child is going to be in Year 5 in 2014, they will need to read books in the 5-6 challenge.

If you are happy for your child to participate they will receive a booklet with the rules and a reading log to fill in when this permission note is returned to us in the Library.

Thank you for encouraging your child’s reading.

Janine Ranck
Library Assistant & PRC Coordinator
TAS Library
Ph: 6776 5833
E: jranck@as.edu.au

I, ___________________________________ (parent/guardian’s name) give my child ______________________________ (child’s name) in Year _______ permission to participate in the 2014 Premiers Reading Challenge.

Parent/Guardian Signature

___________
Date
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: 10-11 May at Shoalhaven
- U14s & U15s: 3 - 4 May at Newcastle

Please see Mr Thatcher if you have any questions.