Westside Story

Last week was a big week for TAS as we staged what I believe was the biggest and most ambitious musical production in the history of the School. From every perspective; the record number of shows, tickets sold out 5 weeks before opening night, a cast of over 100, combined efforts from 4 schools and one of the most challenging scores in musical theatre, this was a big and historic production. That it was so successful and has received such rave reviews is a reflection of that magical combination of raw talent and great commitment that threw themselves into West Side Story.

Later in this edition of TAS Talks Jason Lincoln offers his perspective as Director of Co-curricular and Emma Buzo offers her thanks to individuals and the Armidale community who came together with such passion to ensure the success of the production. I echo those thanks and accolades and pay special tribute to Emma as producer and director. West Side Story was her vision and she carried leadership of it from the spark of the first idea to the final curtain. It was a personal triumph for her as much as it was for the cast, crew and musicians and it was a memorable finale to her fine career as Head of TAS Drama and Hoskins Centre Manager.

Coffs Ocean Swim

For West Side actors Harry Wright, David Williams and Saxon Hughes, the school activity continued before sunrise on Sunday morning as they headed to the coast with 30 other TAS boys and 3 staff to compete in the annual Coffs Ocean Swim. The big TAS contingent accounted for around 10% of the total field this year and, with the assistance of some outstanding individual performances, the School’s presence was a positive and very noticeable one. Jay Kennedy’s third place overall was an outstanding achievement for a schoolboy and Jay, Harry Wright and Will Raleigh taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the 16 – 19 years category added to what was a wonderful team achievement. That all the TAS team finished the event unassisted is a statement in itself.

The 2km ocean swim draws serious competition from the triathlon, iron-man and life-saving communities and the experience of being in such company will be memorable for all the TAS team. Around half of the boys swimming on Sunday have their sights on the Triple Crown this year and will be looking ahead to the Hawkesbury Classic and City to Surf later in the year to round that out. Just 4 boys completed the Triple Crown last year and I am impressed by the growth in it in just its second year. It seems that the more formidable the challenge is, the more attractive it is to our boys and I would like to think that this might send a message to those who would label today’s teenagers as lazy and self-indulgent.

In-House Cricket

I offer congratulations to our prefect body on the success of the ‘boarder-dayboy’ cricket match held on Wakefield yesterday afternoon. The match was designed particularly to promote interaction across age groups, with cricketers and non-cricketers alike taking part and the good crowd made it a real community event. It was also a part of our charity fundraising for 2014 which is focusing on support for the fight against cancer through our sponsorship of the ‘Tour de Rocks’ and the national initiative to raise awareness of depression and anxiety, ‘beyond blue’. These worthy causes added a weighty importance to what was great entertainment and I thank those who gave their support to it.

Country Tour

What is known as the Headmaster’s Country Tour, the annual travels around the North of the State with our Registrar Pip Warrick and Middle School Housemaster Andrew Junge, has been spread over a number of weeks this year, but it is
covering no less ground. What began in Week 7 with visits to Narrabri, Gunnedah and Tamworth, continued last week with a return to Tamworth and will carry on to Inverell, Glen Innes, Moree, Walgett and Bingara before the end of the term.

The Country Tour brings together two very important opportunities for the School. First, it provides our busiest and fullest period of enrolment interviews, mostly for the coming year. Having the chance to talk to prospective TAS boys and their families in their home towns, and sometimes even their homes, is a great privilege for us and this year has been no different. In the face of exceptional and in some areas dire agricultural conditions, the demand for interviews has been higher than it has been at any time in the 15 years of the Country Tour and this is greatly encouraging.

At the same time, we have the opportunity to meet with our current and sometimes past families and this is very important too. Whilst many of those that we have met and will meet at functions during the Country Tour this year are regular visitors to the School, we rarely have the freedom to relax together in social company. That is something that a close community like ours should do and I appreciate it very much.

We have been generously and warmly welcomed by our families on the Tour this year and I offer particular thanks to those families who have opened their homes to us. Bruce and Deb Finney hosted us in Narrabri, Paul and Lexie Morrison (O.B. Matt Wykneit’s guardians) welcomed us to their hotel in Gunnedah and former TAS parents Janet and John Treloar hosted a function for the wider TAS community in Tamworth last week. That the School is able to be a part of a gathering of friends in one family’s home is quite special and I thank those families very much.

We are now looking forward to the functions ahead, with the Frasers in Inverell and Hughes in Glen Innes this week and then the Wyatts in Moree and at ‘the Sporto’ in Walgett in the final week of term.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### Week 10

**Wednesday 2 April**

- **Junior School Parent/Teacher Interviews**

**Thursday 3 April**

- Yrs 11/12 Art Excursion departs for Sydney
- **Headmasters Country Tour (HMCT) - Inverell**

**Friday 4 April**

- **Activities Day No.3**
  - 3.00pm - Scots International 7’s Rugby, Scots College, Sydney
  - Yrs 11/12 Art Excursion Sydney
  - HMCT Glen Innes
- 6.00pm Glen Innes Function, home of Tim Hughes and Sal Molesworth

**Saturday 5 April**

- Yrs 11/12 Art Excursion returns
- 1st X1 v St Paul’s Grammar, Doody Park
- 3.00pm TAS 7’s at Scots International, 7’s Rugby at Scots

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### Week 11

**Monday 7 April**

- HMCT - Moree
- 2.00pm - Junior School Easter Service

**Tuesday 8 April**

- 10.35am Middle / Senior School Easter Service
- HMCT - Walgett

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**Wednesday 9 April**

- 2.00 - 5.30pm Year 9 Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 6.15pm Year 9 Parent Information Session
- 6.30pm Chapel Service

**Thursday 10 April**

- 11.45am Parent Information Session
- 2.00 - 5.30pm Year 9 Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Classes conclude

**Friday 11 April**

- Boarder buses depart
- Staff PD Day
- 4.00pm TAS Rugby Carnival players arrive

### April Holiday Activities

- **April 12 /13**  
  - TAS Rugby Carnival
- **April 18 - 28**  
  - Young Round Square Conference
  - Kings College, Auckland, NZ
- **April 23 - 27**  
  - KYCK Convention (Katoomba)
- **April 24 - 26**  
  - Tour de Rocks
- **April 25**  
  - Anzac Day - Guard
Confirmation 2014

On the last Thursday of Term 2, 19 June, at 9am the 2014 TAS confirmation service will be conducted in the school chapel. The confirmees will be presented to the Bishop of the Diocese of Armidale, whereby they will publicly profess their faith in Jesus Christ. We will all then pray for the confirmees and in a sense stand with them in demonstration of our commitment to nurture and encourage them in their walk with God.

This service is for any boy who is ready to take this step, but normally for boys in Year 8 and above who were baptised as infants and seek now to confirm the promises made on their behalf by their parents and godparents. It is also possible for boys who have not yet been baptised to proceed with Confirmation if they too wish to make a public declaration of faith in Christ Jesus. Such students will be baptised at a suitable time prior to the Confirmation service. Confirmation is not compulsory and should only be undertaken by students who have a clear understanding of, and faith in Jesus Christ. The preparation will take in lunch time sessions at school. Dates will be announced once the group has been established.

Interested students should pick up a Confirmation application form from the front office or from myself. Parents may request a form be faxed or posted to them if that is more convenient. Any enquiries may be made to myself by phone, again through the front office.

Richard Newton

Year 9 Parent Teacher Interviews

These will be held next Wednesday 9 April - 3.30pm-6pm and Thursday 10 April 1.30pm-5.30pm.

Parents have received details via email with the link to book parent/teacher interviews online.

Two parent information sessions will be held. The first one on Wednesday evening beginning at 6.15pm and a repeat session on Thursday beginning at 11.45am.

Both these Information Sessions will be held in Big School (just outside reception).

If you are having any problems with the online booking process or questions regarding parent teacher interviews please contact Academic Assistant, Mrs Vickey O’Brien 6776 5806.

Sometimes circumstances stack up against us and the way we believe life should be for us. The pressure of these accumulating circumstances leave us feeling depleted, worn down, even depressed and anxious. We begin to feel overwhelmed. Stress is our experience of these pressures and distress is what we experience when we feel overwhelmed. At that point we can easily slide into anxiety and depression unless some intervention occurs to decrease the experience of distress.

Learning to monitor your life experiences and the internal representations of this, that is, becoming aware and mindful, is a practice that can be acquired. That is where it is helpful to engage with a Psychologist who is able to develop helpful approaches with you until you can implement these steps for yourself. It is good not to wait until the default experience of distress, anxiety and depressive thoughts, becomes established.

These experiences of distress can afflict young and old alike. Learning to eavesdrop on what is going on in your experience and the ways you are construing it, is an important first step. Turning the discomfort of pressure into distress and other issues that create increased suffering, is not a path that serves us well.
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.

Students - Do you want to take singing lessons at TAS?

We are very fortunate that our expert vocal tutor, Mr Stephen Tall will be available for extra time in Term 2 to teach more vocal students at TAS. If any students are interested in having lessons with Mr Tall, please contact Mrs Broadbent by email or call the Music Centre on 6776 5890.

A reminder that any student wishing to commence learning an instrument in Term 2 at TAS can catch up with a Music Teacher or Mrs Broadbent in the Music Centre. Vocal and Instrumental Tuition Enrolment Forms are available on the TAS Website or by emailing Mrs Broadbent on sbroadbe@as.edu.au.

Also - please remember if you wish to cease lessons this term you should notify your tutor by the end of term to avoid another term’s fees.

TAS Music Centre also hire out instruments. An Instrument Hire Bond of $55 is payable in the first term of hire, which is refundable upon return of the instrument. Regular termly hire is $55 per term for all our instruments. Students please ensure you bring your instruments to every lesson. Guitarists need to bring guitars every time and if you are learning electric guitar you need your own lead and amplifier. Feel free to leave them in the safe storage area of the Music Centre if you are a boarder and when you are not using them but make sure they are clearly labelled.
As Term 1 races towards its conclusion, we have just one more event to look forward to…. 

TAS Primary Rugby Carnival *** it’s next week! ***

The TAS Primary Rugby Carnival is the single largest event on the TAS calendar and it is both a super weekend of primary rugby, and a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school to the broader community. Not only its physical assets, but also the way our school family pulls together to make things happen, and the hospitality we offer. It’s also a great opportunity to meet up with friends both old and new.

Can you help?

We are looking for volunteers to cook (cakes, slices and the barbecues at school), sell on the cake stalls, make up lunches and generally 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 to confirm a time slot if you are able to spare anytime over this huge weekend.

We’d love to see you there.

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, Mrs Meg Sadler by email msadler@as.edu.au so the cards may be 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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Last week’s sell out season of ‘West Side Story’ set a new record for the Hoskins Centre. Never before have 100 students from four different schools (TAS, NEGS, PLC and OCC) been involved in the one show. Would the process have been easier if fewer people had been involved? Definitely. Would that have been true to the creative spirit of the Hoskins Centre? No way! So why did we choose the hardest and most demanding musical of them all to tackle with a large cast of students, many of them dancing, singing or acting for the first time? Why did we ignore the naysayers who said ‘West Side Story’ was too ambitious? Because taking risks is what makes life interesting. Of course, having a great team minimises the risk somewhat!

The production was a true ‘three-ring circus’ and I would never have attempted such an ambitious project without such talented colleagues – Musical Director Amy Walsh from PLC and Choreographer Melissa Killen from O’Connor, not to mention our Ringmaster and Production Manager Anthony Carlon, who have all shown true grit during this arduous but ultimately rewarding experience.

My heartiest thanks to the following people:

- **the parents** for their crucial and multi-faceted support in helping their sons and daughters manage such an intense time.
- **the crew** for their concentration, dedication and reliability.
- **the orchestra** for bringing the X Factor to the production, providing our cast with the unforgettable experience of performing to live music and giving the story such a powerful and emotional core.
- **the cast** for their energy, determination and courage during this incredibly demanding process.

They really showed our community what young people can achieve when they give their all. They created some spine-tingling moments on stage and will be forever reminded of what they are capable of achieving through sheer hard work.

Emma Buzo, Director
**West Side Story**

Obviously the accolades for West Side Story have been coming from near and far and deservedly so. I was immensely proud to see so many TAS staff engaged in this production, as well as witnessing the huge amount of students who either performed or worked as stage managers, technical assistants, ushers and the list goes on. This outstanding success is credit to both the leadership of Ms Emma Buzo and the commitment of the many families of TAS on so many levels.

As an aside, one of the highlights for me was to witness the role of TAS Gap Student Callum Gibson who was the assistant to the musical director. The respect that Callum has achieved throughout our student community due to his contribution to this production is testament to the rapport that can be gained by staff of all ages, through engagement through the co-curricular lives of our boys.

This was only reinforced when Callum and fellow ‘Gappie’ Stephen Mutangili performed so brilliantly, a song by Adele, ‘Make you feel my love’ brilliantly at Assembly last week which was met with rapturous applause and rightly so.

**Senior Cricket 3rd XI Joint Premiers**

Congratulations to our Senior TAS Cricket team which ended its season as Joint Premiers. It was disappointing that a Grand Final could not be played due to the pitches being affected by the weather, although I’m sure coaches Marcus Laurie and John Farrar were delighted both with the rain and importantly with all members of the team this season.

**Boarders vs Day Boys Cricket Fundraiser**

Our Prefect body have again taken an exciting new step in introduce this match as a part of their fundraising goals for the Tour de Rocks. It was a most enjoyable afternoon for all concerned including boarders being able to relax on the sidelines as they enjoyed a barbecue dinner whilst supporting as well as welcoming girls from NEGS and PLC to support on the day.

**TAS Rugby Carnival**

We look forward to next weekend’s (12 and 13 April) annual TAS Rugby Carnival. This year we again seek the support of our families in assisting with the catering over the course of the weekend. A special thank you to our Rugby Supporters Group, and in particular Mrs Sandra Kaynes for their ongoing support of this wonderful community celebration. As I’m sure you are well aware, should you wish to assist over the weekend please contact Sandra on skaynes@bigpond.com

I look forward to seeing many of our families there over the course of the weekend.

**Winter Sports Choices**

All boys should now have made their winter sports choices. Training times and locations will be up on the sports page of the TAS Website in coming days.

**Interhouse Basketball Championships**

Next Tuesday afternoon there will be no summer sports training as all students are encouraged to support the games in the gym from 3.45pm.
Football - Upcoming Fixtures

Please find below dates of upcoming fixtures for some of our Football teams.

Saturday 5 April - TAS 1st XI vs St Paul's Grammar - 5pm Doody Park
Monday 7 April - TAS Bill Turner Cup Squad vs O'Connor Catholic College - 1pm Doody Park
Wednesday 9 April - TAS 1st XI vs Bishop Druitt CIS Knockout Game - 12pm Doody Park

NCIS Open Primary - Students selected

Congratulations to Cotter Litchfield and Oscar Henzell (both Year 6) on their selection into the NCIS representative Open Primary side. The team will compete at the NSWCIS football trials to be held on Friday April 4t at The King’s School. We wish both boys well.

Tennis for the remainder of the term

Please note that with the athletics events concluding, tennis training will continue for the remainder of the term. Please check carefully for when your training sessions are on.

Week 10

Wednesday No JS Tennis
MS/SS Group 2 - 4.45pm - 5.30pm
Thursday MS/SS Group 3 - 4.45pm - 5.30pm
Squad Training - 4.45pm - 5.30pm
Friday No MS/SS Comp due to Activities Day

Week 11

Monday No JS Tennis
Tuesday MS/SS Group 1 - 4.00pm - 4.45pm
Squad Training - 4.45pm - 5.30pm
Wednesday No JS Tennis
MS/SS Group 2 - 4.45pm - 5.30pm

Regional Kayaking Nymboida

Two boys, Jack Bishop and Angus Roxborough-Batt attended the regional kayaking competition at Nymboida on the 28-30 March. Although the competition was quite small the boys performed well and achieved some impressive results. Jack placed second in slalom, and first in both white water sprints, and wild water. Angus placed second in both the white water and wild water races. Congratulations to both these boys.

Coffs Ocean Swim report – TAS Talks

In his last race wearing the TAS colours, Jay Kennedy finished an outstanding third outright at the Coffs Ocean Swim, less than 10 seconds behind the winner. With sun aplenty, no wind and the lightest of swells, Jay immediately jumped onto the lead pack and never left. At the 1500m mark, the group had shrunk to five, and then it was literally a 500m sprint to the finish. This wonderful achievement brings to a close on 10 years of competitive swimming for Jay whilst at TAS.

Schoolmate Harry Wright was second behind Jay in the 16-19 category in a time of 33.47 and Will Raleigh was third.

A large contingent of 36 boys and three staff from TAS took part in the event, with more than half the team chasing their Triple Crown award. Many of the TAS boys also used the event as part of their training for their Surf Bronze Medallion, in conjunction with Sawtell Surf Life Saving Club.

I must make special mention of the indefatigable Harry Wright, David Williams and Saxon Hughes who somehow rose from bed Sunday morning at 5am after an exhaustive week performing in West Side Story.

Jim Pennington, Swimming MIC

Equestrian

Entries to the 2014 North West Equestrian Expo (held at Coonabarabran from 30 May - 3rd June) are closing on the 11 April.

TAS student’s entries have already been posted, however if you were unaware of this event and you would like your son to attend, please let Mrs Joanne Benham know as soon as possible by email to jbenham@as.edu.au.
Activities Day 3 A Coy
1 Platoon - Dumaresq Dam
Canoeing
River Crossing
Fieldcraft Exercises
Parade 8.40am Friday 4 April
Dismissal 3.30pm
2 Platoon - Gara Gorge
Abseiling
Roping Activity
RATEL
Parade 8.40am Friday 4 April
Dismissal 3.30pm
3 Platoon - Mt Duval
Overnight Bivouac
Parade 3.45pm Thursday 4 April
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday 4 April

B Coy
4 Platoon - UNE Property 'Kirby'
Navigation Training
Team Building Exercise
Tri-Lesson (2)
RATEL
Parade 8.40am Friday 4 April
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday 4 April
5 Platoon - Dumaresq Dam
Canoeing
Water Safety / Survival
First Aid / RATEL
Tri-Lesson (2)
Field Cooking
Parade 8.40am Friday 4 April
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday 4 April
6 Platoon - Peatfields Overflow (Little Mt Duval)
Overnight Bivouac and navigation exercise
Parade 3.45pm Thursday 3 April
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday 4 April

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

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.

Year 6 Rangers overnight Bivouac 3-4 April
Please use the below link to check packing lists and itinerary.
Full details on the Rangers website
Round Square News

Below is a link to the latest International Round Square News, March 2014.

This newsletter gives a very clear indication of just how much goes on around the global membership of Round Square schools and the range of Round Square activities other schools are involved in.

Please take the time to have a quick look!

Click Here

Year 9 students – ever wanted to go to Alice Springs?

A fantastic opportunity is now available for Year 9 students to travel to Alice Springs and spend six days working with indigenous students at Yipirinya School. The school caters for around 200 students from pre-school to middle school age. The visit will conclude with a three day cultural immersion tour to Uluru.

This school welcomes visitors, particularly visiting schools who come to share with the students, learn about the indigenous Australia and experience the outback. There are new accommodation facilities for visiting schools on campus where all volunteers stay.

This a unique domestic service project and allows TAS students to access traditional Aboriginal culture in a spectacular landscape.

The dates for this trip are from Saturday 5 July (last week of holidays) and returning on Tuesday 15 July. Final costings are not yet available but will be in the vicinity of $1400.

For more detailed information contact Mr Barney Buntine by email or Mrs Anna Barnier by email.

Round Square International Conference - Kings Academy, Jordan

We have received a good number of applications from Year 11 students for this upcoming conference in the September/October holidays, commencing with a pre-conference tour in Turkey, incorporating Gallipoli with five other school delegations. Applications will still be accepted until Monday 7 April and the delegation finalised by the end of the term. Please see Mr Buntine or Mrs Barnier for further information or check out the conference website.

Details regarding the pre-conference tour in Turkey can be found here.

Farewell to William Cooper, Exchange from Gordonstoun

Will Cooper left us on Monday to return to Gordonstoun in Scotland after, in his words, a very enjoyable stay at TAS, particularly under the care of Mr Jim Pennington and the boys in Tyrrell House.

Please see Will’s farewell report here.

William Cooper enjoys his time at Gostwyck Farm

Young Round Square Conference, Kings College, Auckland, NZ

Best wishes to the delegation of Tom Deshon, Henry O'Neil, Jason O'Keefe, Joshua Danke, Alistair Le Surf and Jack Waters who travel to New Zealand on Friday 18 April under the care of Mr Luke Polson and Mrs Anna Gayner. After a three day pre-conference tour of the wider Auckland region the delegation will spend six days being hosted by the Kings College in Auckland and interacting with many other delegations from Round Square schools in the Australasian and South East Asian region.

We look forward to hearing of their experiences next term.
Winter Sports and Farewell Term 1

This morning I went to the Rugby Trials for the Under 14 and 15 age groups on Wakefield – it was summery and heralded the beginning of Winter Sports at TAS. It’s Armidale, Australia’s highest city and one of the few that can boast four seasons in a day. It’s more than possible that next week will be wintery. This activity, in turn, affirms that the first term Easter break is only one and a half weeks away. These thoughts are fast and furious aren’t they – just like the term as it winds down. Spirals, actually. Finally.

Your boys will have the ‘finish line’ in their sights now and I reckon they’ll be able to muster the energy necessary to cross it and then come home to you. They can always muster this kind of energy. At this week’s Town Meeting, being our Middle School Assembly, I’m going to congratulate them for nearly having completed the year’s longest term. As a general rule, the successors will be up to two weeks shorter. And, I want you to know something: they’ve acquitted themselves very well. Yes, we’ve kept them busy, making sure that they’ve been gainfully employed both inside and out of the classroom, but they’re the ones who’ve made the term ‘work for them’ and I’m pleased about this. You’ve reason to be proud of them and their efforts and I want you to tell them as much when they are with you for the two week holiday.

This is my first beginning of the year term as Head of Middle School. I’m naturally vague at the best of times and, to be honest, I’m feeling a little ‘punch drunk’ now. However, I’ve really enjoyed myself and, especially, the interactions I’ve had with your sons. We’ve had the odd challenging moments of course, but this is normal for the 11 – 14 age group. Overall, ‘things’ Middle School – related have been relatively smooth and I’m grateful we’re in this position as it augurs well for the second term. It’ll be different in relation to activity, though no less busy than the last 10 weeks. So, be sure to let them rest over the break.

I want you to do something for me. When they’re rested, ask your sons how their first term has really been. If there are issues they raise that we, for whatever reason, may not be aware of, you need to let me know. This is my job and you can make it much easier for me to execute if you do this for me. As previously indicated, I neither have a crystal ball, nor do I have an especially reliable sixth sense. Accordingly, there may have been issues I’ve missed and if my knowing about them could facilitate or expedite your boys’ settling into TAS life, you owe it to them to inform me about what’s needed to ensure that this vitally important process continues.

By the way, for those of you who are new to Armidale, it can be really cold during the winter, so be certain to make sure the boys return with clothing necessary to manage the next two terms. When you’re wearing the right gear in this city, the winters are bracing: when you’re wearing what’s ‘wrong’, they’re miserable. Really miserable. I know the Uniform Shop has a list of items, both necessary and recommended, and suggest you look at it carefully.

**Homework and Assessments**

I’m discovering of late that some of the boys are struggling a little, not too much, with the regular nature of homework schedules. Since this system hasn’t been tried before I’m fairly confident the reason for the struggle is tiredness-related as the term has been very long. Please be reassured – ‘we are on to this’; monitoring the situation and advising both boys and relevant staff. Overall, the new Homework and Assessment system is working well. In fact, it is working better than we thought and this is because the students, in varying degrees
of course, have embraced it with good grace and generally have given it their best effort, given the fact that homework is not the most pleasurable task for most people, especially for those of them who are adolescent boys.

The fact that only a handful of parents have been contacted by us over concerns about work submissions attests to the success of the scheme. Next term will, after a fashion, welcome the first battery of formal examinations for the year and teachers will begin preparing boys for them reasonably soon after the term has begun, giving information and advice about what topics will be examinable and also administering ‘mock’ exercises designed to assist students to prepare properly for the papers they’ll be writing. In short, everything will be done to ensure that students will be equipped with all necessary information to approach the exams with the degree of knowledge necessary to perform as well as they are able to perform. Thankfully, those days when the word ‘examination’ was a ‘euphemism’ for torture are largely gone.

Also, what we actively need now to do to support the boys is provide as much assistance as possible, both at home and in school, so that they can approach the examination period with as much confidence as is necessary to their overall success. In due course the students and you will be provided with assessment details. The more information the boys have about exams, the less uneasy they will feel as they approach this assessment week.

Rain’s good isn’t it…

Mark Harrison

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**BULLETIN BOARD**

**Year 10 Excursion - Canberra**

For detailed information on the Year 10 Canberra excursion, please click [HERE](#).

**West Side Story**

To view all photographs from 'West Side Story' click [here](#).

**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

**Alternative Gap Year Information**

Please select the following link to access information about alternative gap year possibilities:

[Getting involved globally](#).
It is with a good deal of pleasure that I introduce our School Leaders for 2014. For sometime, we have been working towards a structure based on our House system, which encourages our senior students to take on roles of responsibility. In the past, when our athletic and swimming championships have been completed, these roles have largely ceased to exist. These students have already lead their Houses in competition, and accepted other roles in hosting a special assembly and our Activities Day this Friday. As a School, we are looking to expand such opportunities. The Junior School SRC is another initiative where students can volunteer to take up the challenge of leadership, meeting regularly to discuss, plan and implement projects within and soon, outside our School. I look forward to sharing some of their ideas with you all soon.

Junior School House Leaders

(Back l to r) Hamish Chalmers, Archi Lawrence

(middle l to r) Finn Daugherty, Archie Chick, Max Barnsley, Josiah Alcorn, Cassidy Williams,

(Front l to r) Stewart Williams, Tristan Rottcher, Harry, Litchfield, Lochlan Nichol, Eli Evitt

Excursion Week

Parents of students in Year 3, 4 & 5 should have recently received information letters and Excursion Permission Forms by email. Our Excursion week now coincides with that in Middle and Senior School and offers our students a wonderful opportunity for challenge and adventure. It falls in Term 2, week 2 and is an important and very valuable experience for students and teachers to leave the comforts of our surrounds and learn more about their limits and capabilities while enjoying each other’s company. If you have any questions about the program, please contact us at the school. I look forward to visiting each class throughout the week, including those at TAS and participating in the exciting activities they will all be undertaking.

NAPLAN

Next term, the NAPLAN assessments will be held 13, 14, 15 May for Language Conventions and Writing, Reading and Numeracy, respectively. NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement. If you have any questions about NAPLAN, I recommend that you visit the following site.

Please contact the School if you have any questions or concerns about the NAPLAN assessments.

TAS travelling to Tezukayama, Osaka, Japan

As advertised previously, Year 4, 5 and 6 students have the exciting opportunity to participate in the Japanese excursion to Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School in December 2014. Early next term, we will be holding information session for all families who have shown an expression of interest. If your child is interested please contact the Junior School as soon as possible on junior@as.edu.au
Congratulations to our representative swimmers

I have the utmost regard for swimmers, athletes and musicians (and indeed all others) who dedicate large amounts of time and energy in the pursuit of success. The commitment and self-discipline required is notable and these qualities will often be found in other areas as a result. We know that success is different to winning and winning does not always lead to success. Embracing the opportunity and being involved in itself, is most worthwhile. Attaining a PB, by any measure, has its rewards. But ultimately, it is the lessons learnt along the way that provide the greatest opportunity to achieve success. Congratulations to Isabella Rutledge, Sam and Tom Ball for competing on the increasingly large stage at the Combined Independent Schools Swimming Championships, and as you will read, especially to Tom who has been chosen to continue on and represent the CIS team at the NSW PSSA All Schools.

Looking Ahead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2 April</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews continue for Kinder, Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4 April</td>
<td>Activities Day – Live Life Well &amp; Nude Food</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 6 April</td>
<td>Daylight Saving Ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7 April</td>
<td>Combined Easter Chapel Service (Years T – 5) 2.00 pm in the Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9 April</td>
<td>Transition Assembly (note: Dance Club will no longer perform)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10 April</td>
<td>Year 3 to Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. 9am - 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Ends 3.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11 April</td>
<td>Staff PD Day</td>
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Easter Chapel Service

We would like for Families to join us at the Easter Chapel Service being held on Monday 7 April at 2.00 pm.

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 six 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 Car Park

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

*Please do not park in the designated disabled or loading zone space.

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.

All children who have not been collected from the Turning Circle or the under cover area will be signed into the Homework Centre at 3.45pm.

Happy Birthday

We wish a very happy birthday to the following student: Peter Thompson

Daylight Saving

Just a reminder that daylight saving finishes this Sunday morning when clocks are put back one hour.

TAS TALKS — 14
Sport for the remainder of Term 1

Please take note of Sport afternoons for next week, our final week of Term 1.

Week 10 – No training due to Parent Teacher Interviews this week

Week 11 – Winter Sports Training/Get together. Soccer and Netball will meet on Monday from 3:45pm to 4:45pm.

Hockey meet and greet will occur on Wednesday from 3:45pm – 4:45pm.

All training/gettogethers will be at TAS for this week.

Please ensure you have your sports gear for the final week including: shin pads and mouthguard for hockey and shinpads for soccer, (mouthguard is optional).

Congratulations CIS Swimmers

A huge congratulations to Sam and Tom Ball, Isabella Rutledge and Oscar Henzell who travelled to Sydney last week to compete in the CIS Swimming Championships. All children swam to the best of their abilities and were great ambassadors for TAS.

We were thrilled with the news that Tom Ball has gained selection in the team for NSW PSSA All schools for his 50m Freestyle, after placing second in the final. Congratulations Tom! We look forward to hearing about your swim next week and wish you the best of luck.

Motiongfx

Congratulations on a wonderful attitude and effort to Ruby, Chloe, Alex, Sophia and Isabella.

Mrs Brunsdon

Swimming after school sport

Junior School had their last swimming session last Thursday. It was great to see the enthusiastic way they tackled the drills and techniques being worked on despite having done these for a term. We finished the session with flippers and games to enhance the fun we’ve managed to work into each session. They also practiced some lifesaving skills and enjoyed throwing in a board to see if they could “save” their friend who was “drowning”.

This small groups of students have been delightful to coach this term and it has been really rewarding to see the progress they have all achieved in different areas. Congratulations on a wonderful attitude and effort to Ruby, Chloe, Alex, Sophia and Isabella.

Mrs Brunsdon

Netball

TAS Turquoise vs ACSC Emeralds 29 March

In a dazzling display of tenacity, the newly formed Turquoise team made their debut in the Primary Two netball competition. It was a mixture of nerves and steely determination that spread through the air as the team took to the court. Encouraged by each other and by a wonderful band of sideline supporters, the girls played well. Old hands, Isabel Newton, Grace Pennington and Ruby Straker held it together for the team. New recruit to Turquoise, Sophie Mason, showed her previous experience too, as she moved energetically around the court.

Tom Ball, Isabella Rutledge, Sam Ball at Homebush in Sydney last week.
Our novices, Poppy Broun, Emily Buntine, Dimity Chalmers and Chloe Lincoln were amazing, overcoming nerves and uncertainty to each play a really great game.

Whilst the scoreboard was in Emeralds’ favour, Turquoise showed real potential and we are already looking forward to our next game when we meet Red Rubies at 12pm on Court 4.

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**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](http://example.com)

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**COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS**

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**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!

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**April School Holiday 2014 Fun Tennis Camps**

**Details:**

- Improve your tennis game
- Loads of fun with tennis.
- A tournament/point play session is held every day after lunch.
- Lunches (sandwiches) are provided, fresh each day for those staying all day

Bring a hat, sunscreen, water bottle something for morning tea and a racquet if you have one. Racquets can be borrowed free of charge.

**Contact** 0417 957 982 or email peterlesurf@optusnet.com.au

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**Dates**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Daily cost – full day</th>
<th>Daily cost – ½ day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>$35</td>
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**TAS TALKS — 16**