Welcome to New Students

Welcome to the 2015 school year after what I hope has been a refreshing break for all our students, staff and families alike.

I offer a particular welcome to all those students and families beginning their time at TAS this week. I am pleased to report that we begin 2015 with the highest secondary enrolment for 20 years and the highest boarding population since 1997. This is a very healthy sign for the School and I know that it comes at what we hope and pray is the end of a damaging drought for our region. The sacrifices that many of our families to provide their children with a TAS education are never taken for granted and our ambition is to see our students honour that by involving themselves in school life as much as they possibly can and doing their best.

A special welcome is appropriate for our new boarders who not only join a new school but also come to a new home away from home. What I have seen of their settling in thus far has been very encouraging and I wish all our new students well as they make new friends, settle into new routines and begin grasping the opportunities around them.

2014 HSC and the Academic Year Ahead

I am sure that many parents will have seen the reports in Binghi and the media of the very pleasing HSC results achieved by our 2014 Year 12 students. The achievements of our top students, led by Dux Patrick Williamson with an ATAR of 99.5, was well matched by creative excellence such as that by Harrison Abeyasekera who was selected for both OnScreen and ArtExpress. As I commented in Binghi, an ATAR is of course only one pathway to the future. It is an important one in opening up opportunities though and I particularly congratulate the many students who I know achieved results well above those that they were expecting.

Holiday Activities

As is traditionally the case, the Christmas holiday break saw less formal school activities than would occur through other breaks in the year. A good number of students and staff were involved in school events though, including rowing camps at Grafton and Taree, the 1st XI cricket festival at Riverview and junior cricket at TAS, three students singing with the national Gondwana Choir, the forensic science management camp for the students who will be leading the main camp in June and the Regional Round Square Conference at Cheongshim Academy in Korea that has just finished. I have already heard very positive reports from each of these activities and I look forward to presentations to the School in assembly in the coming weeks.

Carmen

We were privileged that Opera New England again chose the Hoskins Centre as the venue for its annual production in the week before term began. This year, the third for Opera New England at TAS, the choice was ‘Carmen’ and the production was simply spectacular. Presenting a major operatic production outside the major metropolitan areas is a rarity in itself and Opera New England further defines their work by bringing together up and coming young opera singers, many of whom...
will be seen on major stages in the future, as well as talented locals. For TAS, the opportunity to have such a special event at the School was a delight and I know that many in our school community were fortunate enough to see it. I pass on special congratulations to Pat Bradley and Anthony Carlon for their technical support and Geoff Derrin, Alistair Finco and Robyn Bradley as members of the TAS family in the orchestra.

Welcome to New Teachers

Just as we have welcomed new students, it is a pleasure to introduce a number of new staff who join us this term:

Mr Alan Shortt joins the Maths Department after a change of career from his previous work as a medical engineer. A good number of our students will know Mr Shortt as he completed his final teaching practicum placement with us last year.

Mr Ian McPherson has been appointed as our new Visual Arts teacher. He is a Sydney Grammar Old Boy and comes to us from teaching at Riverview after completing his degree in Fine Arts at the University of NSW.

Mr Hugo Johnson joins us to teach PDHPE and also as White House Deputy Housemaster. He is a Kings Old Boy and has recently completed a Bachelor of Education in Human Movement and a Masters of Sports Coaching. He has most recently been teaching PDHPE at Sydney Grammar.

Mrs Gen Chick who will be known to many as a TAS mother and friend of the school joins the Science department in a full-time role for 2015, replacing Mr Thatcher who is on leave for the year, but continuing his Cadet and Rifle Shooting roles whilst on leave.

Ms Colette Brus who will be known to those students involved with co-curricular drama and public speaking will be with us for first semester of this year teaching Mrs Murray’s English and Middle School classes whilst she continues her maternity leave.

Miss Chelsea Knife is a recent Science teaching graduate and joins us for first semester, teaching Mr Derrin’s Science classes whilst he is on long service leave.

Miss Rachel Harrison is a Maths teacher from the UK and joins us to work specifically with numeracy support in the senior school.

Callum Clayton-Dixon is our Aboriginal Student Support Officer, a new position in 2015, and will be working specifically with our Aboriginal students. Callum has recently completed his studies in Journalism and will arrive in the coming week after attending an indigenous youth conference.

We also welcome three new GAP students this term; Joshua White from Stanford Lake College in South Africa, Doug McCardell from Scotland who comes to us via New Zealand and Patrick Williamson who returns as our Chapel Gappie.

Other Staff Changes and News

As announced late last year, I can confirm that;

- Mr Caldwell is our new Director of Co-curricular
- Mr Taylor is our new Careers Advisor and
- Mr Wheaton takes up the role of Acting Science Coordinator for Semester 1 whilst Mr Derrin takes LSL.

In other news, I am pleased to pass on that Ms Lana Bromwich returns to TAS from her leave as Mrs Hawksford and I take this opportunity to congratulate her and Ron on their marriage.

Co-education Consultations

I do hope that all families received the email and letter sent last week regarding the decision from the School Board to enter into a consultation period with our whole school community through February and March regarding a proposal to make TAS fully co-educational from the start of 2016. Should this not be the case, I encourage you to contact the dedicated email address for this consultation – consult@as.edu.au - so that this can be rectified.

We now have in excess of 20 consultation meetings, including three for students and three for staff here at school, as well as parent and Old Boy meetings from Brisbane to Sydney and as far west as Walgett. The consultations are designed to give background to the proposal and why it is being considered and to invite discussion about it. We are consulting very widely and I expect those discussions to be rich and important ones.

In addition to the consultation meetings, the email address above has been set up to invite comments from all in the community and a survey will be sent to all who we have email addresses for following the first consultation to be held in Armidale on 11 February.

As I stressed at our opening assembly yesterday, student opinion in this is important too and all students have been encouraged to be a part of it and to have their voices heard. It is important that the opinion we gather is informed and considered and in pursuit of that I have encouraged students to listen to messages at consultation meetings they attend, read the material they receive and contribute.
### CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 1

#### Week 1
- **30 January**: 6.00 pm Junior School Welcome Barbecue

#### Week 2
- **2 February**: 6.00 pm Parent Information Evening (K, 2 & 4)
- **4 February**: 6.00 pm Boarders Formal Dinner
  - 6.00 pm Parent Information Evening (1, 3 & 5)
- **5-6 February**: ID Photographs
- **6 February**: 4.00 pm Houses depart for the Coast
- **7-8 February**: Coast Weekend

#### Week 3
- **10-12 February**: Year 12 Drama Excursion to Sydney
- **10 February**: Junior School Swimming Championships
  - 7.00pm P&F AGM
- **11 February**: Co-education Consultation Session
  - Hoskins Centre 5.30pm
- **12 February**: Middle School Welcome Barbecue and War Cry Competition
- **13 February**: Middle/Senior School Swimming Championships
- **14-18 February**: Cadet Leadership Course

#### Week 4
- **16 February**: Walcha Co-education Consultation Session
  - Walcha Sports Club 5.30pm
- **18 February**: Gunnedah Co-education Consultation Session
  - Gunnedah Civic Centre 2pm - 4pm
  - Tamworth Co-education Consultation Session
  - Tamworth Golf Club 5.30pm
- **21-22 February**: Year 9 Father & Son Weekend

#### Week 5
- **23 February**: Scholarship & 2016 Prospective Student Information Day
- **25 February**: Narrabri Co-education Session
  - Riverside Room, Crossing Theatre 5.30pm

#### Week 6
- **3 March**: NCIS Swimming (Lismore)
  - Headmaster’s Country Tour (Inverell)
  - Inverell Co-education Consultation Session
  - Riverside Restaurant 5.30pm
- **4 March**: Headmaster’s Country Tour (Glen Innes)
  - Year 9/10 Music Day at NECOM
  - Glen Innes Co-education Consultation Session
  - Town and Country Club 5.30pm
- **5 March**: Scone Co-education Consultation Session
  - Scone Golf Club 5.30pm
- **5-6 March**: Year 12 Parent Teacher interviews
- **6 March**: GPS Rowers depart for Sydney
  - Newcastle Co-education Consultation Session
  - Newcastle Jockey Club 5.30pm
- **7 March**: GPS Head of the River (Sydney)
  - Social at NEGS (7-9 pm)

#### Week 7
- **10 March**: Sydney Co-education Consultation Session
  - Union, University and Schools Club 5.30pm
The Armidale School Board, on January 23, announced the start of a formal period of consultation with TAS community members to discuss the possibility of the school embracing full co-education from the start of 2016.

Staff, families, students, Old Boys of the school and donors have been informed of this proposal and have been encouraged to attend one of the 20 consultation sessions planned in 13 different locations (including Sydney and Brisbane) over the next two months.

The time for this consultation period is right. With the school’s enrolments in boarding at their highest level since 1997 and overall numbers in the secondary school the highest since 1994, the School is considering this change from a position of strength and stability.

The final decision will be made by the Board on 31 March.

Please select from the links on this page or visit the school website for more information about the proposal.

**Please note:** An electronic survey will be emailed to all parents, old boys, staff and students after the last consultation session on March 10 in Sydney.

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**P&F ASSOCIATION, SUE CARTWRIGHT, PRESIDENT**

On behalf of the P&F I would like to extend a warm welcome to all students, parents and staff as we come together for another busy year.

Term 1 is always very busy for us all and you will see the P&F working hard and having fun at the

- Junior School Swimming Carnival
- Middle/Senior Swimming Carnival
- Junior Athletics Carnival
- Middle/Senior Athletics and, of course, the
- TAS Rugby Carnival in April.

It will be no surprise to any of you that we would love your assistance at these events, and more details will be released over the next few weeks. Don’t forget - all proceeds raised go back into supporting the school.

**Annual General Meeting**

The AGM is now confirmed as Tuesday 10 February (after Junior School Swimming Carnival) in Lower Maxwell at 7pm. All Executive positions will be declared vacant and all members are invited to stand for election.

The AGM will be followed by a General Meeting to get the year started anew.

The P&F holds general meetings just once a term and we welcome involvement from all parents both near and far.

**Liaison Parents**

For each student year group, volunteer liaison parents help co-ordinate the P&F efforts throughout the year as well as arranging social events and get togethers for families. This network provides parents with the opportunity to contribute to the life of the school in a meaningful way.

Late last year parents expressed an interest in becoming Liaison Parents (or even Co-ordinators for Junior/Middle/Senior school) and I now invite you to confirm your availability. Whether or not you have already volunteered but would like to become a liaison parent, or even if you would like to know a little more about what is involved, please email me your contact details at sue_333@me.com and I will give you a call.

We will also be having a Welcome Lunch for all Liaison Parents in the next few weeks – more details to follow.
STUDENT SERVICES

Photo Day - ID and class photos

Photographers will be at school:

Thursday 5 February for Years 6 - 12 - Venue ‘Big School’ Main Foyer
Friday 6 February for Kindergarten to Year 5 - Venue Junior School Extension Classroom
Monday 9 February - Transition class and - ‘catch-ups’ - Venue ‘Big School’ Main Foyer

Students are reminded that formal uniform is required.

Products available for purchase

Years Transition to Year 6 – Class Presentation

Master Class Presentation
Folded to A4 size, this presentation includes individual images of each student, a ‘Year in Review’ summary and iconic images of the school.

Years 7 to 12 - Year Presentation

Master Year Presentation
Folded to A4 size, this presentation includes individual images of each student, a ‘Year in Review’ summary and iconic images of the school.

Parents with more than one child at school who wish to have a ‘family’ photo taken, please advise via email to msadler@as.edu.au or call Meg Sadler at school so that it can be scheduled. Collect an order form from Reception, make your selection and please pay prior to 5 February.

TRAVEL

North West NSW ‘at home’ weekend for boarders (end of Week 5)

TAS minibuses (2) have been reserved to depart after school on Friday 27 February and return before the evening meal on Sunday 1 March.

• Narrabri via Tamworth
• Moree via Inverell

This is a user-pays service with a charge to parents of $60 return which partly covers the cost of supply. If travel is confirmed, this charge will appear on the March school account.

The minibuses are limited to 20 seats only so early booking is advised.

Weekend leave will only be approved if the student’s sports coach and Housemaster have both granted approval so please check first.

Please contact Meg Sadler on travel@as.edu.au or 6776 5805 to reserve a place.

Timetable to follow in next week’s TAS Talks.
TAS Mathematics and English/Essay Subjects
Tutoring and Homework Centre, Term 1, 2015

At a glance

* Operates two afternoons a week in Cash (Maths) Block from 3.45 to 5.30pm (Mon and Wed) commencing in Term 1, Week 2 and finishing Week 7.
* Two sessions each afternoon - Year 6 to 8 (3.45pm to 4.30pm) and Year 9 to 11 (4.30pm to 5.30pm)
* Delicious afternoon tea provided including icy poles in summer
* Sessions operate with maximum of six students per tutor
* Diagnostic tests and graded worksheets in all basic skills with Extension opportunities for able students
* $200 a term for two sessions a week, or $120 a term for 1 session a week, or $15 a casual session
* Students can mix and match - they do a session of Maths and one of English each week

Enquiries and bookings - Gaye Piper: gpiper1@as.edu.au or 0410 924 191

ART FRENCH CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE TRIP 2015

Bonjour et bonne rentrée!

Please note that all parents of boys travelling to France in September should have received a letter this week via email outlining a number of administrative tasks requiring your/ your son's attention within the next fortnight. A copy of this letter, along with the relevant forms, is available on the TAS website under Parents Portal - French Trip, 2015, in the case that you are unable to collect these from TAS Reception.

Merci beaucoup! Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Mme Tamminga
TAS Year 11 Mother and Son Weekend

In its second year, our Year 11 Mother-Son weekend will be held at Nymboida Canoe Centre, about two hours on the Grafton Road from Ebor, on March 21-22. (Full details on the website at teams.as.edu.au/groups/secretmums)

The main thrust of our time together is to relax and enjoy one another’s company in an environment devoid of the trappings of modern life.

You’ll be led through some interesting activities to get to know one another better—essentially conversation starters, and there’ll be more input from mums that have already seen their boy through this time, and others that have a unique perspective on this age group.

It’s plain and simple: time together and an opportunity to talk—something Year 11 guys find difficult occasionally (noticed that?)

Here’s more info:

Venue: Nymboida Canoe Centre where you’ll stay in 2 bedroom cabins, with a large covered group area where we can eat and meet.

Dates: 21-22 March

Cost: $137 each, ($274 for a mum & son pair) Cost includes accommodation, all food Saturday lunch through Sunday lunch and a secret, water-based activity on Sunday morning. This will involve a short canoe trip with you and your son on the Nymboida River. We all have to learn new things don’t we?

RSVP: Thursday, March 12

Bring: Bedding, swimmers and a towel. We will provide chairs, plates and cutlery, glasses and mugs. Temps are expected to be in the low teens overnight.

Dietary: Please advise any requirements

Transport: You can drive yourself, or ride shotgun on your son’s L plate experience, or team up. We’ll meet at Canoe Centre from midday for lunch on the Saturday and we can start the weekend activities at 2.00pm.

Year 9 Father and Son Weekend

Don’t miss the Year 9 Father Son Weekend Feb 21-22

In its ninth year, our Father Son Weekend will be held at the Nymboida Canoe Centre just east of the Nymboida Township on the Armidale road.

The main thrust of our time together is to relax and enjoy one another’s company in an environment devoid of the trappings of modern life.

We’ll have some interesting activities to get to know one another better—essentially conversation starters between the “old guys” and the “young guys”.

Plain and simple: we’ll share time together and an opportunity to talk.

Something guys are “not real flash at”.

Details below, but also on the website at teams.as.edu.au/groups/secretdads

Venue: Nymboida Canoe Centre (directions and a map are here) where you’ll stay in 2 bedroom cabins, with a large covered group area where we can eat and meet.

Dates: 21-22 February

Cost: $137 each, ($274 for a dad & son pair) Cost includes accommodation, all food Saturday lunch through Sunday lunch and a secret, water-based activity on Sunday morning. This will involve a short canoe trip with you and your son on the Nymboida River. We all have to learn new things don’t we?

RSVP: Monday, February 16 by clicking here now

Bring: Bedding, swimmers and a towel. We will provide chairs, plates and cutlery, glasses and mugs. Temps are expected to be in the low teens overnight.

Dietary: Please advise any requirements

Transport: You can drive yourself, or, ideally, team up. We’ll meet at the Canoe Centre from midday for lunch on the Saturday and we plan to start the (informal) proceedings at approximately 1.30-2pm.
TAS Cadet Unit Leadership Course 13 - 18 February (Friday after school to Wednesday)
Nomination forms can be collected from the Cadet Training Office.
Nominations due by Wednesday 4 February.

LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND ADVENTURE

DUTY
COURAGE
INNITATIVE
TEAMWORK
MATESHIP
RESPONSIBILITY
INTEGRITY
LOYALTY
PROFESSIONALISM
SELFLESSNESS
DETERMINATION
HUMILITY
COMPASSION
Independence in thought and deed is not developed by simply leaving students to their own devices. However, this is a necessary ingredient; providing them with the opportunity to make decisions, analyse the outcome and learn from experience.

I was privileged to attend Cricket and Rowing camps during the holidays and was in awe of the leadership and responsibility shown by these young men. All crews camped on the shores of the Manning River and between training sessions they prepared meals, maintained their equipment and analysed their technique. Our young coxswains rallied their crews, organised and refined their schedule, to the minute, to ensure that they were prepared for their races.

The senior members of our First XI cricket team showed wisdom beyond their years as they forged a team throughout the holiday period and carried the enthusiasm and the banter into the cricket festival at Riverview. I was amazed at the way they prepared for each game; the thought and consideration that went into team selections and the game plan; the sharing of leadership and the recognition of every man’s contribution to the team.

These skills did not just arise in a vacuum and there are many people that have contributed to their development, however these skills are now well founded and the boys can be proud of their efforts. Seeing adolescence develop this independence, through the wide variety of activities that they engage in, is the most inspiring aspect of my new role and I look forward to the year ahead.

Rowing Regattas at Grafton and Taree

Our rowers more than held their own against school and club crews from Sydney and Queensland at the annual Taree Summer Regatta on 10-11 January, coming home with a gold medal.

On Sunday the school’s First IV took out the Men’s B Grade Coxless Four over 2000m, ahead of Newcastle and Drummoyne Rowing Clubs. Their time of 7:24:55 was significantly slower than the 6:42:29 they had raced before in the Men’s Open Lightweight Under 23 Coxless Four, a reflection of the varied conditions across the weekend that ranged from racing with and against the tide, in choppy and windy weather, and then on Sunday, in the rain but on smooth water.

The three crews raced in three 2000m event and a 1000m event at the regatta, which is one of the largest in eastern Australia. All races were fantastic experience for our relatively novice crews. The regatta was the culmination of a week-long rowing camp for the 12 rowers and three coxswains, held at Oxley Island at Taree.

The camp was an important opportunity to trial different combinations to finalise the makeup of each crew, and for the boys to build team and technical skills. This followed a similar camp earlier in the holidays at Grafton. Here the focus was to boat three even crews to allow our rowers in their first season to benefit from the experience of those that rowed last season. The plan was a success with crews trading places in their three races and all individuals developing their skills.

The boys will next compete at the State championships on 14 February, before the AAGPS Head of the River in Sydney on 7 March.

Mr Will Caldwell
Director of Co-curricular
Independent Schools Cricket Festival

During the holidays TAS First XI, including developing players, competed in the annual Independent Schools Cricket Festival held from the 19 to the 21 January at Riverview. Three days of competitive schoolboys cricket saw our First XI play Downlands (Toowoomba), Shore (Sydney) and Riverview (Sydney).

Our first day saw a 50 over match played on the main oval against Riverview. TAS won the toss and elected to bat. After a couple of early dismissals, Will Archer stepped to the crease and made a hard earned 58 with the support of Max Alcorn (29) and Jack Bennett (12). With a steady run rate TAS built a respectable total and were 9-156 at the end of the innings. Riverview responded to the challenge with an opening partnership of 47 in the first 15 overs broken by Dom Pilon’s pace and two quick catches made by Ben Moffatt and Will Waterson. With Riverview staying on course to catch our total and at 7-137 in the 44th over the game hung in the balance until Brendan Power made the final breakthrough in the following over taking two wickets with the first two balls and the final wicket in his next over, bowling Riverview all out for 146.

W. Archer (58), M. Alcorn (29), J. Bennett (12)
B. Power 4/21 (10), D. Pilon 2/21 (10), W. Archer 2/15 (7)

Unfortunately on the second day heavy showers prevented the games from starting on time. However by midday the clouds had cleared, the pitch was dry and the match against Downlands, though limited to 30 overs per innings, was able to take place. TAS again won the toss and again chose to bat first. With some courageous running between wickets, and little resistance offered by Downlands, TAS were able to build a total of 142 in the limited overs with Will Archer (32) and Liam Howard (35) high scoring for TAS. The opening bowlers of Howard and Hamish Coupland shut Downlands out of the game from the start with Downlands 2-8 after 8 overs. Downlands never posing any real threat, being bowled out for 72.

W. Archer (32), L. Howard (35), J. Bennett (15)
L. Howard 3/8 (5), J. Radford 2/19 (6)

With two wins from two games TAS went into their final match against Shore into bat. This looked like a smart decision with both Howard and Coupland bowling wicket maidens in their first over. Shore then rallied and put on a couple of decent partnerships before TAS dismissed them for 149 in the 39th over. With a respectable total to chase, TAS also gave away two early wickets until Archer and Bennet built a partnership of 29 followed by Archer and Waterson building a partnership of 36. With TAS 4-107 in the 31st over a win looked likely. However a tight bowling performance from Shore in the final overs enabled them to win the match by 6 runs.

W. Archer (34), W. Waterson (27), J. Bennett (19)
H. Coupland 3/20 (8), D. Pilon 2/32 (6), W. Archer 2/20 (6)

As a result TAS and Shore were joint champions of the Independent Schools Cricket Festival with Will Archer winning best batsmen of the festival. Alongside Will, Liam Howard, Will Waterson and Jack Bennett were selected in the Festival XI and Jack Bennett was voted to as Captain.

Congratulations to all those boys that participated and special thanks to Mr Will Caldwell for assisting the team over the Festival.

Miss Amanda Robins
First XI Manager

Summer Cricket

With the help of John Farrar we were able to field three teams during the summer holidays. Around 50 people played during the holidays and a big thank you to the following teachers who played – Mr David Toakley, Mr Mark Taylor, Mr Alex Smith, Mr Jim Pennington, Mr Andrew Junge. Special mention to Toaks for his Bradman like batting.

Mr Alan Moore (MIC Cricket)

Nudgee

The TAS 16s played two games against Nudgee College on 19 and 20 January. On Monday we played a 20/20 game with some good performances from Cotter Litchfield, Ben Friend and Angus Smith with their batting.

On the second day we played a TAS made 193 for 9 wickets - B Knowles 38, N. Piper 33, C. Litchfield 20

Nudgee all out for 33: Angus Smith 4/4

A comprehensive victory and played in the right spirit and everyone contributed to the team effort. A very enjoyable experience for both teams.

Mr Alan Moore (MIC Cricket)
Welcome back to Term 1 at TAS! We are looking forward to catching up with all our past instrumental and ensemble students and meeting many new ones over the coming weeks.

There are fantastic opportunities for students who wish to take up an instrument this term or might like to be in one of the many TAS Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles.

**Instrumental Tuition**

All instrumental tuition will commence again next week and if you are not sure of your tuition time please contact your tutor. If you wish to cease lessons this term you should already have notified your tutor but better get on to that straight away to avoid another term’s fees. Students please ensure you bring your instruments to every lesson and 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.

Tuition is available at TAS for voice and also a huge range of instruments - clarinet, trumpet, flute, piano, trombone, organ, violin, cello, guitar, bass, drums, french horn and recorder, etc.

Tuition Enrolment Forms are available on the TAS Website if you are keen to start learning.

Ensemble rehearsals start next week and times will be on the TAS website and up on notice boards.

We have ensembles for all levels of experience and skill and also for all ages. We are always happy to advise you about instrumental tuition and about our TAS ensembles.

Students - just pop down to the Music Centre and have a chat with the Administrator Mrs Broadbent or Teachers, Ms Roobol and Mrs Butcher.

Parents - feel free to phone the Music Centre on 6776 5890 or email sbroadbe@as.edu.au to make enquiries.

**Boarders’ Practice**

TAS boarders will be able to access the music block during practice sessions in the evenings during the term to practice their instrument. A Boarders’ Practice Supervisor will be in the Music Block for each session to oversee and assist students with their work. More information about Boarder Practice times will be posted in TASTalks soon.

**Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher and Mrs Broadbent**
Welcome to all

2015 is here and so are our new students for the year. To those of you who are new to the school I want, on behalf of all Middle School staff, to welcome you to TAS and I am looking forward to seeing you at the various parent functions that are scheduled for Tuesday in particular.

It’s important that you are informed about staff who will be teaching and looking after the needs of your sons. Specifically, we are including in this edition of TAS Talks the email addresses of Homeroom staff. Further, at a recent staff meeting we discussed the best ways of keeping you informed, especially in the near future of the boys’ progress at school. In short, we need to establish contact and once the year begins to settle we encourage you to maintain such contact by emailing to us information relevant to your son’s interests at school.

Your boys will have much to do with us very quickly and it’s our job to get to know them from the beginning of the year. To facilitate this process we are going to advise boys, most of whom will have a mobile phone, to use them sparingly. For example, mobiles should not be used during the school day. If there are issues that need to be dealt with by us it’s best that you encourage the boys to communicate their concerns to us because that’s our job, we’re here to assist them. If necessary we will contact you on your son’s behalf during the day.

Staff Contacts

For all leave application forms and absentees, please send to middle@as.edu.au

Mr Mark Harrison, Head of Middle Schoo - mharriso@as.edu.au
Mrs Alison Evans, Middle School Admin - middle@as.edu.au
Mrs Regina Pollard, Middle School Learning Support - rpollard@as.edu.au
Mrs Kirsty Brusdon, Year 6 - kbrusndo@as.edu.au

Mr Luke Polson, Year 6 - lpolson@as.edu.au
Mr Andrew Junge, Year 7 - ajunge@as.edu.au
Miss Jayne Heagney, Year 7 - jheagne1@as.edu.au
Mrs Leasa Cleaver, Year 7 - lcleaver@as.edu.au
Ms Fiona Taber, Year 8 - ftaber@as.edu.au
Mr Ed Morgan, Year 8 - emorgan@as.edu.au
Ms Colette Brus, Year 8 - cbrus@as.edu.au

Events of interest and important dates

The following activities, dates and venues have been included to help you to plan ahead for the term.

12 February - Middle School Welcome Barbecue and War Cry Competition
13 February - Middle/Senior School Swimming Championships
23 February – Scholarship Day
27 February - Activities Day No. 1
12-13 March - Year 6/7 Parent Teacher Interviews
16 March - Summer House & Co-curricular photos
20 March - Activities Day No. 2
27 March - Activities Day No. 3
30 March - MS/SS Grandparents & Community Open Day
1 April - MS/SS Athletics Championships – end of term

Mr Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School
And in the blink of an eye they were gone. I hope your holiday was a relaxing and refreshing one, full of good times with family and friends. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our parents, especially those whose children are starting with us for the first time. While the weather was not kind to us on Wednesday, the bubbling level of excitement was evident as we gathered for our first morning tea. We are a tight knit community and this social fabric is never more evident than when we gather, and to this end our Liaison Parents are key. You will find their names and contacts below and they will be in touch with you all soon. As a school, we thank them for their generous contribution for our families.

And to all our students, it is great to see you all and hear your voices in the corridors and playgrounds once again. I hope you have a very fulfilling year.

Staffing Changes - 2015

As always, we have exciting news – but none more so than Ms Lana Bromwich has returned to us as Mrs Hawksford! Congratulations to both Lana and Ron on their marriage, and we wish them every happiness for the future. Lana certainly knows how to make the most of her Long Service Leave! This term, Mrs Anne Trenerry is taking leave and we are again very fortunate to have Ms Tabitha Dows teaching Year 1 in her place and we wish them both well. Ms Stephanie Simmons joins us as a teaching Assistant and our Gap Students this term are Douglas McCordle (pronounced with a strong Scottish accent) and Calum Kyle, who returns for a number of weeks before moving on to the PE department.

Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School Osaka visit to TAS – August 18 – 24

Our thanks go to Mr Neil Druce and Mr Allan Moore as they safely guided our group of tourists around Osaka and Kyoto during December. We know that they have all had a wonderful time and the students have returned full of fascinating stories. The students are preparing a full report and we look forward to hearing from them soon.

In the meantime, I would like to recommend the program to you, particularly the opportunity that comes along this year in August as we reciprocate the wonderful hospitality our students received. The bond between our two schools has grown over almost 20 years and hosting young students from Japan is a culturally enriching experience for everyone involved. In 2013, the weeklong visit provided many notable opportunities for our families and I know that this year will be the same. TEZ often bring up to 40 students to TAS and so we do rely on the good will of our community. Please contact us at junior@as.edu.au if you feel you can assist by billeting students this year. I assure you it is a very worthwhile and highly enjoyable experience.

Candidacy for Junior School in the International Baccalaureate Program

We are very pleased to announce that TAS has been successful in gaining candidacy for the International Baccalaureate (Primary Year’s Program). You will see that Mrs Veronica Waters is our appointed PYP Coordinator and she will be writing each week informing our community of our progress as we journey towards authorisation.
Welcome BBQ – Friday 30 January

I extend a (hopefully) warm welcome to the Junior School BBQ, to be held on Friday in the Junior School Covered area. We have developed a strong reputation for bringing the rain, but with the January we have thankfully experienced, we will alert the relevant authorities that a clear sky and warm night would be appreciated. Please bring the whole family along between 6.00 and 8.00 pm and I look forward to catching up with you there.

Looking ahead

Tuesday 27 January  
Staff Day  
Transition Information Evening

Wednesday 28 January  
Classes Resume  
Transition Class – Wed, Thurs & Fri (Wk 1 only)

Wednesday 4 February  
Parent Info Night (6.00 - 7.00) pm for Yrs 1, 3, & 5 in JS classrooms  
Yr 5 Assembly in Hoskins Centre

International Baccalaureate PYP Update

Welcome back to what is a very exciting time in our Junior School as we embark on a new journey as a Candidate School for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years’ Programme. As a Candidate School we are focused on moving towards implementing the Primary Years’ Program (PYP). While the process to become an authorised IB World School is very thorough and takes a number of years, the preparations have been underway for over 12 months.

The PYP provides our school with a curriculum framework of essential elements — the knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes, and action that young students need to equip them for successful lives, both now and in the future. Our teachers will work with the five elements to construct a rigorous and challenging primary curriculum for international education.

The PYP aims to create a curriculum that is engaging, relevant, challenging and significant for learners in the 3–12 age range. The curriculum is transdisciplinary, meaning that it focuses on issues that go across subject areas.

These are:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organize ourselves
- Sharing the planet

These themes are selected for their relevance to the real world. The transdisciplinary themes help teachers to develop a programme of inquiry. Teachers work together to develop investigations into important ideas, which require a substantial and high level of involvement on the part of students.

Through the PYP curriculum framework, schools ensure that students examine each theme. All classes will be commencing a Unit Of Inquiry this term, which is focused around a central idea, which students will inquire into. These units of inquiry involve students asking questions and delving further into local, national and international issues.

Read about the PYP curriculum framework

Mrs Veronica Waters  
Primary Years Programme Coordinator
Happy Birthday

Many children celebrated their birthday during the holidays and we trust you all had a wonderful day. We also wish all children celebrating their birthday this week, a very Happy Birthday.

TAS Art Club

We have received notice that Mrs Ingrid Evans is no longer available to run our lunchtime art sessions due to teaching commitments. We are working towards an alternative and apologise that this is no longer available as we had hoped.

Junior School Barbecue

This is a wonderful opportunity for new and returning TAS families and staff to get together and have a most enjoyable evening. We welcome and encourage all families to attend. The barbecue will be held in the Junior School playground on Friday, 30 January from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. The much loved jumping castle has been booked and will provide easy entertainment for the masses of children. The barbecue will be held rain or shine.

Formal Uniform – Friday 6 February

A reminder that children are required to wear formal uniform on this date as individual and family school photographs will be taken. Please ensure that your photograph order is returned to the Junior School Office by that day. Please contact Main School reception if you did not receive your photo form in the mail earlier this Year. Transition will have their class photo taken on Monday 9 February.

Parent Information Evenings 6–7pm

Parents are warmly invited to attend these evenings in Week 2, Monday 2 and Wednesday 4 February. They will begin in the undercover area with drinks and nibbles. Groups then move off to their child’s classroom. These sessions are enjoyable, informative and provide an excellent opportunity to get to know other parents of children in your child’s class! Teachers will explain their expectations and procedures operating within the classroom for the ensuing year.

Contacting the Junior School

Parents may wish to leave a message on the Junior School answering machine by phoning 6776 5817. These messages are noted prior to school, during the recess and lunch breaks and after 3.30pm. A message left on the Junior School answering machine will enable staff to return your call at a suitable time. The main school number- 6776 5800, manned during office hours, may also be rung for more urgent matters as can the Head of Junior School’s mobile number if required.

Naming Belongings

Parents are encouraged to name all their children’s belongings. We endeavour to return all lost property but this is not possible if items are not named. A blue lost property box is in the Junior School After School Care Centre and parents are encouraged to check here in the first instance if items are lost. Items returned to the school are often left at the main TAS Reception. Please ensure all second hand clothing is marked with the correct name.

Absences from School

Parents are asked to advise the school if their child is absent by 9.00 am on the day and a note from the parent explaining the absence is required to be sent to the teacher upon the child’s return to school. Parents of students who are ill at school, will be contacted to discuss the most appropriate care for their child.

If the school has not had notification of a child’s absence by 9.30 am on the day, the school will contact the family to check on the child’s whereabouts.

Camp Australia – After School Care 2015

Camp Australia started the after school care program on 28 January. If you would like to use the service throughout the year, you will need to register first with Camp Australia.

To register go to:
1. www.campaustralia.com.au
2. On the home page go to ‘new parent’ and type in The Armidale School
3. On the right hand side of the page ‘registration’
4. After you have registered you can start making bookings online

If you need more information or help, please contact the customer service team on 1300 105 343

Life Education Van

Life Education Van will be held in Week 4.

Transition and Kinder will be learning ways to seek help, benefits of physical activity and choosing healthy food options.

Year 1 & 2 will be learning out our major internal organs, the balance of exercise and diet, recognising safe medicines and safe storage of medicines.

Year 4 & 5 will be learning factors that influence our body system, ways to manage peer pressure, effects of smoking and second hand smoke.
These are invaluable sessions and we look forward to having the Life Education van here with us again in 2015.

2015 Liaison Parents for Junior School

Parent Liaison Co-ordinator – Rachael Nicoll (Year 4)

Transition  TBC
Kindergarten  Mandy Fenwicke - ajcf@bigpond.com.au
              Dee Ford - dford1@bigpond.com
Year 1  Ingrid Evans - Ingrid@careersnetwork.org.au
              nickgrid@bigpond.com
              Lynelle Slade - madebyslade@hotmail.com
Year 2  Caroline Coupland - caroline@couplandconsulting.com.au
              Tara Schalk - tara.schalk@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Year 3  Jo Neilson - Jo.neilson@me.com
              Jane Gilpin - janeygilpin@gmail.com
Year 4  Rachael Nicoll - Nicollfamily1@gmail.com
              Karen Morgan - neklmorgan@gmail.com
Year 5  Jacqui Perrottet - urandangie@gmail.com
              Justina Catterill - justina@catteralls.com.au

Commencement of Games

Your individual coaches will be in touch with you in regard to when your games commence this term.

Please check with your respective coaches for any other details re: training and games.

For new children who are keen to become involved in summer sport, please see Mrs Christine Wright or email her on cwright@as.edu.au this week. If you are already involved in a town team competition for summer, you may continue with that team for the remainder of the term. Please note that sport is compulsory for Years 3, 4 & 5 but new students may start sport in Term 2.

Sports News

Welcome back to TAS Junior School Sports news. We are looking forward to another great year of participation and activity for our children in the Junior School.

Please note that all sport training commences in Week 2 on Monday 2 February from 3.45pm to 4.45pm. Sport afternoons will continue as for Term 4, 2014. The children are to be picked up from the turning circle by 5pm.

Sports Training

Please note that sports’ training is always on regardless of weather conditions for both summer and winter sports. Should the weather be inclement, or scheduled games cancelled, the coaches will still be using this time to coach the children, and the children’s attendance remains compulsory.

Junior School Swimming Carnival – Tuesday 10 February

We are already in the planning process for our Junior School Swimming Carnival in Week 3 this term. Nomination forms for this carnival will go home with your child this week. Please read the back of the form for important information before completing. If your child can swim 50m, they must enter the 50m events, not the 25m. They cannot enter both events. Please keep this in mind when nominating for events.

Ensure you return your child’s nomination form by Wednesday 4 February to your class teacher. Please email if you have any concerns or questions in regard to filling out the nomination form - cwright@as.edu.au  Note: Kindergarten children will be allowed to compete the 25m freestyle with a kick board if they wish.

We encourage as many children as possible to enter these events and enjoy participating in our carnival. Parents are welcome to attend and a program of events will be available on the web before the day, with approximate times.

Looking forward to a fun filled year in sport.

Mrs Christine Wright
Junior School Sports Co-ordinator
**Pottery Classes**

Rick and Suzanne Hatch are again offering after-school classes in clay work. The goal of our teaching is for the children to have heaps of fun while developing imagination, hand skills and the ability to solve problems with creative flair. All classes are held in Art Room one of the Hoskins Centre at The Armidale School.

Year K - 3 is on Tuesday from 4pm to 5pm from 10 February
Year 4 - 8 is on Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm beginning 12 Feb.

The all inclusive cost for the six week term of lessons is $145.00.

For enrollment or for more information please feel free to contact Rick Hatch on 67725371 or at weemalapot@yahoo.com.au.

When enrolling , please include your child's name and age and your name and phone number.

We are also offering children aged 11 years and older the opportunity to attend an intensive weekend workshop at our pottery studio on 14 and 15 March. Please contact us if you are interested.

**Rick Hatch**

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**TAS Sports Centre**

**Fitness Boxing**
*Wednesday 5.15pm*

**Reduced Mobility Circuit**
*Tuesday 10.15am*

**Circuit Classes**
*Monday - 6.15pm*
*Tuesday - 5.15pm*
*Thursday - 5.15pm*
*Saturday - 4.15pm*

All classes are held in the TAS Sports Centre. If you have any questions please contact Chris Doherty on 0414 984 378 or visit the [TAS website](#).