Welcome to all students, parents and staff to the new term after what I hope was a happy and refreshing break for all. As many will know, I had the opportunity to travel to the UK on sabbatical leave last term and I again offer thanks to the TAS Board for providing that leave. As I have commented in both the end of term newsletter and the new edition of Binghi that is now on its way to you, the chance to investigate matters of interest to us in another school setting was both fascinating and personally rewarding and I am looking forward to reporting to the Board on it. My considerable thanks are due to our Deputy Headmaster, Alan Jones, who very generously took on a range of additional duties through Term 2. That so many people have taken the time to make special mention of their appreciation of his leadership through the term says much about how well that was done.

The holiday period carried, once again, a range of school activities, both at home and away, and hearing reports of those activities is a very encouraging way to start a new term. Here at school we hosted around 100 talented science students for the annual Year 8 Forensic Science Camp. FSC is our premier academic co-curricular activity and again drew large numbers of the best science students in the state. That the program pushes the limits of those students highlights its place as genuine extension in science and I congratulate all involved in it. We also hosted NIDA workshops at TAS and the holiday period finished with our senior rugby players returning to school early for their training camp.

Further afield, a group of TAS boys and fathers, NEGS girls and two staff members travelled to Yipirinya Aboriginal School in Alice Springs for what was clearly a powerful and enlightening experience. Yipirinya is led by former TAS Headmaster, Ken Langford-Smith and it is very pleasing to see the connection between our schools developing. The trip was all that it was hoped to be and I look forward to seeing it take a regular place in the TAS calendar. At the same time, a large number of Under 16 rugby players toured to New Zealand and, as expected, carried themselves in fine fashion. Finally, our senior rifle shooters are currently in Hornsby for the GPS Championships and I wish them well for their competition.

Reports on these special activities will be presented at our Middle and Senior School assemblies as well as in TAS Talks over the next couple of weeks and I encourage parents to talk to their children about them as they think about opportunities in the future.

Welcome to new staff

At our first assembly for the term we welcomed a number of new staff who join us this term.

Mr Angus Murray joins the HSIE Department to take up a number of classes for Mr Brown who has reduced his load this term. Mr Murray is an Old Boy of the School and qualified as a Certified Practicing Accountant before turning to teaching.

Mrs Tabitha Dowse will be known to most in the Junior School as she has taught a number of classes over the years. Mrs Dowse joins us this term to take Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon’s Year 6 class whilst she takes long service leave, before returning to Junior School for Term 4.

Mr James Julo is visiting TAS for the first half of term from the International Community School of Bangkok. Mr Julo is the recipient of an Endeavour Fellowship awarded by the Australian Government and will be observing a range of classes in pursuit of his specific interest in the way that I.T. is integrated into learning in Australia.
We also welcomed three new GAP students yesterday; Jordan Wildman, John Bowers and Harry Gardiner all from the UK. They will be joined by a fourth GAP student, Calum Kyle, also from the UK, at the end of the month and I wish them well as they settle in for the year.

Other staffing changes

In other staffing news, Mrs Burke who works in I.T. support has joined the residential staff, replacing Mr Christian Nexo as Abbott House Deputy Housemaster. Mr Nexo and his family have moved off campus after 10 years in our boarding community and I take this opportunity to thank him very much for this great commitment.

We welcome back Mr Levins and Mr Taylor who were away late last term on LSL. In turn, Mr Hunt takes long service from this term through to Week 6 of Term 4 and Mrs Larman-Yalda has taken on a number of his classes.

Finally, as many will already be aware, Mrs Barnsley will leave us at the end of Week 2 to take up a teaching position at the United Nations School in Hanoi, Vietnam and we will take the opportunity to farewell her next week. There will be a number of class changes resulting from that and classes affected will be informed about those.

NSW Parents’ Council Presentations

I offer thanks to the NSWPC for their initiative and generosity in arranging for Nina Funnell to travel to Armidale to present on issues related to social media and adolescents. Nina’s PhD research is current, relevant and the presentations to TAS staff on Monday and then parents yesterday evening were very well received.

Junior School Curriculum Planning and the I.B. Primary Years Program

Following comments in my end of term newsletter regarding Junior School strategic planning, our Head of Junior School, Ian Lloyd, continues this conversation in this edition of TAS Talks and I recommend it to parents. Our investigation of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program as a possibility for our Junior School curriculum in coming years will be of interest and I am hopeful that we will have good engagement from parents in focus groups to discuss it.

St Joseph’s Weekend

The first of the three Sydney away games for rugby will be held this weekend as our teams travel to St Josephs. Whilst I know that much excitement comes with the prospect of travelling with well over 200 other players to one of the country’s iconic rugby homes, I also know that there is considerable commitment in it. I am sorry that immobility will prevent me from being with our teams and I wish them well for a good weekend.

CHAPLAIN, RICHARD NEWTON

God, can He be known? - 1 Corinthians 13

Last term we started a series entitled, “God, can He be known?”

And now after a long gap, I would like to pick up this idea again.

I was trawling through my memory bank trying to think of a time when I had met someone famous, then I thought, “I do know someone who met someone famous, well almost”. Our very own Jason Lincoln. No he is not the famous person, but he did nearly meet Wallaby, George Smith. It was actually a friend of his who met George Smith. This mate of Jason’s had the most glamorous and enviable task at the World Cup Rugby of collecting urine samples from the players. Having solicited George’s urine, Jason’s friend was offered the world cup final losing boots from the once great Wallaby. The next time the boots felt the soft tickle of green grass was here on the cricket oval field, when Jason sat quietly on the bench for the TAS 1st football team, a few years ago, during a meagre holiday week game. Sadly, on that day the boots did not taste the sweet kiss of the spherical kind.

That day Jason had big shoes to fill, and in his own words “I filled them well”.

The reverse happened 2 millennia ago. Rather than someone getting to wear Jesus, the Son of God’s sandals, somewhat more impressive than a former Wallabies boots. He came down from heaven to fill our shoes.

If you want to know what Mr Lincoln is like at football, put him in a pair of boots and lets see him in action, and just quietly…the man can play. If we want to know about God we should look to Jesus, for he wore our shoes, he was one of us. More than that, if we want to know God, we can through Jesus. In our school reading we hear a description of the nature of love - selflessness, putting the interests of others ahead of our own. This is what we see in the incarnation of Jesus, that is Jesus becoming one of us – fleshy – meaty, visible, examinable. In love, He gave everything, so that God might be known, through His Son who walked as one of us, in our shoes for a time.
**Term 3 - Week 1**

**Wednesday 16 July**
GPS Shooting Competition

**Thursday 17 July**
NE Sings - Primary Choir Rehearsal
Boarders Formal Dinner and Chapel Service
GPS Shooting Competition

**Friday 18 July**
Rugby Players Depart for Sydney

**Saturday 19 July**
Rugby - TAS v St Joseph’s College, at St Joseph’s College Hunters Hill

**Term 3 - Week 2**

**Monday 21 July**
Year 11 Autos Work Placement
Wimbledon College, UK Rugby Visit

**Tuesday 22 July**
Year 11 Autos Work Placement
Wimbledon College, UK Rugby Visit

**Wednesday 23 July**
Year 11 Autos Work Placement
3:30pm Rugby TAS 1st XV vs Wimbledon College, UK
6:30pm Evening Prayer
7:15pm Thailand Meeting

**Thursday 24 July**
Year 11 Autos Work Placement
Year 12 MTA Assessment Day
Year 8 Parent/Teacher Interviews
Year 8 Parent Information Session

**Friday 25 July**
Year 11 Autos Work Placement
Year 8 Parent/Teacher Interviews
Year 8 Parent Information Session
Narrabri Boarding Schools Expo

**Saturday 26 July**
Narrabri Boarding Schools Expo
Rugby - TAS v Shore at TAS

**Term 3 - Week 3**

**Tuesday 29 July**
ICAS English Exam - (Years 3 to 7)

**Wednesday 30 July**
6.30pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm P&F Meeting

**Friday 1 August**
Rugby Players Depart for Sydney

**Saturday 2 August**
Country and Regional Living Expo - Sydney
Nyngan Ag Expo
Rugby - TAS v Kings, at The Kings School

**Sunday 3 August**
Country and Regional Living Expo - Sydney

**Term 3 - Week 4**

**Monday 4 August**
Activities Day No. 5

**Tuesday 5 August**
Assessment of Language Competence Year 9
Board Meeting

**Wednesday 6 August**
Assessment of Language Competence Year 10
5.00pm Foundation Meeting
6:30pm Evening Prayer
7:15pm Thailand Meeting

**Thursday 7 August**
Australian Maths Competition
Year 10 Parent/Teacher Interviews

**Friday 8 August**
Australian Maths Competition
Year 10 Parent/Teacher Interviews
Year 10 Parent Information Session

**Saturday 9 August**
Rugby - TAS v Scots at TAS
French Continuers HSC Oral Exam

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The Alligators Swimming Club will host its annual winter swimming carnival on Sunday 20 July. Jobs will be timekeeping, running results and refreshments to the officials, and helping with the BBQ/food stall at lunchtime. Volunteers will need to be at the TAS pool by 8.30am and the carnival aims to finish by around 3.00pm (lunch is supplied). If you would like to volunteer, please email Ms Boydell to register your name.

Here is great opportunity for nearly eight hours of community service. Highly recommended for any student who has not started to complete their community service hours this year.

Ms Catherine Boydell
**ROUND SQUARE**

**YIPIRINYA SERVICE TRIP**

For 10 days during the holidays a group of boys students, two fathers, one staff member and a similar sized contingent from NEGS, took part in a Round Square service project at Yipirinya School, Alice Springs. TAS was invited to be the first school to offer a holiday activities project at Yipirinya, where the current principal is former TAS Headmaster Ken Langford-Smith and the Counsellor is James Howey (former TAS counsellor better known as Brother James). The week of service was at times confronting but ultimately a most rewarding one. Every morning we went out on the Yipirinya School buses to pick up children from town and bush camps, some of which have been identified as having amongst the poorest living conditions in Australia. During the day, organised sporting, craft and science activities engaged the children, who were also given nourishing meals in a safe and positive environment.

Over the week these children warmed to us with much trust and affection, just as the members of our group relaxed their guard and developed some very real relationships, and special bonds were forged between individuals. Our three boys, Ben Moffatt, Liam Treavors and James Doyle were outstanding in the way they stepped out of their comfort zones and gave so much of themselves. To the Yipirinya children, the presence of two fathers was also a powerful role model, and both Tim Moffatt and Greg Treavors made a significant impact on the older boys in particular.

The service week was bookended by some sightseeing at Alice Springs and a three day cultural expedition to Kings Canyon, Uluru and Kuta Tjuta (in the rain!), which included access to a sacred Aboriginal site, not otherwise open to the public, on the way.

All agreed that the program was a fantastic experience and a privilege to help those living in what many consider to be Third World conditions, right here in Australia.

It is anticipated that this service trip will run again (perhaps in a different format) in 2015, particularly for boys in Years 9 and 10. Further details will be available later in the year; meanwhile, keep your eye out for an album of photos that will be loaded onto the Photo Gallery on the school website.

Mr Tim Hughes

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**STUDENT TRAVEL**

Due to the full weekends in Term 3, there will be no ‘user pays’ minibus service offered to towns in the North West, as we have done in the past.

Requests for the end of Term 3 and start of Term 4 free travel services will be emailed to parents in Week 6. This email will go to the parents of those students holding free boarders’ passes.

For public transport bookings, please contact Mrs Meg Sadler on msadler@as.edu.au
Winter Sport Continues

The training schedule continues from Term 2 with all Winter Sports. Please go to the following page of our website to confirm timings and locations. http://teams.as.edu.au/groups/sport/wiki/68c14/Training_Locations.html

If a student is unable to attend trainings it is imperative that you communicate via email or note to your manager or coach in advance so that they are aware of your absence. Dress for trainings is to be appropriate uniform relating to your sport of choice including protective wear as required for each sport.

A reminder that unless otherwise requested all players must wear full TAS Sports uniform to games. This includes socks pulled up and shirts tucked in and full TAS Tracksuit and TAS Cap as required. I wish all students the best of luck for the upcoming Term of sport and thank our staff as always for their outstanding contributions.

Fantastic Mr Fox

In exciting news our Middle School cohort will be performing this wonderful production later this Term. Stay tuned for more information as tickets will also be on sale soon.

I thank Mr Andrew O’Connell for his leadership of this exciting new initiative, a Middle School play.

Rifle Shooting

Our GPS shooting team have worked well throughout the last week of the holidays leading into the GPS Championships this week. Our Captain Sam Johnston gained 2nd place overall at the All Schools Championships on Saturday which was an outstanding achievement. I look forward to reporting to you on the boys’ efforts in next week’s TAS Talks.

NZ Tour

I was privileged to join our U16s on the NZ tour this week and was delighted with the team’s progress of what has become a highlight of our rugby calendar each year. I would like to offer thanks to Mr Mick Barry and Mr Alex Smith for their wonderful leadership and excellent coaching ability, and make special mention of Mr Will Caldwell for his outstanding organisation throughout the tour. Our young men were exemplary in their behaviour and I have been thrilled with the feedback I’ve received from hosts and opposition teams throughout our stay.

Rugby Away Trip to Joeys

This Friday over half our senior school departs en masse to compete against SJC in Sydney. Boys are reminded that they will need to take swags or sleeping bags. Those boys without swags may use the fold out mattresses available though our staff at the time of departure. The U16’s and the majority of Opens teams will have mattresses provided. All information about the trip can be found on the rugby page of the TAS website.

Football

Football training commenced yesterday afternoon (Tuesday) as per the training schedule from last term. All games will commence this coming Saturday, 19 July. Please check the football website for latest game times and locations, as these may have changed since the end of last term.

For those teams which had games deferred due to school holidays, the new dates and times of these games are being negotiated at the moment. Either your coach or myself will notify you of the timings for catch up games.

All the best for the remainder of the season.

Mr Polson
MIC Football

Chess

Round 3 of the NSW Junior Chess League Competition continues this week, with TAS playing McCarthy Catholic College from Tamworth on Wednesday. We wish our team all the very best moves for the day!
Rugby

The New Zealand Rugby Tour is an amazing growth experience. In a country that prides itself on extreme sports the TAS touring party pushed themselves to their limits both on and off the field. Highlights included a day skiing, training sessions with world class coaches from the Crusaders, facing the Haka, jet boat rides and running rugby at its finest.

The individual growth and camaraderie that developed through these activities was evident in the three matches both teams played. The boys put into practice the skills they had learnt in a cohesive and committed fashion; the A’s winning two of their games and the B’s amazing everyone with their improvement, finishing the tour with a hard fought draw.

The boys manner and bearing on and off the field was exemplary, eliciting widespread praise. With a challenging season ahead the boys are match-ready and looking forward to playing St Josephs this weekend.

The boys were very appreciative of the constant care and attention provided by their coaches Mr Alex Smith, Mr Mick Barry and Mr Jason Lincoln; and to all parents, whether they were there on the sideline or supporting from home. It is their sacrifices that make these amazing experiences possible.

Mr Will Caldwell
MIC Rugby
All Schools’ Shooting

TAS fielded two teams in the annual Fiona Reynolds Memorial All-Schools Target Rifle Shooting Match at Hornsby Rifle Range on Saturday 12 July. Competing against a total of 14 teams from Sydney High, Sydney Grammar, Shore, Scots, Newington and NEGS, the TAS Gold team consisting of Sam Johnston (c), Will Murray, Harry Jarratt, Hugh Morton and Cameron Holcombe placed sixth. The match was shot in clear sunny conditions with a difficult ‘fish-tail’ wind blowing down range towards the shooters. Shooting occurred at 500m and two 600m stages. After shooting the 500m range TAS were placed second, one point behind Sydney High School, however the team struggled in the conditions at 600m and fell off the pace set by Sydney High - who ultimately won the match. Sam Johnston was placed the second best individual shooter with a score of 147 with 12 centre bulls-eyes (possible 150).

Mr Trevor Thatcher
MIC Shooting

Hawkesbury and Myall Classic Paddles

Hawkesbury Classic training will begin this term with optional Sunday paddles at Malpas Dam starting at 8.30am and finishing around 11am. Paddlers who are keen to paddle the Hawkesbury Classic and/or Myall Classic should seriously consider using these training sessions as practice. There will be a Grafton paddle at the start of Term 4 (two weeks before the Hawkesbury) and this will be compulsory if you want to paddle the Hawkesbury Classic as part of the TAS Team.

The Grafton paddle is compulsory as it is important for us to ensure all paddlers have had current night paddling experience as well as providing land crew with some idea of what it is during the Hawkesbury.

Expression of Interest forms with prices can be obtained by emailing me at twheaton@as.edu.au and must be returned by 8 August to secure a kayak. Excess boats will be hired to UNSW after that date.

Mr Tim Wheaton
MIC HCC

TAS Hockey

Welcome back after what was hopefully a fantastic Winter holiday break. A big thanks to all coaches, volunteers and umpires who have worked so hard in the first half of the season to make the TAS Hockey experience such a positive one for all the players. Good luck for the remainder of the season and into the Finals series.

Games commence this Friday for all Juniors as well as both Senior teams playing Friday night games. TAS Hockey also has Canteen Duty on Friday afternoon and evening so please make yourself available to help out if possible. See below details of some holiday hockey events as well as draws for this week’s upcoming games.

York Cup - four TAS boys were included in the Under 11s New England Team chosen to compete for the York Cup in Tamworth 4-6 July. (Josiah Alcorn, Lachlan Nicoll, Stewart Williams, Cassidy Williams). The New Englanders won their first round and finished fourth out of 10 teams in their division after an epic three days of round robin competition. They were also awarded the Play the Whistle award - voted by the umpires as the best sports of all the B division teams. Thanks to Mrs Williams for passing on this information - a great result for all involved.

HNSW U12s Clinics - Wednesday 2 July saw many keen TAS Hockey juniors involved in the Hockey NSW U12s development camps. With age restrictions being fairly loose, TAS players from Years 2 through to 6 enjoyed the day, learning many great new skills and tactics from Hockey NSW coaches and numerous local NIAS and Representative helpers. A great day was had by all and hopefully this newfound knowledge can be seen in action as the Junior 2014 Winter season continues this Friday and Saturday.

Draws

Friday 18 July

U11s TAS vs Wasps at 4pm on T1
U13s TAS 1 vs TAS 2 at 5pm on T2
U16s TAS vs City Brown at 6pm on T1
C Grade - TAS vs Guyra Lambs at 7.20pm on T1 (TAS to do Control Duty)
B Grade - TAS vs Guyra Rams at 7.20pm on T2

NB: With both grade teams playing at the same time, please ensure all players are on deck or notify coaches ASAP.

Saturday 19 July

U9s TAS vs TBC at 9.15am on T1

Sunday 20 July

C Grade - TAS vs City at 10.50am on T2
B Grade - TAS vs United at 12.15pm on T2

NB: No Hockey Friday 25 - Sun 27 July (HNSW Mens Masters 35s Championships to be held in Armidale)

Mr Alex Portell
MIC Hockey
Welcome back to another term at TAS! This term will be a very busy one in music with many students sitting their AMEB exams, the NE Sings! Choir rehearsals, HSC performance exams and Cadet Band preparing for Passing Out Parade also.

**Tuition and Ensembles started again this week**

Instrumental tuition and ensemble rehearsals have recommenced and we would like to see all students turning up on time. We are always happy to welcome new students to our groups too. If you are interested in taking vocal or instrumental tuition or in joining a TAS ensemble, don’t hesitate to contact the Music Office - in person or by phone on 6776 5890. Alternately email the Music Administrator, Mrs Broadbent on sbroadbe@as.edu.au for more information.

**NE Sings!**

The first New England Sings! choral workshop for the Primary Choirs will be held this Thursday 17 July. TAS Years 3-5 students will travel to the Old Teachers College by Edwards Coaches at 12.30pm to begin rehearsing as part of the mass choir for the event in Term 4. They will return to school around 2.30pm.

**AMEB Exams coming up in August**

With AMEB exams in only a few short weeks, we will hold a Twilight Concert on Tuesday 29 July at 5.30pm in the theatre of the Hoskins Centre. All students who are preparing to sit their AMEB exams will be welcome to play and we will send out information to parents and students soon. We also wish students all the best in their preparations.

Boarders Practice - Times for Term 3 are below.

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher, Mr Finco and Mrs Broadbent

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**BOARDERS’ PRACTICE TIMES**

The TAS Music Centre will be open to boarders for instrumental practice at the following times during school term:

**EVENINGS: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**

- **Middle School Boarders**
  - 6.00 – 6.30pm and 8.00 – 8.30pm

- **Senior School Boarders**
  - 6.30 – 7.00pm and 8.00 – 9.00pm

**MORNINGS: Monday, Wednesday and Friday**

- **All Boarders**
  - 8.00 – 8.30am

**WEEKENDS: Sunday**

- **All Boarders**
  - 3.00 – 5.00pm

Please see the Boarders’ Practice Supervisor to sign the roll when you arrive for your session.
Welcome back

I'm hoping that the mid-year break was as enjoyable as it was relaxing for you and your sons. If you 'got away' I hope it was to a warm place, if you didn't, I hope yours is a warm place. Three weeks is a good time to unwind and prepare for the activities of the second part of the year.

As indicated, this term involves a number of away trips for sporting teams and it will be an exciting one. I'm hoping to 'make it' to at least one of the Sydney games and I look forward to seeing you there. Last year I travelled to Newington to see some of the rugby games and for each boy who played, I met least one of his family members.

Semester reports

You'll have received over the vacation semester reports for your sons. For many, the exams and results will be 'firsts'. Again, I'm thinking that a good number of boys and parents will be pleased with efforts and also results. However, there will be others for whom some results are disappointing. If this is the case, we need to remind ourselves that exams, at Middle School level especially, are necessary indicators of the success of technique – particularly in relation to presenting knowledge to advantage under time conditions. In the event of a result that is not pleasing or reflective of effort, the most important thing to remember is what to do about it before the next battery of testing in Term 4. Middle School is the 'training ground' for the Senior School and it's our collective responsibility to assist students to find the most effective study regime for them as individuals.

Effective study skills generally take time to hone. A disappointing result requires students to be proactive. Provided boys have made a genuine attempt, what they need to do is reassess the methods they employed to prepare for exam papers. Some people study best as individuals, others study more effectively when they're in groups. If a student's knowledge is good and the result is still disappointing, then it's possible that they've struggled with displaying knowledge to personal advantage because of the time factor that is a necessary part of all exams. The completion of practice responses, completed during prep time, should equip boys with the experience and facility required for a more confident future examination performance.

Furthermore, what boys should also do is speak to their teachers a get advice on 'how best to study' for a particular subject. Different disciplines can require different methods and it's best to find out now, as opposed to waiting for term before seeking advice about study 'tips'. As indicated, it's very important to do something about improving performance, not simply to 'hope for the best' next time exams are written. If we / I can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to call us to work out the 'best way forward'.

Staff

This term Mr Ralph Hunt and Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon are on long service leave this term. All attached to the Middle School wish them well. Ms Tabitha Dowse will move from the Junior School to take over Mrs Brunsdon's class from the beginning of Term 3. Being familiar already with the boys (from last year) Ms Dowse will continue with the regular program. We welcome her to the Middle School. Mrs Regina Pollard, already in the Middle School, is assuming responsibility for Mr Ralph Hunt's Year 8 Homeroom class while Mr Hunt is away from TAS. Likewise Mrs Pollard will follow the regular program for this class.

Mr Mark Harrison

Year 8 Parent Teacher Interviews and Parent Information Sessions

Year 8 Parent Teacher Interviews will be held next Thursday 24 and Friday 25 July in the Memorial Hall, along with 2 parent information sessions. Parents may attend either session.

Thursday 24 July - 6:15pm in Big School

Friday 25 July - 11:45am in Hoskins Centre (all Year 8 students will be attending this session)

An email will be sent to all parents this week in regards to the on-line booking system. If you do not receive any information by the end of the week could you please contact Alison Evans via email, aevans@as.edu.au or phone 6776 5819.
Welcome back to everyone for Term 3. This will be another very exciting term and certainly another busy one, although I hope a little less frenetic than Term 2! I trust the holidays were refreshing and productive. As we battle our way through winter, I hope the batteries have been well and truly recharged.

**IB and ongoing review**

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide the best possible educational experience for your children and in preparation of a strategic plan for Junior School that reflects the purpose and vision of TAS, our staff have continued to use the Professional Development days to review and evaluate aspects of the Junior School offering. As outlined in the TAS Vision 2025, our goal is to be the best school in regional NSW and to do this we must set new standards across the board for all our students; to continue to provide our educational advantage and to build on the strength of our co-curricular and activities program that is simply not accessible elsewhere. Last term, the first of four planned focus groups met to discuss their experiences and expectations of Junior School, and in particular our firm commitment to co-education. I will be writing to you all about further focus groups to be held in Week 3 this term because the input and feedback from our parent body is a vital part of our review process and highly valued.

In particular, we have been focussing on strengthening the academic offering and addressing key issues that face educators in today’s classrooms. Creating the best possible educational environment requires a creative yet rigorous approach, one which identifies and removes barriers to learning and empowers students to develop confidence and personal responsibility for their own learning. We have identified the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (PYP) as a model we believe will provide such an education. While the IB program for both Middle and Senior school is not an option because of their unique curriculum demands, Junior School has committed to investigate this IB program as a model flexible enough to bring together the current, quality offering that we pursue while accessing all the IB community has to offer. The outline for this investigative process will be emailed to you very soon, and I invite you to join us for the various information sessions and focus groups as they become available.

**Jump Rope for Heart**

This term you will see the time line advertised for our major fundraiser – Jump Rope for Heart. The first event will be the launch of the program on July 21 at 10.00am in the Memorial Hall. Each year, we have had this worthy event as a major fundraiser and it has been an ongoing success in many ways. Heightening our awareness of heart disease is one of the advantages of this program, and we focus on this during our PD sessions last term, during our discussions on making healthy choices and this term, more specifically in relation to our physical well being. Having this as a major community service focus has many advantages for our children and the professional approach used by the National Heart Foundation plays a major part. Parents are welcome to join us for the activities where possible and of course, we look forward to your support when the fund raising drive begins.

**NE Sings!**

You will see the dates for our rehearsals for New England Sings! as we progress through this term, most of which fall during the school day. As we move towards this performance, those in our Junior Vocal Ensemble and all of our Year 3 – 5 Choir will be involved and I refer you all to the letter sent out last term which discusses the School’s stance on participating in this wonderful event. I remind everyone that the final rehearsal is at 11.00 am on 1 November, the day of the School fete, and being in the late morning I know there will be some issues with this arrangement. However, I believe that the opportunity and the wonderful experience gained from engaging with such an event far outweighs this inconvenience. The performance for our choir (Primary Choir no 2) is on Sunday 2 November from 2.00 – 4.00 pm in Lazenby Hall at UNE.
Ms Lisa Robinson

Ms Lisa Robinson will be joining us for four weeks this term, assisting in our Transition to Year 2 classes, as she gains further teaching experience having completed her Masters Degree in Primary Education. We welcome her to TAS knowing that her experiences and teaching will contribute much to our classroom environment and our teaching team.

Welcome to New Students

We welcome both Angus (Year 2) and William (Year 4) Ryall to Junior School having recently moved to Armidale and wish them well as they start their time with us at TAS. We are also very fortunate to have Nathan Julo with us for two weeks from The International Community School in Thailand as his family visit Armidale and TAS. Nathan’s parents are both teachers, and his father James, is researching the use of IT at TAS. We warmly welcome their family to Armidale and TAS.

Uniform at School

As highlighted last term, we are urging students to wear the correct uniform to school. Whether the normal winter or PE uniform the expectation is for it to be worn respectfully, thoughtfully and tidily and without variation. As there is variation from class to class for the gear used in PE, I would like to remind everyone that PE gear is only to be worn on days when students have sport. No sports uniform (rugby, football and hockey) gear is to be worn to and from school and this should be carried as before. Again this term, items of clothing needing replacement or repair will need attending to. Your support from home would be greatly appreciated.

Looking Ahead

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16 July</td>
<td>No Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17 July</td>
<td>New England Sings! Rehearsal 1pm at OTC</td>
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<td>Monday 21 July</td>
<td>Jump Rope for Heart Launch – 10.00 am – Memorial Hall</td>
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<td>Wednesday 23 July</td>
<td>Year 1 Assembly</td>
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<td>Wednesday 30 July</td>
<td>Year 5 Assembly</td>
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Happy Birthday Wishes

This week, we wish a very Happy Birthday to Harrison Ditchfield.

Transition Week 1 of Term 2

Transition will run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for Week 1 of Term 3.

ICAS English Competition

On Tuesday 29 July Years 3, 4 and 5 will sit the ICAS English Competition. They will start promptly as soon as the school day begins. If you have any questions about these competitions please make sure you find time to speak with your child’s classroom teacher.

Following are some tips that you and your children may find beneficial:

Hints and Tips for Participating in ICAS

Before the test:

Ensure that you are well rested the night before - do something relaxing!

During the test:

- Try to relax and enjoy yourself; too much tension may prevent you from thinking clearly.
- Do not look at the time too often - that reduces your time doing the actual test.
- For multiple choice questions:
  - Make sure you colour in the bubble next to the right question number.
  - Read each question carefully and choose the best answer from the options given.
  - If a question is taking a very long time, go on to the next question and go back to the one you missed at the end of the time but be sure to mark the page or circle the question number so you remember to go back to it.
  - If you are not sure of the answer, cross out the options you know are wrong and then decide between what is left.
  - If you are doing the English paper, read the whole passage before you start answering the questions.

After the test:

At the end of the test time, check that you haven’t left out any questions.

Remember, it’s not the end of the world if you feel you didn’t do well this time.

Information taken from the ICAS website.

Little BIG idea

Brightest thinkers jetting off to NASA’s Space Center!

We would like to mention the “Little BIG ideas” competition, which aims to foster creativity and innovation in students from Year 3 – Year 8. There are no restrictions on how big or little the idea can be, it just needs to be an invention, an energy saving technology or a simple way to make life easier.

Judging will be in September by the likes of James O’Loghlin, former host of ABC’s New Inventors, and with over $100,000 prizes up for grabs, it seems like a great idea to get involved. Students can enter via the website: littlebigidea.com.au with entries closing on Friday 5 September.
**JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT**

**Hockey**

Kim Small Shield - over the holiday period, three young TAS Hockey players represented Hockey New England in the Kim Small Shield, the girls equivalent to the York Cup, held in Tamworth. Zoe Strelitz, Isabella and Sophia Rutledge did themselves, TAS Hockey and Hockey New England proud in what is always a fantastic tournament showcasing much of NSW's young hockey talent.

**PSSA/NCIS Athletics**

Please note the following dates for Athletics this term:

**PSSA Athletics at Armidale High School Oval**

**Friday 8 August**

**NCIS Athletics at Coffs Harbour CEX Stadium**

**Tuesday 12 August**

More information will be in next weeks TAS Talks.

**Changes to Football teams**

Please note the following important changes to our youngest Football teams for this term.

TAS Terriers have now joined with the TAS Tadpoles. Now all to be known as the TAS Tadpoles with coach, Mr David Slade.

Please go to the TAS website for the updated draw and game times [http://wordpress.as.edu.au/football/](http://wordpress.as.edu.au/football/)

Our TAS Taipans will now be coached by Ms Jayne Heagney.

Please make sure you introduce yourself to your new coaches.

Looking forward to the remainder of the Football season.

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**POTTERY FOR CHILDREN**

**RICK HATCH**

Rick and Suzanne Hatch are again offering after-school classes in claywork. The goal of our teaching is for the children to have heaps of fun while developing imagination, handskills and the ability to solve problems with creative flair.

Where: Classes are held in the Art Room 1, Hoskins Centre

Who:

- Years K-3 Tuesdays 4pm - 5pm
- Years 4-7 Thursday 4pm - 5pm

Children may arrive any time after 3:20pm

Commencement:

- K-3 Tuesday 22 July (to 2 September)
- 4-7 Thursday 24 July (to 4 September)

Cost: $140, including all materials and firing of work.

Enrolment: via email to weemalpot@yahoo.com.au

via phone to 6772 5371

Please include child’s name and age and your name and phone number. I will respond promptly.

Rick Hatch
WHAT'S HOT AT HOSKINS?

THE FESTIVAL'S FUNNIEST IN ONE HILARIOUS NIGHT
SYDNEY COMEDY FESTIVAL SHOWCASE
13 AUGUST 2014
THE HOSKINS CENTRE, TAS
BOOK NOW! HOSKINS.AS.EDU.AU OR 9550 3666

COMMUNITY NOTICES

For further information and bookings please contact:
Mike Hoult, Sports Centre Manager
Phone: 6776 5866
Email: mhoult@as.edu.au
Web: www.as.edu.au or ask at the kiosk

AUSTSWIM® 2014 TRAINING COURSES AT TAS
Become an accredited AUSTSWIM® teacher

Course Venue: Armidale
Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety (2 day course): COST - $398
The AUSTSWIM® Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety course provides candidates with essential competencies to teach people from four years of age in swimming pools and confined natural shallow water venues. Accreditation is valid for three years.
Course 1 – Dates: May 17 / 18 8:30am – 5:30pm
Course 2 – Dates: November 1 / 2 8:30am – 5:30pm

Course Venue: Tamworth
Teaching of Infant and Preschool Aquatics COST - $270
Course 1 – Dates: November 1 8:30am – 5:30pm

Access and Inclusion
Course Venue: Armidale
Course Date May 24 8:30am – 5:30am COST - $270

Access and Inclusion
Course Venue: Tamworth
Course Date May 24 8:30am – 5:30am COST - $270
RUGBY UNION For JUNIORS
SATURDAY SUPER SEVENS

Brought to you by Armidale Junior Blues

Funding from the Ministry for Sport and Recreation has allowed us to offer this opportunity FREE OF CHARGE for

Ages under 7’s 9’s, 11’s and 13’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLAYING DATES</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26/07/2014</td>
<td>ALCATRAZ (Kirkwood St East)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/08/2014</td>
<td>BELLVUE (Handle St)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/08/2014</td>
<td>MORAN (Taylor St South)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16/08/2014</td>
<td>BELLVUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/09/2014</td>
<td>BELLVUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/09/2014</td>
<td>BELLVUE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

All children that register will be placed into teams of even ability – for further details call:

TOM NEWSOME - 0409580732
SIMON STUART – 0407398526

REGISTER FROM 10am each Saturday morning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROX PLAYING TIMES</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNDER 7S</td>
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<td>UNDER 9S</td>
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<td>UNDER 11S</td>
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<td>UNDER 13S</td>
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Junior Tennis Comp starts
25th July

Friday afternoon 4pm starting next week Friday 25th July.

Time for the kids to “play tennis”

We currently have a junior competition going on Friday afternoons starting at 4pm. The comp will be graded according to age and ability levels. Some will play on a ¾ size court using orange balls; some will play on a full court using green balls.

The rules will be modified according to the levels and to encourage rallying.

They will get to play as many different opponents as possible in one hour.

The comp will run for 8 weeks and will not be played on days when it is raining.

The format is a round robin format each week and points will be awarded to each player that turns up. At the end of the 8 weeks we will have a trophy for the winners of each level.

Cost will be $7 per week.

Starting date is 25th July, second week back at school.

If you want further information regarding this comp please call me 0417 957 982 or email peterlesurf@optusnet.com.au or just drop by one Friday and see the kids playing some great tennis.