**Headmaster, Murray Guest**

**Cadet Leadership Courses**

Nominations are now being taken for the junior and senior cadet leadership courses which will begin immediately after the swimming carnival on 13 February. This is the opportunity for cadets from Years 8 and above to be trained in leadership skills that will stand by them for years into the future.

In my mind it is this leadership training and the genuine responsibility for leading others in the field that follows which distinguishes our cadet program from other outdoor and adventure programs. All schools aspire to prepare their students to not only emerge as responsible adult citizens, but also to be able to take responsibility for others and to lead when the opportunity arises. Yet the opportunity for formal leadership training that is followed by real leadership responsibilities is a rarity in schools. This is what makes the cadet leadership courses at the end of next week so important and I urge all those who are eligible to consider taking up the challenge.

**Travellers Return**

I made comment last week on the very positive reports being heard on activities through the holiday break, both at school and beyond. Since then two more groups have returned to school with stories of wonderful experiences. TAS was represented by the delegation of KB Fergusson, Liam Cooper and Hadrian Wright at the Regional Round Square Conference in South Korea over the past week. Engaging with the conference theme of ‘building bridges beyond borders’ so close to the DMZ and with like minded students from schools across Australasia and East Asia was clearly an amazing experience and I congratulate our students on representing the School so well in every regard.

Four of our senior Science students were fortunate to be invited to attend camps for talented students in Sydney and Canberra over the past fortnight. Tom Mailler spent a week at the Honeywell Engineering Summer School in Sydney, Ali Ahsan was one of only 25 students invited to attend the Australian Science Olympiad Summer School in Physics at the Australian National University, while at the same institution a week later, Harry Wright and Felix Gifford attended the National Youth Science Forum. Their experiences, which included cramming the first year of university Physics into a fortnight, first hand inspections at some of the leading laboratories in the State and interviewing a former Nobel Prize winner required some serious intellectual challenge that will be of great benefit in their senior studies and I congratulate them on their work.

**Consultations Regarding Co-education**

Over the past week I have had the opportunity to speak with Middle and Senior School students at a number of forums regarding the proposal from the TAS Board to introduce co-education from the start of 2016. The interest and sophistication of the questions from our students have been very impressive and I publicly thank them for their input. The same opportunity will be available for parents at any one of the 13 sessions scheduled and registration can be made online at [TryBooking](#).
CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 1

Week 2
Wednesday 4 February  
6.00pm Boarders Formal Dinner  
6.00 pm Parent Information Evening (1, 3 & 5)
Thursday 5 February  
ID Photographs
Friday 6 February  
ID Photographs  
4.00 pm Houses depart for the Coast
Saturday 7 February  
Coast Weekend
Sunday 8 February  
Coast Weekend

Friday 27 February  
Activities Day No. 1  
7.00-10.00 pm Year 9/10 Social at TAS  
Moree Co-education Consultation Session  
Moree Plains Gallery 5.30pm
Saturday 28 February  
Brisbane Co-education Consultation Session  
Rendezvous Hotel Brisbane on George 5.30pm

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

Tuesday 3 March  
NCIS Swimming (Lismore)  
Headmaster’s Country Tour (Inverell)  
Inverell Co-education Consultation Session  
Riverside Restaurant 5.30pm

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

Friday 6 March  
Year 12 Parent Teacher interviews  
HSC Music Days at NECOM  
GPS Rovers depart for Sydney

Week 5
Monday 23 February  
Scholarship & 2016 Prospective Student Information Day
Wednesday 25 February  
Narrabri Co-education Consultation Session  
Riverside Room, Crossing Theatre 5.30pm
Thursday 26 February  
Walgett Co-education Consultation Session  
Walgett Sporting Club 5.30pm

Tuesday 10 March  
Sydney Co-education Consultation Session  
Union, University and Schools Club 5.30pm

Wednesday 11 March  
NCIS Football Championships
Thursday 12 March  
Year 6/7 Parent Teacher interviews
Friday 13 March  
Year 6/7 Parent Teacher interviews  
Once Upon a Mattress performance
Saturday 14 March  
Once Upon a Mattress performance
1 Corinthians 13
The school lesson

A little while back a fellow teacher asked me "why do we read 1 Corinthians 13 so often in assembly"? He must of thought I really like this passage or perhaps we really lacked in the particular area that the reading emphasises. Which of course is love.

Well it is true that this is a good passage of scripture, hard to ignore and has some great advice, and we probably are lacking in this area, but the reason we read it so regularly is that it is our school reading or school lesson, which implies we might learn something from it.

I have already said that it is all about love. If I asked a random sample of blokes what they loved they would normally say footy, the beach, Mr Jones…. all of which are easy to love. So why do we need this regular reminder to love.

The context of this passage is that the sacrificial, service of others, action man type love, talked about in the passage is the love needed to conform people, who are different perhaps in every respect, to become God's united church family. This is the type of love demonstrated most perfectly when God wanted to unite us with himself and gave himself for us and for our sake so that we may be united to himself, even though we are so vastly different in every respect to God. In fact as we are told this is how he showed his love for us, when we had our backs turned to him, ignoring him, even despising him, he acted in love.

As a school community we need this sort of sacrificial putting the interest of others type of love, because in case you haven't noticed we are not all the same. Perhaps this is most obvious as we start a new year, with many new students. We have different interests, different gifts and abilities, different agendas, but we function as a whole, we need to think of others first if we are to build one another up.

We are human, we do not do this well, and we need this reminder regularly, to imitate Christ and His love for us.

COUNSELLOR’S CORNER, ROB HADFIELD

At TAS there is change in the air!! So, for what it’s worth here are a few reflections on change.

Long-term change usually involves a period of pre-contemplation when the possibility of change is acknowledged but not really engaged. Then follows a period of active contemplation, when the nature of change is explored and its benefits, costs and risks, considered. This is a more active engagement. Then follows the act of change itself - preparing, planning, implementing. That is not the end of course because the experience of change needs to be monitored and evaluated over time.

Change can be likened to the idea of ‘crisis’ in which the Chinese symbols for the word speak with some eloquence. One symbol denotes ‘risk’, the other ‘opportunity’. The drive towards change also arises when we see that creative adaptation to new circumstances is needed, when we recognise that something new and different is required in order to survive and thrive. But change is challenging and sometimes uncomfortable until a new ‘normal’ emerges. There may be a sense of loss and with that sense the experience of some grief. Yet, we have to ride the wave of change until we have acquired new skills and levels of integration.

To embark on change is to live with hopeful anticipation, with creative energy and with ideals and aspirations. This suggests that there are underlying values to be identified and internalised. In this respect, engaging in change is a significant step in developing identity, a growing sense of who we are and who we can become. To be human is to balance continuity and change; it is to assimilate what can be incorporated into existing patterns and to accommodate to undeniable realities that will not fit into existing patterns by engaging in change.
Swimming Carnivals
First cab off the rank for 2015 is the Junior School Swimming Carnival which is on next Tuesday 10 February, closely followed by the Middle /Senior Carnival on Friday 13 February.

The school provides lunch for parents on both days however your friendly Liaison Parents will be looking for volunteers to bake cakes and biscuits and roster on the Cake Stall for each day. Many hands make light work and in the past it has worked best with each year group covering one hour but please help out wherever you can.

If you cannot spare any time to work on the cake stall but would like to provide some baked or bought goodies, they can be dropped off on the day.

Annual General Meeting
****Please note the change of date****

The AGM is now confirmed as Tuesday 10 February (after Junior School Swimming Carnival) and will be held in Lower Maxwell at 7pm. All Executive positions will be declared vacant and all members are invited to stand for election. Nomination forms are available on the TAS website - http://www.as.edu.au/pf/ and we would love to see nominations for all roles:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary

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.
Yipirinya Service Trip 2015

An opportunity to contribute to important service work right here in our own country, gain a better understanding of the oldest living culture on Earth, and see some spectacular landforms that identify much of what it is to be Australian - the Yipirinya Service Trip to the Northern Territory is an exciting and unique opportunity for Year 9 boys.

Last year a group of TAS boys, some fathers and staff made the journey to the magical Red Centre for a week's holiday program at Yipirinya School, an independent school for disadvantaged Aboriginal students at Alice Springs. Yipirinya is a unique school where the teaching of four Central Australian languages is part of the curriculum.

While in 2014 our group helped run a school holiday activities program, in 2015 we will be visiting during Yipirinya term time, forging special friendships in and out of the classroom with students, helping with a maintenance project, as well as having the opportunity to take in some of the sites of Alice Springs including Desert Park, the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historic Reserve, and the Araluen Cultural Centre.

The trip concludes with a magnificent cultural expedition to Kings Canyon, Uluru and Kuta Tjuta, including a sacred Aboriginal site not open to the public.

It promises to be an unforgettable experience, but applications are needed by 27 February for the trip to proceed. (There may be the opportunity for parents to attend, if there are vacancies). A letter and application will be sent to all Year 9 parents in the next day or so.

Key details:

Dates: 12-20 April (the last week of the NSW school holidays and the first week of Term 2 at Yipirinya.

Approximate cost: $1800 including airfares (Arm/Syd/Alice Springs, return Uluru/Sydney/Armidale); accommodation and three night cultural expedition.

Here's what some of this year's participants said:

“T had been a bit hesitant to go, but it was the best thing I’ve ever done in my life. To see those conditions here in Australia was confronting, but it was a really great experience.” Ben Moffatt (Year 10)

“We came back knowing that material possessions don’t buy happiness, and how fortunate we are.” (Liam Treavors, Year 9)

“The opportunity to participate in a service trip within Australia with my son was a wonderful experience. Although somewhat confronting at times, the Yipirinya experience enabled us to develop a greater understanding of and respect for Indigenous culture. Developing friendships with some of the children was a real highlight. After spending just over a week at the school, both Ben and I are more appreciative of just how fortunate we are. I thoroughly recommend this trip.”

(Mr Tim Moffatt, parent)

Please feel free to contact thughes@as.edu.au if you’d like to know more.

Mr Tim Hughes
Trip Leader
Photo Day - ID and class photos

Week 2 is ID Photo week with the photographers at school on Thursday 5 February - for Years 6 to 12 - Venue ‘Big School’ Main Foyer and Friday 6 February - for Years K - 5 - venue Junior School Extension classroom.

‘Family’ photos will be scheduled to occur over the two and a half days of shooting, with notice given via noticeboard, email and consultation with Heads of Junior and Middle School.

Transition class will be taken on Monday 9 February.

Any K-6 student who is absent in Week 2 can also be photographed on Monday 9 but unfortunately will not be included in the class group photo.

A reminder that formal uniform is required for the Years K-12, and blazer compulsory from Year 6.

All families should have received information on the products offered by MSP Photography, New England. If you haven’t seen an order form, please ask at TAS Reception.

Thanks to parents and guardians who have already submitted orders. MSP Photography is a local family business. The owners, Damian and Rebecca Riches take care in delivering a high level of customer service.

Another timely reminder is to ensure you have your order submitted by 9 February in order to avoid the additional processing and postage fee ($10 ‘late fee’).

CO-EDUCATION CONSULTATION

If you would like to take part in the co-education consultation by putting forward your comments please book to attend one of the consultation sessions or contact consult@as.edu.au or phone our dedicated number 0487 549 477.

Consultation Letter
Co-education Consultation Sessions
Book to attend Consultation Session
Visit the TAS Website

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.

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.
It appears that the vast majority of students have settled in well to their classes for the year. The feedback I'm getting from teachers and boarding houses is full of praise for their focus and diligence. This time of year can be difficult for those entering new stages of their schooling. The 'step up' in workload and expectations can be hard for some to manage and we all need to put it into perspective at times.

I wanted to take this opportunity to bring to your attention some significant changes this year.

**Careers**

Mr Mark Taylor takes on the role of Careers Advisor in addition to his PDHPE Coordinator role. Mr Taylor brings a great deal to this position as he has extensive knowledge of the HSC, ATAR scaling and, as a past parent of two TAS boys, an understanding of the pressures that students and families can face during the final years of schooling. He has great plans for the development of Careers for our students in Years 10, 11 and 12 including careers expos in Tamworth and Sydney later in the year. He will have a regular spot in our Year 12 Activities Day program to help students navigate the world beyond TAS.

**Diaries**

Many of you will have already seen the new school diary for 2015. This has come about from an initiative of the SRC who approached me just over 12 months ago to review the school diary. Their concern was that they didn't have enough room to write down their prep - something we have hopefully now addressed! I have heard that some boys are concerned that the diary no longer fits in their pocket but with this comes the decreased likelihood of it accidentally going through the wash.

**Student Wall Planner**

In 2014 we introduced a student wall planner for students in Year 11 and 12. Again an initiative from the student body, it was designed to be a visual reminder of their upcoming commitments both in class and beyond. Students in Years 8 to 10 will also receive a wall planner in 2015 as it was seen by many of our younger students last year and suggested that we extend its use. Please note that some calendared items can change from the date of publication and students and families must always refer to the website for the timing of events.

**Year 11 and 12 Subject Changes, Goal Setting and ATAR estimates**

A big change this year is that Year 11 and 12 subject changes and meetings with students and families regarding ATAR estimates and University entry will now be conducted by Mr Taylor. Please contact him directly to organise a time to meet.

**Advisors and Subject Coordinators**

A reminder that your child’s Advisor is the first point of call for any concerns that you may have regarding their academic program. If your concern involves their placement in a core subject (English, Maths, Science or HSIE) then you should make contact with the relevant Coordinator by calling Reception and being put through to them directly.

**HSC Tutoring**

HSC tutoring in some subjects commences this week. We are looking to expand this program where and when quality tutors are available. An updated schedule will be sent to students when changes are made. In the meantime, students should refer to the last email that has been sent. In some cases, we will be attempting to expand this program to Year 11 classes and we hope that students take up the opportunity to attend these sessions when they are able to. It is not expected that students attend all sessions because their other commitments and workload can change on a weekly basis. These sessions are focussed on revising concepts already taught by the classroom teacher.

**Mrs Seonia Wark**

Director of Studies
ACADEMIC

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!

A reminder for all Art-French trip participants to please return their Travel Insurance form, Home Stay form and Tour Participant form to TAS Reception by the end of Week 3. We also require photocopies of each participant’s current Passport.

A copy of these forms is available on the TAS website under Parents Portal - French Trip, 2015 or they are available for collection from TAS Reception.

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

Mme Kathryn Tamminga
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, 16 February 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 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, 12 March

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.
LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND ADVENTURE

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 Monday 9 February. Approximate cost: $150

DUTY
COURAGE
INITIATIVE
TEAMWORK
MATESHIP
RESPONSIBILITY
INTEGRITY
LOYALTY
PROFESSIONALISM
SELFLESSNESS
DETERMINATION
HUMILITY
COMPASSION
“Having rowed myself since the tender age of twelve and having been around rowing ever since, I believe I can speak authoritatively on what we may call the unseen values of rowing – the social, moral and spiritual values of this oldest of chronicled sports in the world. No didactic teaching will place these values in a young man’s soul. He has to get them by his own observation and lessons”.

Although this accurately describes my life and my beliefs, it was actually George Yeoman Pocock who made this statement. The same could be said about all co-curricular activities – the mystical qualities that materialise when one commits themselves to a goal, to a team, to a common purpose. Often they sneak up on the recipient and they don’t realise that they are there. Sometimes they are difficult to measure and sometimes they are only apparent when tested. They are summarised in a word….Character.

There will be many tests for our students this year and their successes and failure in their co-curricular activities will place them in good stead. The increased number of boys pursuing the ‘Triple Crown’ (Coffs Ocean Swim, City to Surf and Hawkesbury Canoe Classic) is evidence of the positive attitude towards challenges. The first of these is the Coffs Ocean Swim, on the 29 March.

Swimming is also our first House Competition, commencing with the 200M IM on Monday evening 9 February. A full program is available on the Swimming web page http://wordpress.as.edu.au/swimming/ All students are invited to attend swim squad run by Mr Pennington on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 6:15 – 7:15am at the TAS pool. This is a great opportunity to train for both events.

The boys will be training with equal intensity for the war cries on the Thursday evening. Although, gone are the days where shear power of voice will win the judges favour. Houses are becoming more creative and entertain with their originality, sportsmanship and sense of fun. I wish all the Houses and each and every individual the best of luck in all their events. Have a go, have fun and lets find out whether Mr Buntine is right….Will a Day Boy House win the war cries this year?

Development Tours Forum

A forum will be held on Thursday 12 February, commencing at 4pm in the TAS Hoskins Centre to discuss the prospect of development tours for both Football and Hockey. We encourage all interested parties to attend and offer feedback and suggestions on the way this tour may run. This is the same date as the War Cry night for the Swimming Carnival and we are hoping that this allows our boarding families the opportunity to participate in these discussions also. This forum will allow all interested to discuss the preferred time of year for such a tour, possible destinations, duration of stay, number of fixtures and possible itinerary.

Mr Will Caldwell
Director of Co-curricular
Rugby Players needed for NSW Country Championships - New England!

New England Junior Rugby Union (NEJRU) need more players for all age groups 12s to 17s to field competitive teams at the NSW Country Championships.

With the Country Schools pathway having finished last year, the Country Championships is one of two pathways for representative rugby at TAS, the other being GPS for 16s and Opens only.

Armidale is hosting the 12, 13 & 14s championships at SportUNE on 23-24 May.

15s Country Championships is at Mudgee on June Long Weekend (6-8 June).

16 & 17s Country Championships is in Sydney on June Long Weekend (6-8 June).

NEJRU Schedule:

Training:
22 February from 3-6pm. Barbecue to follow. Ages only 12, 13 & 14’s
1 March 2015 from 3-6pm. Barbecue to follow. All ages.
22 March from 3-6pm. Barbecue to follow. All ages.
17 May 2015 from 3-6pm. Barbecue to follow. All ages.

Trial Game:
26 April 2015 possible trial game vs MNC (away). All ages.

Trial Game:
3 May 2015 possible trial game vs CN (home). All ages.

NB. All training days and barbecues will be held at Concett Davis playing fields at Sports UNE.

Teams will be selected after the trial games.

NEJRU is working on keeping the cost low this year, hopefully under $200 with the help of some major sponsorship.

Interested?
Please contact Mr Trevor Thatcher ttthache@as.edu.au Ph: 0427 765 806 to register or come to training.


Mr Trevor Thatcher

Mountain Biking

The TAS MTB squad attended their first race for term 1 on Monday evening. The race kicked off the start of the New England Mountain Bikers Summer Series, which is a series of races held on various MTB tracks around Armidale. Monday night’s race was held on a 2km track at Kookaburra Crest which incorporates the four cross track and then continues on with some single track which winds through trees and up a descent climb back to the start. There are two races per Monday evening - the first at 5.20pm for juniors and adults who can’t make the senior race. The second race is at 6.15pm for seniors with the two TAS senior school coaches, Rob Butcher and Michael Harris, competing in this race. The aim of both races is for riders to complete as many laps as possible in the 35 minute timeframe.

The TAS team arrived at the track early to do some training together before their race at 5.20pm. This first race contained a large number of riders leading to quite a bit of traffic on the first lap, however the riders soon got into their rhythm and stretched out across the track. The TAS students rode very well for the first race despite some students feeling a loss in fitness due to the holiday break. For these students - the summer series races are very good at getting riders fit quickly, so by the end of the term you should expect noticeable increases in your fitness. All riders who attended the training session and the race on Monday night should be please with their effort. There were some noticeable results, which can be found here http://www.nemtb.com.au/results

Next weeks’ race will be at the Sport UNE track.

Mrs Jo Benham
Triathlon

A massive contingent of 34 boys tackled the first Triathlon of 2015 being the southbound of the Armidale Triathlon series. For some this was their ever Triathlon experience and their determination and commitment to a challenge was wonderful to witness.

Jack Parker won the overall long course in a new PB of 58:11 and Sam Finlayson also set a new PB in winning the overall short course. Brent Rees displayed great strength on the 20km bike leg, commencing the run in 2nd place. The teams of Bayley Fellowes/Will Bartel and Tim Finlayson/Bailey Bourke were dominant in the short course event and congratulations must go to Hamish Tydd, Sam Jones and James O’Brien (all Year 7) in completing the short course individually.

Mr James Pennington
THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL PRESENTS
the hilarious Broadway hit musical comedy

Once upon a Mattress

Music By
MARY RODGERS

Lyrics By
MARSHALL BARER

Book By
JAY THOMPSON, DEAN FULLER and MARSHALL BARER

MARCH 13, 14, 20, 21 7:30pm 14, 21 2:00pm

TICKETS $25, $20, $15 | hoskins.as.edu.au | 6776 5878

"ONCE UPON A MATTRESS" IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN™ THEATRICAL ON BEHALF OF

R&H THEATRICALS: www.rnh.com
Though the school year has only technically begun its second week, the Creative Arts at TAS is already charging ahead. Rehearsals for our 2015 school musical Once Upon a Mattress have been rapidly ramping up as we approach six weeks until Opening Night. In fact, this began three weeks ago in the holidays the week before school recommenced, with the majority of the cast working intensively on the musical at our new Musical Camp in an effort to really polish the show and reduce the demands on students during term time. They were an incredibly positive and enthusiastic group who have continued to bring that same level of interest to our successive rehearsals - their talent never ceases to amaze and I am sure the audiences are in for something very special. On that note, tickets have just been opened and bookings are already flooding in, leading me to believe that if you wait too long to buy you may risk missing out altogether. Details can be found on the hot-off-the-press poster in this edition of TAS Talks, or by visiting the Hoskins website.

Continuing with Once Upon a Mattress, Connie Rolfe, our Costume Designer, has put out a call for volunteers to assist with the alteration and creation of costumes for the production. There will be a meeting this Sunday in Hoskins 4pm - 5pm to look at the costumes already sourced for the show to understand what we still require. All interested people are invited to come along and learn about how they can assist with making the show look even more spectacular.

The Trinity Guild Speech and Drama is also preparing to recommence next week, with us welcoming Mr Alex Robson on board as our new Drama tutor. While a lot of information has already gone out to parents and students, if anyone is still interested in Drama tutoring they are encouraged to contact Mrs Sarah Broadbent (sbroadvb@as.edu.au) for a form and further information.

Lastly, I encourage members of the TAS community to keep their eyes on the horizon for sails as Treasure Island prepares to launch. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting, brand-new endeavour.

Mr Andrew O’Connell
Creative Arts Co-ordinator

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**ONCE UPON A MATTRESS**

Call for volunteer

**Costume Crew**

If you would be interested in helping make or alter costumes there is a meeting in **Hoskins Centre 4pm - 5pm 8th Feb**

Email or call us if you have any questions

E: hoskins@as.edu.au | Ph: 6776 5878
TAS Ensemble Rehearsal Times

All TAS Ensemble rehearsals have commenced again this week and we had a great turn out yesterday for TAS Band and Wind Ensemble.

Anyone interested in joining a TAS instrumental or vocal ensemble should pop down to see Ms Roobol or Mrs Butcher in the Music Centre. There are opportunities for all ages and skill levels.

The ensemble rehearsal times for this term are below. Please check them carefully as there have been a couple of changes. TAS Jnr Vocal Ensemble is now rehearsing on a Tuesday morning from 8am with Mrs Butcher. Our new String Ensembles will be commencing this Thursday morning also. Seniors at 7.40am and Juniors at 8.00am in the Music Centre.

Click here to view ensemble rehearsal times

Instrumental Tuition

All instrumental tuition has commenced again and if you are not sure of your tuition time please contact your tutor. Students please put a reminder on your school calendar, in your diary, on your phone or on your watch. You need to attend your own lesson time each week because the peripatetic tutors at TAS are heavily booked and just do not have many extra times in a week to fit in make up lessons.

Remember that 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.

Boarders’ Practice

TAS boarders will be able to access the Music Clock 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 TAS Talks next week.

Click here to view boarder practice schedule

TAS Minibus to NECOM

A reminder for all our NECOM students that the TAS minibus is available on both Monday and Tuesday afternoons to take students up to NECOM. The minibus pulls up at the lower turning circle near the Music Centre at 3.30pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and departs at 3.40pm. It is provided by TAS to assist our students to meet their NECOM commitments on these days.

Please make any enquiries about the bus to NECOM by phoning the Music Centre on 6776 5890.

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher and Mrs Broadbent
In the beginning…

I know this may appear macabre, but it’s actually affirming to see some tears around the Middle School during the first week of the year. If a student is able to talk about homesickness then it’s reasonably clear that he already feels comfortable enough with us to tell us about it. It follows that being comfortable enough to tell us of their concerns suggests that students are beginning to trust us enough to voice their concerns. As a general rule at the beginning of term, tears are testament to a student’s missing happy, healthy family relationships and it’s a good thing that boys are encouraged to talk about their families. To be honest, the more we know about you, home, holidays and highlights the more comfortable our new Middle School people feel.

Be assured, we are very aware of the needs of Middle School students and it’s in their best interests that they are kept as busy as possible. Formal lessons began last Wednesday, sports practices have commenced, co-curricular tuition is underway, the Homework Centre doors are opening and the boarding and day school areas are fully operational! For those of you who are new to TAS, you’ll discover quickly that one of the hallmarks of a school term is pace. You’ll also realize that your child will be far more able to manage his new year by being fully involved in it.

Be assured also that we’ll not hesitate to give you a call if there is something we think you’ll be able to help us with, especially in terms of your child’s settling into new patterns and structures. In time, these structures and so on will become familiar routines and when this occurs students will then be able to relax and enjoy even more what the school can offer to them. And, a ‘heads up’ for you – there’s much on offer!

Contacts

Last week we sent staff contact lists and communication has commenced. This is a good thing. As indicated, if there’s something you think we would benefit from knowing, please contact Homeroom staff via email and we’ll get back to you.

In two weeks the School’s swimming carnival will be held. The occasion is one of the most significant on the sports calendar and it coincides with our first formal meetings (as Homeroom staff) with you and the first formal leave weekend for Middle School boarders. After having completed three weeks at TAS it’s very important that our boarders have the opportunity to see and spend time with you. As such, I urge you strongly to come to TAS and enjoy what is bound to be a full and happy family reunion. Seeing you will give boys the opportunity to tell you in person how they have fared during their first crucial weeks and also the confidence necessary to manage the rest of their term in the Middle School. Again, a curious thing to write, perhaps, but the boys will ultimately feel more comfortable having seen you. In a sense, they’ll know that while you’re not around all of the time, you’ll not have changed and this knowledge, at a time of significant change in their lives, is good for them.

These few weeks

Currently, some diagnostic testing is underway for Middle School students. It is important that we are fully aware of boys’ academic needs so that we are able to cater to them. The testing process is as painless as we can manage and despite it students, thus far, are settling as well as we can expect them to be. Obviously, as indicated, we are keeping the boys busy and we’re keeping a close eye on them and their many activities. But, we don’t possess crystal balls – if, for any reason, you want to contact us to give or receive information, then just do this, please.

I’m hoping that you are managing the first weeks of term well enough? Until next week,
Junior School Barbecue

As anticipated, the Junior School barbecue was a fantastic affair, with a great proportion of our families turning up to socialize and enjoy the evening with each other. With the support from our staff and prefects (who would have thought they could cook so well to order?), it was a great opportunity to gather and our first occasion of the year to do so. I look forward to many more and having said this, reinforce that our door is open at all times for you to visit. This week, we have been able to share our classrooms during the Parent Information evenings, and again this communication between school and home is vital for the well being of all involved in the education of our students. If there are any questions or observations you would like to share with me, please feel free to make contact at any time.

The Three Steps

In our PD lessons this term, we will again be reinforcing the use of our “The Three Steps” process to help guide our children through the difficult issue of how to deal with unwanted behaviour and/or attention. We feel this message is most effective when it is used both at home and school as it provides an opportunity for each and every individual to take some of the responsibility for resolving difficult situations that may arise from time to time. Learning the skills of conflict resolution takes time and understanding, and therefore some take longer than others to get the hang of it. But, we feel it is a skill worth focusing on and so I draw your attention to how we deal with this at school, in the hope that it might also be useful at home.

When there is a problem, rather than going to “tell” we would like to encourage our children to follow these steps:

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

From there, a worthy conversation and appropriate action can take place. There is always the opportunity to go straight to step 3 if there is an urgent need, and while we have seen our students increasingly using these steps at school, we acknowledge it is a lesson that must be constantly reinforced.

Traffic at TAS

I would like to remind all our parents of the critical importance to follow the protocols for dropping and collecting children from school. We have had dangerously close misses in the past and again I ask that no parents use the area outside the Transition classroom at any time. The primary designated areas are the Chapel St turning circles and outside the Assembly Hall, and importantly, I do ask that all drivers take great care at all times around these locations.

Clothing and Lost Property

Can it be that we are in Week 2 of the year and I am hearing concerns in relation to lost clothing? As a parent, I know the frustrations of what seems to be the continuing battle to get the correct clothing reliably home at the end of the day. Certainly, please having everything well marked with the correct name. In the event of lost property, please contact the school as soon as possible as we do what we can to track these items down. The lost property finds its way to the box in the After School Centre or the Swimming Pool and finally, usually at the end of each semester, in the school laundry.
### Looking ahead

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| Wednesday 4 February | Parent Information evening 6.00 pm – 1, 3 & 5  
  Year 5 Assembly  |
| Friday 6 February  | Junior School Photos K – 5                |
| Monday 9 February  | Transition photo and catch-up photos       |
| Tuesday 10 February | Junior School Swimming Championships       |
| Wednesday 11 February | Year 4 Assembly                       |
| Thursday 12 February | MS/SS War cries                          |
| Friday 13 February | Senior School Swimming Championships       |

### Happy Birthday

This week we wish a very Happy Birthday to: Jasper Russ, Charlie Ryan, Jasper O’Neil, and Samuel Bock.

### Arrival at School

Now that family routines are established again for school term, we would appreciate children arriving at school no later than 8.45am each morning.

Class lessons start at 8.45am and children can miss crucial planning for the day if they arrive late, and it also disrupts the learning of other children in the class when instructions and arrangements have to be repeated for late arrivals.

Your children get an even greater start to the day if they can be here for at least 15 minutes prior to this so that they can play with their friends before school starts.

We are very thankful of your support for staff and children in this matter.

### School Photos

School photos will be held for the Junior School on Friday 6 February, with Transition being held on Monday 9 February.

All families with a child in Transition will have family photos taken on the Monday.

Students are asked to wear their formal uniform being white shirt, tie and grey slacks.

Please return your photo form to Reception prior to photo day.

### Dining Room Lunches

Parents of children in Years 3, 4 and 5 may be interested in their child having lunch in the Dining Room. An extra cost is incurred for this arrangement. For more information, please speak with your child’s class teacher.

### Junior School Swimming Championships

#### Cake Stall

A cake stall will run in the foyer of the Swimming Centre from recess for our Junior School Swimming Championships.

Families are asked to support this P&F fundraiser by bringing in cakes or slices.

We are an allergy aware school and ask for no nuts to be included and where able for foods to be labelled with ingredients.

Most cakes and slices sell for around 50c.

### Healthy Harold and the Life Education Program

Healthy Harold will be with us 16-18 February.

A variety of themes will run ranging from cyber-safety to healthy eating choices, body systems and the effects of drugs and second hand smoke, peer pressure and positive relationships.

Each Year groups will have a targeted area with the Life Education Program being very interactive.

Harold Merchandise for sale in 2015 is below. If your child would like to purchase an item, please place correct money in an envelope with your child’s name and the product they would like to purchase clearly marked on the front.
Product description | Price
---|---
Tattoo | $.50
Hand Ball | $3.00
Sticky Note pad | $1.50
Stationery Set | $3.00
Key Ring | $3.00
Soft Toy | $8.00

**Allergies**

The start of a new school year is the time to reinforce our awareness of allergies and in particular those from foods such as peanuts, tree nuts, milk, eggs, and shellfish. We do have children in our Junior School who are allergic to these foods so it is imperative that if you bring in any item of food, such as a birthday cake for your child’s birthday that the class teacher be made aware of exactly what is in the food item. We would particularly like to encourage children not to bring in nut spreads also, such as peanut butter and Nutella spreads. We would appreciate your assistance in this matter.

**Chess Club**

Chess Club is held on Monday mornings before school (8:15-8:45 am) in the E & E room in Junior School. Students of all ages and all skill levels are welcome. Come and challenge your friends! There are prizes to be won! Chess competitions will begin in Week 5. Mrs Hine will send out an information note with the competition details closer to the date. See you there!

Mrs Anne Hine

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**International Baccalaureate PYP Update**

This week many Junior School teachers will be introducing a Unit Of Inquiry (UOI) for the term ahead to their classes. The UOI for all classes is based around what is known as the Central Idea. The central idea is written as one sentence and is substantial enough to generate inquiries, which are concept driven and encourage students in our classrooms to think critically. The central ideas aims to challenge and extend students’ prior knowledge and is also a way of extending their understanding of the transdisciplinary theme. The transdisciplinary themes 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

The introduction of the Central Idea is similar to deconstructing a jigsaw puzzle. Students and teachers deconstruct the idea so that all words in the central idea are clearly understood. Their deconstruction is recorded around the central idea and referred to on a regular basis. Following on from the deconstruction, students are encouraged to come up with questions/inquiries they have related to the Central Idea and throughout the course of the unit of inquiry these questions are addressed.
Swimming Carnival

There certainly is excitement in the air with the anticipation of our first Junior School carnival this year. The organisation of our swimming carnival, next Tuesday, 10 February is well underway and we now require any final nominations. Please hand these nominations to your class teacher by Wednesday, 4 February so Mrs Wright can organise our races for the day.

We are looking forward to a terrific, fun filled day next Tuesday. If there are any willing parents who could give an hour or two of their time to time-keep on the day it would be greatly appreciated. Please email Mrs Wright at cwright@as.edu.au if you are able to volunteer even a small amount of time.

The P and F will be running their famous ‘Cake Stall’ again on the day. Cakes and other goodies can be taken to the pool foyer on the morning of the carnival. All contributions will be thankfully received.

Summer Sports Choices

We eagerly commenced our summer sports training this week, with all children ready for another term of sport. If your child is new to the school or now in Year 3 and has not yet chosen a sport for this term, please email Mrs Wright, as we would like to finalise teams this week. Remember, sport is compulsory for Years 3 – 5, while Kindergarten – Year 2 children are encouraged to participate.

Mrs Christine Wright
Junior School Sports Co-ordinator

Gymnastics

Our gymnastic group have some available spots left this term. If your child is in Kindergarten – Year 3 and would like to have a go at this terrific sport, please contact your class teacher or Mrs Wright. A TAS minibus takes the children to gymnastics each Monday, accompanied by Mrs Waters.

Gymnastics commenced on Monday afternoon with some very enthusiastic participants. Please remember to pack a light afternoon tea, which students may have before we depart school at 3.45pm on the TAS mini bus. If you are not collecting from the centre please collect from under the shelter by 5pm or book into the homework centre.

Under 9s Cricket

The boys have had a very enthusiastic return to the field.

It was a close game against CSC once again with CSC the victors with 45 runs to our 35. Wilkie Davison, Lachie Litchfield, and Joel Blackburn have shown a marked improvement in their bowling, Daniel Morgan took two impressive catches, Lachie Hunt has show strong determination to be an impressive all rounder and Sam Strelitz and Ted Chick were showing strong skills on the field.

Mr Neil Druce
Starts 17th Feb

TWILIGHT SOCCER

PRIZES FOR 1ST/2ND PLACE
10’s, 12’s, 14’s, 16’s, Women’s, Mixed & Open’s
Teams: Juniors: $240 Seniors: $300
6 Week Comp

Register today www.unisport.com.au/sportune or phone 02 6773 3744
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 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 6772 5371 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

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.