Swimming, War Cries, Information Evenings and the Weekend

The end of Week 3 of first term generally signals a special juncture in the year. The settling-in period for our new students and those who have jumped to a new stage in their education is largely over, houses have come together and put on a show at the war cry competition, Middle School parents have met homeroom teachers and the big day of senior swimming is over. For our boarders in particular, the efforts in this intense period of activity was rewarded with trips home or a peaceful weekend in the house and I know that was enjoyed.

It was a great pleasure to see so many parents with us at the events on Thursday and Friday and I offer thanks for that support. The great spirit and generosity of the war cry night and the mass participation at the swimming carnival were wonderful expressions of community and I was delighted that so many parents could see that first hand.

Charity Fundraising

The swimming carnival also kicked off the fundraising efforts of our student body, with over $800 raised on Thursday evening and Friday. The causes that our prefect body has selected to support this year include St Christopher’s Home in Fiji, the HIV orphanage ‘Agape’ in Thailand and our sponsored student at Starehe in Kenya. The ability of our student leaders to bring our community together in support of others who are far away and in need is heartening and a clear expression of their understanding of their global responsibilities. Their work is continuing with heads being shaved as fundraising milestones are reached and I encourage parents and students alike to take the opportunity to support them.

Cricket Representative Honours

Congratulations are due to Jack Bennett, Will Archer and Nick Day who have been selected in the NSW Country CCSCA squad to play a combined trial with the Sydney Metropolitan CCSCA in March. The last TAS player to be selected at this level faced a very fiery Pat Cummins who was on his way to the Australian team and that highlights the significance of this achievement. I wish the boys and their team well for the competition.

Cadet Leadership

As I write, a large contingent of aspiring leaders is preparing to return to school after five days of intensive training for junior and senior leadership positions in the cadet unit. I have already heard very positive reports of their experiences and performance and it is to their credit that they have stepped up to this challenge and responsibility. I look forward to seeing all they have learned in action through the course of the year.
TAS Ceremonial Guard

The centenary of Gallipoli and the visions of tragedy, ultimate sacrifice, inspiring bravery and the birth of a lasting image of Australian character that come with it will engage the national consciousness this year. Many different emotions will come with that engagement, but the overwhelming expression of them will surely be one of deep respect for those who travelled through troubled times before us.

At TAS, our practice of recognising ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day is led by the TAS Ceremonial Guard that forms the catafalque parties not just at school, but also at Dangarsleigh, Central Park and often at other schools. This year, perhaps above any other, will give high profile to the work of the Guard and it is certain to be a memorable year for them.

There is still opportunity for cadets currently in Years 9 to 11 to apply to join the Guard and any boys interested should contact Nick Finney directly.

Celia Lashlie

With a heavy heart I pass on the news that the inspirational Celia Lashlie who has presented at TAS several times in recent years passed away on Monday in New Zealand after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. Celia's insightful messages on 'growing gorgeous boys into good men' have been a wonderful help to so many in our community and I know that all who have known her or her work will join in prayers of support to her family.

Even in her final days, Celia continued to convey a great message to us. To quote from her website:

“I'm now focused on the moments of magic that are appearing in front of me: The laughter of my grandchildren; a smile of a friend attempting to walk this journey with me and the pure beauty and strength of my adult children as they battle their anger, grief and sadness at what is happening to their beloved mother.”
## Week 4
- **Wednesday 18 February**
  - **Gunnedah Co-education Consultation Session**
  - Gunnedah Civic Centre 2pm - 4pm
- **Saturday 21 February**
  - **Year 9 Father & Son Weekend**
  - Nymboida Canoe Centre
- **Sunday 22 February**
  - **Year 9 Father & Son Weekend**
  - Nymboida Canoe Centre

## 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
- **Friday 27 February**
  - **Activities Day No. 1**
  - Social at TAS
  - 7.00-10.00 pm Year 9/10
  - 7.00 - 9.00 Years 6 -8
  - **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 6
- **Friday 6 March**
  - **Year 12 Parent Teacher interviews**
- **Saturday 7 March**
  - **GPS Head of the River (Sydney)**

## Week 7
- **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**

## Week 8
- **Monday 16 March**
  - **Summer House & Co-curricular photos**
- **Thursday 19 March**
  - **Year 7 Vaccinations**
  - **Once Upon a Mattress performance**
- **Friday 20 March**
  - **Activities Day No. 2**
  - **Once Upon a Mattress performance**
- **Saturday 21 March**
  - **Year 11 Mother & Son Weekend**
  - **Once Upon a Mattress performance**
- **Sunday 22 March**
  - **11am 1st Round FFA Cup**
  - (Doody Park)

## Week 9
- **Tuesday 24 -**
  - **Visual Art Gallery Excursion**
- **Thursday 26 March**
  - **Year 12 Automotive Workplacement**
  - 1.30 pm Year 11 Study Seminar (Hoskins)
  - 6.00 pm Twilight Concert
  - 7.30 pm Year 11/12 Parents – Study Skills session
- **Friday 27 March**
  - **Activities Day No. 3**
- **Sunday 29 March**
  - **Coffs Harbour Swim**

## Week 10
- **Monday 30 March**
  - **Year 9 Parent Teacher interviews**
- **Tuesday 31 March**
  - **Junior School Athletics Championships**
  - **Board Meetings**
Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held last week and I would like to say a big thank you to those mums and dads who attended on the night, and those who attended in spirit. It was very encouraging to see such a good turnout and also to be able to form not just an executive committee, but also a general committee to spread the load.

The 2014 Executive Committee was returned unchanged with Sue Cartwright as President, Sal Molesworth as Treasurer and Mandy van Duijnhoven as Treasurer. And I would like to extend a special welcome to Rachael Nicoll in the role of Vice President.

I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Sal and Mandy for their efforts over the past year.

Swimming Carnivals

On the subject of thank yous - a massive thank you to all the parents who helped in any way with the P&F cake stall at the swimming carnivals. With your help we have started adding to the funds raised for 2015 - and what a fabulous start it was! If you are missing a container, platter or tray, pop in to see Mrs Veronica Lucas at Reception.

Liaison Parents

More thank yous - this time to the parents who have out up their hand to act as a Liaison Parent - we can never have too many, so if you would like to join the team, please contact me - sue_333@me.com. Our annual Liaison Parent Lunch will be held on 10 March in Big School - keep an eye out for your invitation.

TRAVEL

North West NSW ‘at home’ weekend for boarders

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.

Still some seats available.
WELLBEING

One of the distinguishing moments of the TAS year, one that says so much about all that is positive culturally here, is the senior swimming carnival and last week was no different. In a way, it’s not even about the swimming – rather, it’s all that the event represents: unity, participation, resilience, perseverance, and, in the words of a new young teacher fresh from the GPS system, “I’ve seen nothing else like it”. We celebrate excellence but we celebrate grit and effort just as much because, as is the case with so many things here, we deliberately place boys outside their comfort zones and support them in doing things they may not have considered possible. It’s not because they might need abseiling or acting skills, as examples, later in life but because they need to know what it feels like to be nervous and scared but then to go on and succeed – in whatever of life’s pursuit. So I take my hat off to all boys who competed, from the water to the war cries and thank them for contributing so positively to life here at TAS. And, as Housemaster of the day boys, it was a fitting post script to the day that Broughton took the trophies home; it was a like seeing an old family friend after many years apart!

For those with a few spare minutes and access to the internet, perhaps browse this clip of John Landy racing Ron Clarke, two of Australia’s greatest middle distance runners racing in 1956.

I like to think we saw last week similar respect for fellow competitors, similar grit and, in so many cases, a healthy perspective on what sport should be about.

View Video

Mr Barney Buntine
Director of Pastoral Care
HSC Tutoring

HSC tutoring is available for TAS students. This is a free service for our students.

In previous years students have found these weekly tutoring sessions to be very valuable in their preparation for HSC exams.

Mrs Wark is currently working towards finding HSC tutors in other subjects and you will be informed when these are available.

HSC Tutoring weekly program

Monday
Mr John Galvin – Room – C1-1
7pm - Maths General
8pm - Maths 2U

Tuesday
Mr Kel Hardingham– Room – S0-1
7pm - Biology
8pm - Chemistry

Wednesday
Ms Tamminga – Room LA0-1
7.15pm – French Continuers

Mr Taylor – PDHPE Classroom
7.15pm – PDHPE

Mr John Galvin – Room C1-1
8pm - Maths Extension

Thursday
Mrs Edith Wright – Room F1-1
7pm - English Advanced
8pm - English Extension
Korea

On 21 January three students, KB Fergusson, Liam Cooper and myself set off for Round Square Conference in Seoul, Korea. We moved to our accommodation at the Cheongshim Youth Academy, one of the largest in all Korea. For the Pre-Conference we went snowboarding, bruising ourselves horribly and generally having a great time. By the end of the three days we had made many new friends.

The next part of the trip was sightseeing and cultural immersion. Over the next three days we went to a number of different cultural sites such as the old palace in the heart of Seoul, Namsam tower, which overlooks all of the city and many different shopping districts such as Insadong and Gyeoynbok. Perhaps one of the most interesting experiences of the trip was going to the De-Militarised zone, which marks the border between South and North Korea. We had our own perspectives on North Korea, then we saw it for ourselves, and finally we were presented with a new concept, one that actively challenged our prior thoughts of a hellish country.

We then moved to Conference where the theme of the conference was “Building Bridges Beyond Borders” and already this had been shown throughout the conference by the friendship of the delegates. The actual conference consisted of four speakers talking about 4 influential leaders for world peace- Ghandi, Dr Moon, Mandela and Kurt Hahn. After each speech we split into Baraza groups to discuss the ideals and values behind each leader. After all four speeches, we wrote a resolution, which was then presented to everyone. This resolution was summed up by one delegate when they said “think globally, act locally”.

The whole trip was amazing we formed friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime. The next international conference is in Singapore in October and I encourage everyone to think about going. Thanks must go to Cheongshim School for hosting us and showing us around Korea, Mr Moore and Mr Slade for looking after us even after a long day when they were just as tired as us and finally to Mrs Barnier and Mr Guest for providing us with this amazing opportunity.

Hadrian Wright, KB Fergusson and Liam Cooper (Year12)
There has been a change in the Careers structure within the school in 2015. With Mr Lincoln’s departure, I have been appointed as Careers Advisor for 2015. It has taken a little while to acclimatise to the new position but I wish to take this opportunity to make you aware of some of the programs we have in place for this year.

Firstly, Year 10 receive a period a cycle to discuss and examine career directions and choices. This will culminate in subject selection for Year 11 in Term 3. We are planning to take the whole year group to the Tamworth Careers Expo later in the year. (Date yet to be finalised).

On a similar vain, both Year 11 and 12 will be travelling to Sydney to attend the Sydney Careers Expo at Moore Park on the 27-29 May. This is fabulous opportunity to wander the displays, talk to the universities and industry representatives as well as attending HSC seminars on the day. This will be just after they have completed their mid year exams. We will attempt to complete ATAR calculations (year 12 priority) in order to assist students in gaining an understanding of pathways available. Along with the visit, there will be a tour of either Sydney University and/or University of NSW.

Prior to the Sydney trip, I will be working with the Year 11 & 12 on aptitude testing and examining career options on the planned activities days. The aim of which is to start clarifying what can be a very confusing process and time.

One of the major changes to my duties is looking after the Stage 6 change of subject and ATAR predictions. This is so I can give accurate careers advice based on the student’s actual performance. This is best achieved after exam periods when the information is most current. The next exam period for the Stage 6 students is week 2 of Term 2. Advice is still freely available and I would encourage students to make an appointment if they have concerns about subject performances. The school offers a wide range of support programs for all our senior students of which they may or may not be fully aware.

There is a constant flow of information which comes across my desk about career opportunities which is extremely difficult to disseminate to the students, so I will be posting most of the information on the Careers page (Careers News) on the school website. I would encourage both parents and students to check the page on a regular basis to scan for any relevant change or opportunities. Some items that might be of interest to you that are on the careers webpage are:

- Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number program
- UMAT applications for 2015
- St. Andrews Scholarships and Bursaries for 2016
- TSFX HSC Seminar days
- Professional Cadetships Australia – Cadetships in Business and Engineering & Technology

Mr Mark Taylor
Careers Advisor

---

The Rotary Club of

Applications are now being sought from eligible high school students to apply for a long-term overseas youth exchange.

Applicants need to be 15 years of age and no older than 17 years & 6 months at time of departure 16th January 2016.

Application forms are available from

www.rotaryyouthexchange9650.com.au

Applications close 15th May 2015
TAS is a recognised leader in its use of social media to engage with our parent community, Old Boys, and many others in the wider world who are keen to know what is happening here.

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

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

And join our network at Linkedin by searching for ‘TAS The Armidale School’.

As the process of co-education consultation continues with sessions underway from today beyond Armidale to the wider region, please find some important links for your reference and information.

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

If you are unable to attend a consultation session you can view the Armidale presentation by selecting the link below.

View Video Presentation

Co-education Consultation

There are still a number of copies of The Armidalian 2013 that were not collected by families at last year’s Junior School and Senior School Speech Days. One copy is available for every family with a child at the school last year. The Armidalian is the official magazine of the school and a record of the breadth of school life. If you have yet to receive yours, copies are available for collection from the main school Reception. Otherwise, please email reception@as.edu.au or call Mrs Veronica Lucas on 6776 5800 to enable the eldest of your children at school to collect your family copy.

View Research Paper by Headmaster, Murray Guest
LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND ADVENTURE

KOKODA TRACK EXPEDITION 2015

Courage, Endurance, Mateship, Sacrifice.

Carved into four black granite pillars that form the Isavuru Memorial to Australian and Papua New Guineans who served and died on the Kokoda Track in 1942, the words represent the qualities of those who gave so much in the Second World War. They also reflect the personal stories of fathers and sons (and at times, mothers and sisters) from The Armidale School, which on five occasions has organised an expedition to walk the famous trail.

Combining personal challenge and respect for service, TAS first organised an expedition in 1997 to mark the centenary of the school’s Cadet Unit, and it was completed by 32 cadets. The last trip was in 2011.

Accompanied by local guides, each day’s outing starts with a briefing about the withdrawal and attack of Australian troops, and at certain points, a closer examination of the positions taken by the Australians and the Japanese during conflict.

Along the way, tribute is paid to those who had lost their lives; as part of their preparation, each TAS boy has to research a soldier who served.

While the significance of the expedition as commemoration to those who served and sacrificed has remained, it has also evolved to include the TAS family more broadly and it has become particularly popular with parents and their sons or daughters.

The Kokoda expedition has stood the test of time at TAS because boys still crave great adventure today as much as they ever have, but nothing compares to the real thing.

Need A Challenge In Your Life?

Walk the Kokoda Track where Australian soldiers fought the invading Japanese in 1942.

DATES
September holidays 2015 (Dates TBA)
20 positions are available for Year 10 and 11 students, parents and staff of TAS, PLC and NEGS.

To find out more you are invited to attend an information evening at the McConville Centre on 3 March at 7.00pm.

CONTACT
Mr Mark Taylor Ph 0428 726 362 or email mtaylor@as.edu.au
Abbott House bent and swayed in perfect harmony to claim victory in the War Cry Competition last Thursday evening. Their exuberance after the announcement was not only celebrating the win, it was celebrating each other; their house and their unity. The victory was the manifestation of hours of practice; time spent working together, encouraging and supporting each other. This display could only be bettered by all six houses spontaneously embracing and belting out ‘To the Old Boys.’ This time they were celebrating TAS! Abbott’s win had become a shared victory and their pride in their school was palpable.

When Friday’s overall point score came down to the narrowest of margins, there was no sense of superiority. The record books will show a Broughton House victory but the sense of fulfillment spread across the pool deck to other houses who had strived to compete, to parents and friends who had cheered them on and to staff whose encouragement and dedication made it all possible.

Our Rowers rolled on to State Championships in Sydney where all crews achieved a personal best time with our first and second IV finishing within one second of each other on two occasions. All crews, coaches, staff and parents celebrated together. It was not about their position but more the recognition of how far they have come together. There is still progress to be made and the boys have their sites firmly set on the Head of the River on the 7 March.
**Mountain Biking**

This weeks round of the summer series mountain bike race was held at the Armidale Pineforest (Piney). The track was approximately 2km long and consisted of a leg and lung busting climb, followed by a technical decent before winding back to the start. The boys did very well with their 3 - 4 laps of the track being tested both in physical fitness and bike handling ability. Again all the boys rode exceptionally and were impressive not only with their riding ability but also with their mental strength to push through the pain and continue riding for the full amount of allocated time. Their results can be found here: [http://www.nemtb.com.au/results](http://www.nemtb.com.au/results). Thanks to the parents who came to support their sons and who volunteered with the track marshalling.

Next week’s race will be held at Kookaburra Crest.

---

**Socials**

The first of the 2015 socials will be held on Friday 27 February. Years 6, 7 & 8 will be hosted at NEGS and the Year 9 & 10 students hosted here at TAS.

Middle School Socials are from 7pm until 9pm with all students leaving from TAS and being picked up from TAS. Year 9 and 10 socials are from 7pm until 10pm. All students must be neatly dressed with collared shirts, no thongs, no singlets.

All socials cost $5 which will be charged to your son’s account. Any monies left over once costs are covered will go to the SRC and their fund raising projects for 2015. Students in Years 9 and 10, who wish to attend will be asked to register their name after assembly on Tuesday next week 17 February. Middle School students’ names will be collected during homeroom periods.

---

Mrs Jo Benham
MIC Mountain Biking
This week we commenced auditions for Treasure Island, The Musical with students in Years 6 - 9 trying out for the role of the main protagonist, Jim Hawkins. On Saturday are the general cast auditions, which are open to TAS students in Years 10 - 12, Old Boys, staff, parents and family. If you are interested in auditioning, or would like more information on the show, please go to the Hoskins website and visit the Treasure Island Audition Information page to book an audition time and get a copy of the audition materials.

With a month until the curtain goes up for Once Upon a Mattress the intensity of rehearsals is sure to rise. After a number of the cast members came into Hoskins on the weekend to commence painting the set (and, apparently, themselves) the interior of our fairytale castle has started to emerge. Led by Ms Connie Rolfe, our costume team has also continued their hard work of mending, altering and sewing - again I ask that if there are any talented members of the TAS community who would be interested in giving some time to the show your help would be greatly appreciated and you can contact me to get in touch with our costume team.

As a final note on the school side of things, the Trinity Speech and Drama classes are now in full swing with our new tutor Mr Alex Robson. There are still some sessions available if students are interested in this great program - contact Mrs Sarah Broadbent (sbroadbe@as.edu.au) for more information.

Of course, the Hoskins Centre operates as more than a school building with a number of professional touring performances, concerts, exhibitions and presentations visiting us throughout the year. The last of the touring show dates are being confirmed and so our Season 2015 lineup is being finalised for a launch over the coming weeks. I encourage you to keep your eyes open for more information on Season 2015 as there are some exciting acclaimed productions, nationally-recognised musicians and headline groups visiting us this year that will be must-see events.

Mr Andrew O’Connell
Creative Arts Co-ordinator
THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL PRESENTS
the hilarious Broadway hit musical comedy

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

In association with NEGS and PLC

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
Our two new TAS String Ensembles got off to a fantastic start last week with Mr Robert Jackson taking the TAS Camerata and Ms Laura Curotta directing our younger string players in the TAS Junior String Ensemble. All TAS string players are welcome to attend and there will some exciting performance opportunities for our students as the year progresses.

Boarders’ Practice - a message to students

By completing regular practice you are more likely to realise your musical potential and improve the performance outcomes on your instrument. The Music Department is committed to supporting you through this process by providing supervised practice times in the Music Centre at TAS. It is recommended that you will organise at least three 30-minute sessions across the week. During your practice sessions you will need to work on achieving the practice objectives set by your instrumental tutor as a priority. It is a good idea that you bring your practice book with you so the Boarders’ Practice Supervisor can assist you.

For your convenience, the Music Centre will be open at the following times:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings: 8am - 8.30am
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings: 6pm - 7pm and 8pm - 9pm
Saturday and Sunday: 3pm - 5pm.

During these times a Boarders’ Practice Supervisor will be in attendance in the Music Centre to assist students and oversee sessions. In order to keep track of student attendance you will be required to see the Supervisor and sign in and sign out of each session.

It is expected that you will always treat the music department facilities with care and Boarding House staff will be notified of any issues with students.

We hope you view your time in the Music Centre positively and enjoy your musical experiences at TAS.

Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) Workshop

A string workshop conducted by the Australian Chamber Orchestra will be held at the New England Conservatorium in Mossman Street, Armidale on Thursday 14 May from 1:00 – 4:00pm.

The workshop is recommended for string students of Grade 4 AMEB/Trinity level and above. The workshop is FREE OF CHARGE and students will form a string orchestra with the ACO musicians leading each section. Don’t miss this fabulous opportunity. Please apply to NECOM by Wednesday 1 April.

To find out more click on the links below.

[ACO String Workshop Information](#)
[ACO Application Form](#)

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher and Mrs Broadbent
Steady as she goes

Well, Week 3 is ‘done’ and, considering this is a term of ‘firsts’ for so many Middle School boys, we’re managing reasonably well. New classes, teachers, sporting teams combine with Chapel, Assembly and Day and Boarding Houses to make for a time of not inconsiderable adjustment. Perhaps the most important aspect of your sons’ time at TAS at the moment is the fact that they’re busy. The boys, especially boarding students, continue to experience their weekend activities and all are making preparations for the next part of the term, importantly, after having seen you at the swimming carnival.

Despite the conventional wisdom associated with keeping all new and returning students gainfully employed it would be supremely naïve to think that none is missing home. While their reactions are as various as their individuality, missing home is natural and considering this feeling is an affirmation of ‘things familiar’ and people they know well and trust, it is, as I’ve indicated, actually a very normal reaction and something we expect. While some boys may not realize it, in a sense it’s important for us, as adults, to realize that in order for the boys to express concerns here, they feel comfortable enough at school to actually do this. To their very real credit the boarding staff have been tremendously busy and supportive: I went to Prep last week to find that all, including Mr Andrew Junge, were on duty, assisting with Maths and the wider Humanities and, perhaps more importantly at this stage of the year, just talking to the boys about their day. The Year 8 boys, too, deserve special mention: they’ve shown the new boys how to manage general house routine, are knowledgeable, good humored and sensible in terms of advice given to their peers. In short, the signs of a very healthy, successful start to the year are strong and positive.

To ensure success I ask that you, likewise, encourage your sons, ask about the good things that happened in their day and, above all else, reassure them when and where necessary about matters requiring same. I also encourage you, now that most have seen your boys, to let us know of concerns relating to them. Again, I want you to contact us about any concerns you may have, especially at this stage of the year. This is a real partnership thing and we need your input because, as I said during the recent parent information sessions, you know the boys far better than we do and as such you can help us to deal with these issues before they become problems.

Homework

By this stage of the term you’ll have seen or heard about the School’s year-specific Homework Schedules. While it is easy for us to assist boarders with their new study routines during Prep time, it would be a very good idea, I think, for parents of day students to read through the sheet your son has and assist him with the organization of a daily work completion routine. You’ll note that the sheets contain subject-specific colour codes to facilitate such organization. If you have any questions about the process, please contact your son’s Homeroom Teacher who will be able to advise you about the best ways to facilitate the process of homework completion and assignment / assessment preparation. What I like about this initiative is that it gives us opportunity to support and guide the boys to the realization of good study habits over time. This issue would have been a discussion point at the recent information sessions and its success is dependent on mutually supportive communications between us. The schedule is reasonable in terms of time allocations for all subjects and sensitive to the needs and interests of younger students in that, very pleasing for a teacher of English, there is provision for reading time, especially at the end of each week. This latter point was made very clear I’m pleased to say during the Year 6 information night last Friday. Mr Andrew Junge has even organized an hour each Sunday as ‘quiet time’ so boys can continue with or complete their work.
Social

The first Social for Years 6, 7 and 8 for 2015 will be hosted by NEGS and will be held on Friday, 27 February after Activities Day. Boys will need to be at the front of TAS (near the Memorial Hall) at 6:45pm for roll call. The bus will then drop the boys back to school at 9pm. Parents please be prompt to collect your son. It’s important to note that boys, including day boys, will be expected to take the bus to and from NEGS, unless parents send a letter to me well in advance indicating otherwise. The cost of the Social will be charged to your school account.

Mr Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School

HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL, IAN LLOYD

House Leadership

After very successful swimming championships, our newly elected House Leaders are settling into their roles admirably. As the year progresses, each House will be encouraged through this structure and the SRC to propose ideas for discussion and begin to learn about the nature of contributing to their community. The House leaders will be attending a Leadership Forum in Armidale and this will be a fantastic opportunity for them to learn more about the challenges of leadership. Through the forum of the SRC and ongoing opportunities for School projects, we will be continuing to work with every student to provide opportunities to contribute responsibly to their school community and beyond.

Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School

At the end of this section of TAS Talks, you will find a report (along with a number of photos from the trip) from two of our students, Ben Rowe and Isaac Gerdes who travelled last year to Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School in Japan. As you will read, the students had an absolutely unforgettable experience and we are very excited about the prospect of this exchange continuing this year as TEZ return to us in Term 3.

While the dates are yet to be confirmed by the new Tezukayama School Executive they are pencilled in for August 18 – 24. We are asking for families who are in a position to billet students to consider doing so, thereby enabling this exchange to continue to provide this wonderful opportunity to all those involved.

The benefits for the students are enormous. The families who have been able to billet in the past speak very highly of both the students they billet and the cultural experience for themselves and their families.

The girls and boys range in age from 9 – 12 and while some prefer to be billeted in pairs, many do not. Either way, this is an opportunity to engage with some wonderful children from another country and an excellent way to reciprocate the generosity we continually experience when we travel to Japan.
A range of classroom, cultural, sporting and extra curricular activities will occur throughout the week but every effort will be made for the normal school routine to be followed to accommodate travel to and from school and other family commitments.

Many details will emerge as the program develops but in the meantime, please email me at junior@as.edu.au if you can billet, or if you have further questions about this fantastic opportunity.

**Sport**

A comprehensive record of results is included in this week’s edition of TAS Talks and I would like to congratulate all those swimmers who were successful on the day, and those who will be heading away on representatives honours to PSSA and beyond. Representing your school is a wonderfully enriching experience for many reasons and we wish you well. However, having a carnival that focuses on participation (as does our Senior School carnival) means that every child has an opportunity to take part and do their best. There is nothing more important than striving for success, whether it be achieving a personal best or simply taking up a challenge for the first time. Again, thanks to Mrs Christine Wright for all her work with the organisation of our carnivals and the ongoing preparation for our winter season.

There is much information relating to sport attached below and I invite you to read it carefully and forward any questions you have through junior@as.edu.au.

**Traffic Safety**

It is always important to focus on the dangers of cars and delivering and collecting children from school. Whether private or public transport, pedestrian or pushbike the safety our all children is paramount. Again, I appeal to parents to use care and patience and assist whenever possible with both the morning and afternoon drop off and collection points. Please contact me if you see a need, as a number of concerned parents have, and we will continue to work together focus on this very important time of the day for our kids.

**Consent Form**

In 2015, we have again adopted the process for local excursions of having a generic form to complete. Please complete this form and return the school as early as possible.

The Consent Form was sent electronically yesterday and if you did not receive the email please contact the school. Copies have also been organised to download from the parent portal at the Junior School website.

**Looking ahead**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18 February</td>
<td>Year 3 Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19 February</td>
<td>PSSA Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 23 February</td>
<td>TAS Scholarship AND Information Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25 February</td>
<td>Year 2 Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27 February</td>
<td>Activities Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Armidale Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 28 February</td>
<td>Armidale Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 2 March</td>
<td>NCIS Swimmer depart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3 March</td>
<td>NCIS Swimming in Ballina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4 March</td>
<td>Year 1 Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 March</td>
<td>Sharing Culture Performance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

**Armidale Show – 27 & 28 February**

The Armidale Show is open for entries in many categories this year. This wonderful local event relies so much on the community for its future.
While some classes will use this opportunity to include some classwork where they can, please encourage your children to enter into the ‘children’s work’ section of the Armidale Show this year or any other category that takes their fancy. For entry forms and further information please the Armidale Show website. Good luck to all who enter.

Happy Birthday
This week we wish a very happy birthday to Ruby Straker & Conal Nicoll.

Chess Club
Our Chees Club is open to all Junior School and Middle School students. We meet every Monday from 8:05 to 8:40 am. Come one, come all!

Mrs Anne Hine

Lost Property
Would parents please check names on your child’s belongings to see if any items have arrived at your home that do not belong there. If you locate any items that do not belong where they are found, please return them to Reception.

Major results from the day:

6 Years
Runner Up: Sam Ford
Champions: Joe Fenwicke, Sophia White

7 Years
Runner Up: Mitchell Evans
Champions: Charlie Ryan, Peyton Slade

8 Years
Runner Up: Joel Blackburn, Millie Coupland
Champions: Iles Baker, Scarlett Buntine

9 Years
Runner Up: Abbott White
Champion: Tom Ball

10 Years
Runner Up: Hugh Taylor, Poppy Broun
Champions: Will Nash, Ruby Straker

11 Years
Runner Up: Frank Perrottet
Champions: Sam Ball, Isabel Newton

12 Years
Champion: Casey Smith

Division Results:

Sub-Junior
Champion: Charlie Ryan, Sophia White
Runners Up: Joe Fenwicke, Peyton Slade

Junior
Champion: Tom Ball, Ruby Straker
Runners Up: Will Nash, Poppy Broun

Senior
Champion: Sam Ball, Isabel Newton
Runner Up: Alexander Zuber

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT
A huge thank you to all those involved in our recent Swimming Championships. The children had a wonderful day and enjoyed being involved in the many activities from war cries to races to novelty events. It was encouraging to see our Year 5 leaders taking their roles responsibly and encouraging their younger teammates.
Macready Cup Winner (Highest Point Score-Boy)
Tom Ball

Rofeta Cup Winner (Highest Point Score- Girl)
Ruby Straker

Winning House: Ross

PSSA Team – Thursday, 19th February in Armidale

Congratulations to the following children who have been selected for the PSSA carnival on Thursday, 19 February. Please ensure you return your permission note to Mrs Wright before the event. Please see permission note for more details. $4 entry fee in cash on the day please. $2 for spectators.

Scarlett Buntine
Banjo Lawrence
Iles Baker
Joel Blackburn
Abbott White
Lochlan Gerdes
Tom Ball
Will Nash
Peter Evans
Hugh Taylor
Oliver Smart
Beatrice Henzell
Poppy Broun
Ruby Straker
Isabel Newton
Alexander Zuber
Sam Ball
Frank Perrottet
Ben Rowe
Casey Smith

Year 6 Boys
Joseph Anderson
Sam Skipper
Hamish Chalmers
John McGregor-Thew
Archie Chick

NCIS Swimming Carnival – Tuesday, 3 March in Lismore

More details and team to be in next weeks TAS Talks.

General Information about Junior School Winter Sports -Terms 2 & 3

Junior School Policy re Participation in Sport

All students in Year 3 and above are to participate in a TAS sport. Students in Year 2 and below are encouraged to participate also. If students in Year 2 or below do participate, they must commit to the sport (including training sessions) for the season. During the winter terms, students will train once per week in each sport. For winter, training will be on Monday afternoons from 3:45 – 5:00 pm for most sports. Students provide their own sports clothes, footwear, mouth guards and shin pads. Registration and competition fees will apply to all sports and will be debited to parents’ accounts.

Sports offered

Football: Children will play in the Armidale Junior competition which includes a game on Saturday mornings during ‘state school’ term time. Games will mainly be in Armidale but will also usually include games in Walcha, Uralla and Guyra for each team. There is an all-day Sunday carnival held in Armidale, which TAS teams may compete in. The competition will be run using Small Sided Game (SSG) rules, ie U6s will have 4-a-side on the pitch; U7s & U8s, 5-a-side; U9s, 7-a-side; U10s, 9-a-side; U12s, 11-a-side. Registration fees will be approximately: $100 (U7s & U8s); $105 (U10s); $110 (U12s). TAS provides balls and training aids. Shin guards are compulsory. Training will be on Mondays.

Netball: Both boys and girls can choose this sport. Training will be at TAS on Monday afternoons. Games will be on Saturdays, normally at 12:30pm, on the Lynches Road netball courts.

NetSetGo - for players turning 7 yrs before 31 December 2015 - 8 week program held on Saturdays at 12noon commencing in Term2. This is a skilled base program to introduce the children to netball. Registration cost – approx. $40

Netta - for players turning 8 or 9 years before 31st December 2015. Emphasis is on participation, trying out learned skills, the learning of new skills and sharing the play with others in the team. The rules are modified. Registration cost – approx. $90

Primary Netball - Junior - players must be turning 10 to 12 yrs by 31 December, 2015. Competition games are held at Lynches Road Courts commencing in late March at either 12 noon or 1:20 timeslots. Full 15 min quarters are played. Registration cost - $100

Hockey: Is divided into two ‘age’ groups, U9 and U11. Children must provide their own hockey stick but balls and training aids are provided by TAS.

The U9 competition involves a format at UNE on Saturday mornings. The players will play a modified quarter field game. Cost, approx. $45. Training will be on WEDNESDAYS at UNE between 4 and 5pm. A bus will take and return students to this training.
The U11 competition will be held at the UNE synthetic pitches (full-field) on Friday afternoons. The children train at the UNE pitch on Wednesday afternoons. Competition fees, registration fees and UNE pitch fees are estimated to be about $130 for the season. Training will be on WEDNESDAYS at UNE between 4 and 5pm.

Rugby (Year 5 only) Students will join with boys from TAS Year 6 to form the TAS Primary School teams, which will play in the Armidale Primary Schools’ competition. The competition this year will most likely be on Wednesday evenings toward the end of Term 2 and for the first part of Term 3. Fees for this are minimal, if any. Additionally a TAS primary team squad, consisting of 20 players, will play in the 15-a-side TAS Rugby Carnival to be held at TAS in April. Boys will be expected to train throughout Term 1 for this carnival. (Boys must have turned 11 years of age by 17 April to be eligible for selection in this Carnival squad). Training during winter will be on Monday afternoons and games on Wednesdays. If games have not commenced training will be held on Wednesdays also. Boys must wear a mouth guard and must have personal accident insurance through the School’s insurer. There are also costs incurred as the season progresses.

Year 4 boys may like to attend one training only but will not be permitted to play the games on Wednesdays.

Parents are encouraged to be involved in our TAS sports program. If you are keen and have some spare time to help coach a team, please inform Mrs Christine Wright by email: cwright@as.edu.au

Children will be making their choices next week, in Week 5.

**Basketball**

**Miniball TAS Blue**

Well the Miniball season is well and truly underway. TAS Blue has had a super start to the term with a number of balls finding the basket against PLC. It was lovely to witness the sportsmanship and friendship that our TAS students share with the PLC students and the game was played with fun and laughter. This week a special mention should to go to Emily Buntine as she played with determination and strength. Also another special mention needs go to Poppy Broun as she has made some considerable improvements since last season. A reminder to all players to have a water bottle at both training on Wednesdays and Monday games as the weather is warm and we need to keep ourselves well hydrated. Well done to all players and I look forward to another productive training session this Wednesday.

Ms Tabitha Dowse

**TAS Red VS PLC**

It was a thrilling start to the basketball season for TAS Red who played against PLC last Monday. The boys were comfortable on the court, spreading out and displaying beautiful teamwork. We saw fancy footwork from Jude Piper, long passes and great goal shooting from Jack van Roy and terrific defense work from Fletcher Jackson. Joseph Anderson was fast on the court, making sure that he was down at the goal at the appropriate times. Josiah Alcorn impressed us with his long spider fingers when defending. All boys scored goals and the sensational final score was 32/6.

What a way to start the season. Well-done boys!

Mrs Lana Hawksford

**TAS White**

TAS white played its first game of the term on Monday against Townies in the 3/4 competition. Although a little shell shocked initially, the Whites were trying hard with some good ball movement into the first half. After already having played a game previously, Oliver Smart was not showing any signs of tiring as he led the guards of Alex Webber and Flynn Broadfoot into some energetic contests at both ends of the court. The team were passing valiently but were letting themselves down with inconsistent catching and defensive marking. After the halftime break the boys were noticeably more aggressive in attack and defense, rarely surrendering the ball. Michael Janda was positioning himself for better involvement and Jonathan Harris heeded the coach’s advice perfectly, showing greater confidence and commitment to use his height and speed for the benefit of the team. Despite being unlucky to get fouled off late in the game, Flynn Broadfoot was solo scorer for the Whites as they went down to a skilful opposition 27-2.

Mr Alex Portell

**Gymnastics Report Week 4**

The gymnastics session started with a very active warm up circuit. The children energetically rotated through handstands on spots, forward roles on foam wedges, bar swings and balancing on the beams.

Following the warm ups the following rotations were completed:

- **Group 1**- Swing-bars swings & rings swings
- **Group 2**- Rotation- forward rolls and tight body activities
- **Group3**- Statics- handstands and bar hang sequence

Once again, the improvements made are highly visible and all are commended for meeting new challenges with positive attitudes.

Mrs Veronica Waters
A closer look at PYP in Year 5

Over the next few weeks there will be an opportunity to take a closer look at what is happening within each of the JS classrooms.

This week will focus on Year 5 who are currently working under the Transdisciplinary Theme: Where we Are in Place and Time, exploring the Central Idea: Human migration is a response to challenges, risks and opportunities.

Year 5 have been learning many skills throughout the past four weeks. The main one being learning to work collaboratively and to appreciate different perspectives.

Students will explore the following lines of inquiry, which will define the scope of inquiry into the central idea:

• Causes and effects of migration on geography, communities, cultures and individuals
• Relationship between migration and sustainability
• Human migration throughout history

Mrs Veronica Waters
PYP Coordinator

Harrison Price, Hudson Eichorn and Benjamin Rowe fully engaged in a discussion about the effects migration has had on the sustainability of the Australian environment.
My Journey
By Isaac Gerdes

We left Armidale on the 6th December 2014 and flew to Sydney. While waiting for our international flight to Osaka via China, Mr Moore and Mr Druce took us to a sushi train restaurant in Sydney. We boarded our flight at about 10pm, changed planes in China and arrived in Osaka on Sunday afternoon.

I met my host family at Osaka airport. My two host sisters were very excited. So excited that one of them got lost in the shops that afternoon. Thankfully we found her again.

My 6-year-old host sister and I travelled by train by ourselves to school and home again each day. Tezukayama Gaukin Elementary School is much bigger than TAS. While at TEZ we took part in maths, music, origami and a sport’s lessons. My favourite lesson was judo.

Two things that I thought were special during my excursion was a ride on the bullet train and visiting the golden temple. My favourite thing was touching the lions at Osaka Zoo. My host family took me there the morning before we left.

I was very excited to be back home with my family, but I also enjoyed my experience and the cool things we did.

Japan Speech
By Ben Rowe

Konichiwa. My name is Ben.

In December 2014 I went with a group of boys from TAS to visit Tezakeyama in Osaka, Japan with Mr Moore and Mr Druce.

I stayed with the Kiriyama Family. The family consisted of a father and a mother with three children, two girls and one boy. The 10-year-old girl’s name was Sae and she spoke some English, which made it easier for me to understand. Then there was a 16-year-old boy called Shohei who was quite shy and an 18-year-old girl called Mai who spoke very good English and who had been to TAS on an excursion.

My bedroom was very small and my bed consisted of 12 square milk crates, a mattress, a couple of sheets and a dooner, which kept me really warm.

On the way to school I had to catch the train, which was really different. (As you guys might catch the bus or get driven to school) I stopped at three different stations before I got to school.

When we arrived at TEZ we had to put on special shoes to wear inside. When we went outside it was really fun because they had an awesome play ground, which on one part you had to climb up or climb down using rope.

Indoors there were many rooms on four floors for lots of subjects. All of the TAS students had a room to share at school, to put our stuff in, write in our diaries and chat.

My favourite class was calligraphy (a Japanese writing style) because it was an amazing and delicate form of writing. There was a pamphlet of calligraphy words, such as love, amazing, wonderful, and so on.

So that’s why calligraphy is my favourite Japanese subject.

When the group and I went to Kyoto we had to catch a 15 to 20 minute bullet train to get there. It didn’t feel like it was going at least 250km per hour. At Kyoto we went to the majestic golden temple.

When we were checking out all the areas we came across quite a lot of wishing shrines. I threw a coin and hit one of the stones.

Then we went to a samurai film set which was really wacky. We went in lots of fun game rooms and bought lots of ice-cream. Then we watched a fighting show, with samurais and their awesome swords. It was really cool.

That night we stayed at a traditional Japanese youth hostel. We had a traditional bath. It was really warm. Then we had a delicious dinner. That night we slept on futons.

In the morning we went to a bamboo forest that was really spectacular. The bamboo stood about 10 metres high. After that we headed back to Osaka.

In conclusion, I think if you have the opportunity to go with our school to Japan, you should do so, as it is an incredible life changing journey, which I loved.
Join Heath Grundy and Alex Johnson* from the Sydney Swans for a **FREE** Auskick Community Clinic

**WHO:** 5 – 12 year olds  
**WHEN:** MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2015  
**TIME:** 4.00 PM – 5.30 PM  
**WHERE:** BELLEVUE OVAL  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND,  
(Enter cnr Handel St & Meredith Rd)

**ENQUIRIES:** Rachel Thorsen 0400 663 071  
David Thorsen 0413 407 242
New England Junior Rugby – 2015
Country Rugby Championships
Information

• **Training day:** 22 February, 2015 from 3-6pm. BBQ to follow. (Ages 12, 13 & 14's)
• **Training day:** 1 March, 2015 from 3-6pm. BBQ to follow. (All ages 12s to 17s).
• **Training day:** 22 March, 2015 from 3-6pm. BBQ 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.
• **Training day:** 17 May, 2015 from 3-6pm. BBQ to follow. All ages.
• **Country Champs** (12,13 &14's in Armidale) 23 & 24 May 2015..
• **Country Champs** (15s in Mudgee 16 & 17's Concord Oval Sydney) 6 – 8 June 2015.
• **NB.** All training days and BBQ's will be held at Concett Davis playing fields at Sports UNE.
• **Follow us on facebook:**
• **More players wanted.** Come along to the training day and register.
MISSING ITEMS

The following boys have misplaced these items. If found can you please drop to Reception so the boys can be notified.

BLAZERS
Connor Shaw
Brendan Power
Nav Higgins

AKUBRAS
Duncan Chalmers
Michael Paull
PJ Woodburn

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 Mr Chris Doherty on 0414 984 378 or visit the TAS website.

Visual Arts Classes - TAS Junior School Term 1-4 2015

Years: 1-2 Tuesdays 1-2pm
Years: 3-5 Thursdays 1-2pm
Teacher: Mrs Ingrid Evans (B.art.ed)
Term 1 Lessons Start: Week 2 and finish in Week 9

Private Visual Arts Classes for Infants and Primary aged students will be available in the TAS Junior School during 2015.

Classes will provide students with fun, thematic, 'hands on' 2D, age appropriate art making experiences, based on the study of artists and the use of a variety of art materials and techniques.

Students will predominantly work in a sketchbook learning skills that will lead to the production of thematic artworks.

Students will need to commit to a term of lessons for 8 weeks. A fee of $100 will be payable at the beginning of each term. Classes will have limited numbers.

Please contact Ingrid Evans for more details nickgrid@bigpond.com or 0428 966 842.