HEADMASTER, MURRAY GUEST

Excursion Week

Excursion week is one of the important junctures in the school year and I have been very pleased to hear the reports of successful trips last week. Year 6 were billeted with families from Mosman Prep, Year 7 camped in the wilds of Buccarumbi near Nymboida, Year 8 had a cultural week in Sydney, Year 9 studied Science at Coffs Harbour and Yarrahapinni and Year 10 headed to Canberra for an HSIE based exploration of our capital. It is easy to see that each excursion is very different in nature, but perhaps less obvious that, together, they cover a good deal of curriculum. Without the enthusiasm and generosity of our staff, none of this would be possible and I offer thanks to the many who were away from home last week with our students.

Country Tour

The annual country tour to conduct interviews with prospective families continues and we have been very encouraged by the strong interest in the School that we are seeing. The tour also provides the opportunity to meet socially with our current TAS families in their territory and that is always a privilege. I particularly thank Linda and Glenn Bourke who hosted us in Moree, Kerry and Colin Moore who hosted us in Inverell and past parents Paul and Lexie Morrison who hosted us at their hotel in Gunnedah. The privilege of coming together in the homes of TAS families really makes the experience and it is greatly appreciated.

P&F Tonight

The Term 2 P&F meeting is traditionally the time that funding decisions are made for the year and those who are able to be at the meeting tonight will have plenty to consider. Applications for P&F funding are generally made for capital items that will bring direct benefits to our students and curricular or co-curricular programs, but would not be expected to be part of regular school budgets.

Last year the funding contributed to excursions, the rugby tour, Binghi, library seating, the new marquee, new change rooms underneath the Memorial Hall, and a radio for the medical centre waiting room. The meeting tonight will consider a similarly eclectic wish list, including a laser cutter, kayaks, a bike trailer, permanent bins for the quadrangle and hockey goals. I look forward to the discussion and hope that a good number of parents will be able to join it.

GPS Athletics

I am sure that all in the TAS community will join me in wishing our athletes the best of luck as they head to Sydney tomorrow for the GPS Championships on Saturday. I am sure that all will be feeling the mix of excitement and trepidation that must come with competition at this elite level in front of such a huge crowd. Whilst results are never certain, I am confident that it will be a wonderful experience for all involved and I wish them well for it.
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS, TERM 2**

**Week 3**

Wednesday 6 May: NCIS Touch Football (Lismore)
P&F Meeting
Parent Liaison Lunch (Big School)

Friday 8 May: PSSA Cross Country

Saturday 9 May: GPS Athletics (Sydney)

**Week 4**

11 - 15 May: Year 12 Metals & Engineering Work Placement

12 - 14 May: NAPLAN

Thursday 14 May: Twilight Concert

Friday 15 May: NCIS Cross Country (Tweed Coast)
NSW Boarding Schools Expo (Dubbo)

Saturday 16 May: Rugby vs Kinross Wolaroi (Coonabarabran)

**Week 5**

19 May - 14 June: Armidale Eisteddfod

21 - 22 May: Year 11 Parent Teacher Interviews
da Vinci Decathlon at Knox, Sydney

Friday 22 May: Board Meeting
5.30pm Foundation Board Meeting

Saturday 23 May: TAS Company Members AGM

23-24 May: Rugby Trial v Riverview in Sydney
(1sts/2nds/16As)
Warwick Prize Shoot
Country Rugby Championships in Armidale (U12, 13, 14)

**Week 6**

19 May -14 June: Armidale Eisteddfod

25-29 May: Years 6, 8 and 10 Half Yearly Exams

27-29 May: Sydney Careers Expo (Year 11/12)

29 May - 2 June: Coonabarabran Horse Expo

Friday 29 May: TAS v Farrer (at Farrer) - Dick Hodgson Shield
NSW Boarding Schools Expo (Goondiwindi)

**Week 7**

19 May - 14 June: Armidale Eisteddfod

1 - 4 June: Years 7 and 9 Half Yearly exams

Thursday 4 June: Classes conclude

Friday 5 June: Staff PD Day

6-8 June: Queens Birthday Holiday (boarding houses closed)

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**SENIOR CASUAL BOARDING**

Currently our Senior Boarding Houses are extremely full and therefore space is limited.

If you require Casual Boarding, please be aware that we may not be able to accommodate in the Senior Boarding Houses.

You will be advised by email from Mrs Veronica Lucas in Reception when your request has been approved.

**FLU VACCINATIONS**

A reminder to Parents of Boarders to please return Flu Vaccination Consent forms as soon as possible.

**ABSENTEES**

Please remember that all absentees must be notified to the school as follows:

Junior School - junior@as.edu.au

Middle School - middle@as.edu.au

Senior School - absentees@as.edu.au

*Please do not notify absentees to your child’s Advisor or Home Room teacher.*
Mercy? Hebrews 10:14-18

On Bob Dylan's album Oh Mercy he has a great song called 'Everything Is Broken', Rolling Stone magazine described it as a rollicking catalog of psychic dislocation.

This is true of our world, where we find things broken, things don't function as they ought to. In a world such as this, there is such a great need for Mercy.

As I travel through life I need others to offer me forgiveness and mercy and of course there will be occasions when I need to have the same attitude to others. If not for mercy and forgiveness where would any of us be?

For two Australians. they where found in front of a firing squad recently. With their pleas for mercy unheard, they paid the ultimate price for their crimes - or did they?

For many commentators, they did, yet I think if they where asked they would not claim such a thing. As they stood in front of the firing squad it was not a picture (as many of the reports would have it) of despair and hopelessness, in fact far from it. Its been well reported that Chan sang Amazing Grace, less well known, but also reported was the fact that he sang Bless The Lord Oh My Soul… 10000 Reasons. He found reason even in the face of death to praise God.

Now that is a strange thing; was he just a masochist, enjoying pain and suffering? Or maybe he held a similar view to Dietrich Bonhoeffer , the famous German theologian executed by the Nazis for his part in a plot to kill Hitler, as he was led away from his cell he is reported to have said, “This is the end ... For me, the beginning of life.” It is the very idea that gave Chan a reason not to utterly despair as he stood facing the dreaded firing squad.

Death seems so final, how can anyone hold that view? It is in the light of the cross of Jesus. God’s punishment promised to human kind is no less drastic than the sentence on Chan and Sukumaran. The literally life changing fact and difference is, that Christ has taken the death sentence for us. There is no need for a repeat, there is no need to be punished twice, if you have accepted God’s offer for forgiveness, like Chan did, the ultimate eternal death that we all face is no longer our reality, only life and rest. So we can say with Chan and the Dickens character Carton, on his way to the gallows in A Tale of Two Cities, “It is a far far better rest that I go to than I have ever known.”

PLEASE NOTE: If you are interested in having your son confirmed by the Bishop please contact Rev. Newton as soon as possible by email rnewton@as.edu.au

We are all familiar with the speed of the media cycle – story replaces story in rapid succession. Out attention is grabbed momentarily with a story and then before we know it, it disappears along with the significant issues that sometimes were present in that moment. The danger is that after a while there is a ‘sensation fatigue’ that sets in and we begin to relate to each new event, often serious and catastrophic, with less and less attention and engagement. Nothing lingers. We respond with superficial comments, cursory judgements and less and less empathy and compassion. Recent research has suggested that community compassion is short lived and as the numbers affected by events increase, felt compassion declines more and more steeply. We are able to have compassion when it relates to profiled individuals but the human face becomes lost in the sheer volume of high numbers.

This has serious implications for our humanity. Becoming all we are capable of becoming requires deeper levels of connection. Lingering with experience, exploring it and developing personal and community meanings from experience, require different processes. What we are fed through the media is often generalised spin, attempts to manufacture shallow and unreflected reactions that feed prejudice, not invitations to think and reflect on important matters of ethics, values, justice, social priorities, and deeper human qualities, that we might like to expand personally and collectively.

The rotation of ‘figure and ground’ happens at such a rate that we are in danger of becoming shaped by glib one-liners, slogans, over-simplifications. We can live our personal and social relationships in similar fashion, unless we take time for reflection and self-awareness. Becoming superficial increases the likelihood of manipulation, loss of balance and mob behaviour. Becoming fully human is a different process.
**Term 2 P&F General Meeting**

Our meeting for Term 2 will also be held on Wednesday 6 May and is a fascinating one to attend as it is the annual funding allocation meeting. If you would like to see just how and where those hard earned funds raised get distributed then please come along to the Lower Maxwell Room at 7pm.

In addition, there will be discussion about future events ideas, and we’d love your input - what are the types of events you would like to participate in as either a fundraising exercise or even simply a social opportunity? If you can’t make it to a meeting, please feel free to email me directly with your thoughts sue_333@me.com

All Parents and Friends of the school are most welcome.

**RazzamaTAS - the fete is back!**

The RazzamaTAS fete is on again in 2015 on Saturday 7 November.

To make an early start we will be holding a brainstorming session on Saturday 9 May 3-5pm and we are looking to develop a sub-committee for the fete. But don’t let that deter you from coming!!!

First and foremost we are looking for your ideas, both old and new, and feedback on years past.

So come along and enjoy an afternoon with friends and help us get started with planning this major fundraiser.

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**STUDENT SERVICES**

To parents and students of the NSW North West,

User-pays TAS minibus service to the North West is being offered on the weekend of 15 - 17 May.

Return only bookings are welcome, however, booking preference will be given to both-way travellers.

Moree via Inverell and Narrabri via Tamworth. The Minibus carries 20 max so seats are limited.

Sisters / friends from PLC and NEG S are welcome as usual, travelling both ways receive booking precedence.

Overflow of students returning to school on Sunday from the south can always be accommodated on the train from Tamworth.

The free train on Sunday might be your best, cost-effective preference in any case, so book through school travel office as usual please.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Mrs Meg Sadler on travel@as.edu.au

Mrs Meg Sadler
NAPLAN

Next week students from Year 3, 5, 7, and 9 will complete the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy tests (NAPLAN).

Tuesday 12 May - Language Conventions and Writing Tests.

Wednesday 13 May - Reading Test.

Thursday 14 May - Numeracy Tests; one test for Years 3 and 5, two tests for Years 7 and 9 (Calculator Allowed followed by Non-Calculator).

Catch up tests will be completed on Friday the 15 May.

NAPLAN is a measure of Literacy and Numeracy skills and knowledge. The best preparation for NAPLAN are regular lessons, as these tests aim to measure core elements of the National Curriculum. It is also important to remember that NAPLAN is just one of many measures we take to ensure our students’ learning is progressing. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Mrs Seonia Wark
Director of Studies

CAREERS

There are two new postings on the Careers webpage. The first is a list of important dates from UNSW with regards to the course selection process. If you have been considering a UNSW course, then please have a look at the flyer attached to the post.

The second is from The Australian College of Applied Psychology. They have sent out a pamphlet explaining the courses on offer at their campus. I am unfamiliar with this particular institution but if you have been considering a career in Psychology and its related fields of Social Health and Welfare, then please download the pamphlet for more information.

Lastly, planning is on track for our visit to the Sydney Careers Expo on the 27 - 28 May. Both Year 11 & 12 will be receiving information about the trip and what they need to do in preparation. This will be the major careers event for these year groups this year and as such should be taken as a great opportunity to seek out the relevant information from the experts in their particular fields. Hopefully, it will help clarify the difficult decision making process that the senior students have to make this year.

Mr Mark Taylor
Careers Advisor
**EXCURSION WEEK**

**Yr 6 Mosman excursion**

Thirty three Year 6 students departed for Sydney to participate in the annual excursion with Mosman Prep School. It is a different type of excursion to previously experienced by our students due to them staying with a billeting family and getting to see the city type of life. All the students agree it is an amazing excursion and all found it fascinating to see how children live in this part of Sydney.

On Tuesday the students walked from Mosman Prep School to Clifton Gardens via the seaside walk which has the most amazing views of the city. Its a constant reminder from the staff to keep moving as they keep wanting to take photos at all of the opportunities! Once we reached Clifton Gardens beach they made sand castles before boarding a Captain Cruise boat to tour around the harbour. A definite highlight was going under the Sydney Harbour Bridge and seeing bridge climb walkers on the very top waving at us all underneath. Another was being able to be at the front of the boat when it dipped in the waves and having a few boys showing off their Titanic skills of leaning on the rails and embracing the spray.

Wednesday saw the fascinating cultural side of the excursion where we headed into the city to see some historical sights. Mr Harrison also joined us for this day and it was terrific to have him along to share the day with the boys. First we headed to State Parliament to be met by Mr Adam Marshall MP. As Parliament was not sitting the boys got to do some fabulous role-plays and acted out trying to get bills passed through the parliament and learnt about the roles of opposition and government officials and what different people get to do once a session sits. Next was a visit to Hyde Park Barracks, which was fascinating and a highlight was getting to experience building a brick wall and fireplace with bricks as they would have done in that period. Lastly we walked to the War Memorial where they had lunch and then headed to the Australian Museum. There was a wonderful exhibition of the top 50 wildlife photographs taken in varying categories which the boys enjoyed. They also enjoyed the various sections we went through.

That night saw Mosman Year 6 boys, TAS Year 6 boys and Queenwood Year 5 and 6 girls come together for a night of dancing - and did some of our boys dance! We have some very interesting videos to share later in the year.

Thursday saw a turn in the weather and we headed to Taronga Zoo with various forms of rain jackets, umbrellas or just tracksuit tops. We were fairly lucky in that it only really rained heavily in one section and the rest was light drizzle. It was wonderful to see the boys making their way around the zoo and discussing animals they had seen after their visit. Most of them got to see the seal show, which was enjoyable, although some in the front row of the audience got a bit wetter than they had planned. Our last joint experience with the Mosman students was a session of life saving at Manly Beach. The boys got to do a variety of relay races in one activity, using different techniques such as dolphin diving, wading and body surfing. The other group was busy learning how to paddle the boards and how to catch waves back into the shore. There were some spectacular falls as some of the boys did nosedives off the waves into the water. What a way to finish a great experience and it was exciting to see some of the boys manage to actually stand on their boards as they caught waves back into the beach.

Friday morning saw many sad faces as we said our farewells. It was a terrific experience to talk to the parents who had billeted the boys and to hear how sad they were to see them leave as they had had such lovely times with them. Its also nice as a teacher to hear the lovely comments we get as we go around to the various activities and speak to people in the shops about the lovely manners and behaviour of the boys.

It was a wonderful experience for all the boys and all are excited about the return visit in November when we welcome Mosman students into TAS homes. We’d like to make a special mention of all the hard work Mr Greg McDonald, Deputy Headmaster and Year 6 teacher at Mosman Prep, does for us in preparation of, and during, the Excursion Week.
Year 8

For Excursion Week Year 8 travelled to Sydney on a long bus trip due to the unfortunate damage to the railway lines by floodwaters. Although it was quicker not many favoured it.

We arrived at Sydney after the bus trip and, after a quick swim, settled in to our accommodation for the night at The Rocks YHA. The next day was Language Day and Year 8 was split into three groups. The groups were French, English Plus and Japanese. All day we learnt and explored the different cultures that Sydney expressed and celebrated. After a long and exciting day Year 8 was surprised by pizza and an amazing view of the city as we sat down and ate dinner at the Observatory looking out on the harbour.

On Wednesday we caught the ferry across the harbour to Cockatoo Island to explore all of its different stages of history including war history, ship making history and many more. It was fun to physically look at the history and connect to the island’s past as it has had a major effect on Sydney’s growth through time. After a quick lunch we went to the Sydney Trapeze School which taught us many new tricks and helped us find our hidden talent. Mr McPherson showed off his trapeze skills in a death defying stunt when he had to jump and was caught by another person while swinging. For dinner we caught a ferry over to Manly and experienced the price of high rent, which equals really expensive food. We then caught a ferry back and walked from Circular Quay back to the YHA.

On the final full day at Sydney it was all about Creative Arts. We went to the Art Gallery of NSW where we viewed and tried to copy some amazing art works into our activity books. After all the enthusiasm that was shown we had lunch with a bit of a chill in the park. We then walked to another art gallery called the Museum of Contemporary Art and saw some amazing modern art which used mainly lights in different formations. Again we worked in our activity books then came back to the YHA to get ready to go to the Capital Theatre to watch Les Miserables. After an amazing performance we went back tiredly to the YHA and went to bed.

On Friday we said our last goodbyes to Sydney as we departed back to the Armidale Station. Relieved and tired we hopped off the train thankfully and went home.

Year 8 would like thank Ms Taber and all the teachers for organising and dealing with us and for planning an experience that we will never forget and will cherish for the rest of our lives.

Hugh McDouall
ANZAC DAY

Congratulations to all boys who marched so proudly in the Armidale ANZAC Day parade.

Pictured are some boys from C Company, looking great in their berets!

Fiona Taber
OIC C Coy
Chase the ball!

I was watching Hockey on the weekend and on a number of occasions the ball would allude the player and go hurtling towards the sideline. Sometimes the player would attempt to chase the ball down and other times they would simply let it go. I accept that there are occasions where the chase is unproductive or futile, however, I am interested in the ‘maybes’; those balls that you probably will never chase down but then again maybe you will. These are the game breakers. They lift a team, not because you manage to retain possession but because people are inspired by your determination and the belief that you can achieve the impossible.

Chase the ball! – You may not win the race to the sideline but you will win respect. What is more, apply this attitude to everything you do and you will accomplish more than you ever believed was possible.

This Saturday 9 May, 28 TAS Athletes will compete at the 120th AAGPS Athletics Championships at Sydney Athletics Centre, Homebush Bay. They will be competing against some of the most talented athletes in the State, if not the Country. They will thrive on the challenge, do their best and never give up.

Gentlemen, Chase your dreams. We are all behind you.

Mr Will Caldwell

U13s Hockey - TAS White vs Tas Blue

On Friday we had the first game of the season for U13 hockey. It was a great first game, with some very cold weather, and some very tired boys returning from Excursion Week not long before the match! There was some great team play from both sides and some outstanding individual efforts from players such as Sam Behrend and Zac Matherson from the Whites, and Cooper Johnson in goals for the Blues, who did some outstanding saves throughout the first half in particular. TAS White eventually got on top with some quicker ball movement and tighter passing, winning 3-1 against TAS Blue. With teams closer to full strength this week, there should be some good opportunity to develop and take on the might of City.

Ms Rachel Harrison and Mr Alex Portell - Coaches

Under 12 A

A great start by the team for the first game of the season. Although we haven’t had a training session together, the boys showed some skill and teamwork. They obviously have the killer instinct on goal, as we won the game 10 nil. Goals were scored by Harrison Price (3), Jack van Roy (2), Harry Litchfield (2), Nick O’Neil (2) and Ben Rowe. The boys played a variety of positions during the game so I could determine their best position for the team. I was pleased with the overall performance although we will improve further with more training sessions. The man of the match for the game was Tristan Rottcher for his strong defense and the incisive runs he made during the game.

Mr Allan Moore
MUSIC MATTERS

Twilight Concert Thursday 14 May

We are looking forward to the Term 2 Twilight Concert being held next Thursday 14 May from 6pm in the Memorial Hall at TAS. Students wishing to perform are welcome to participate and should check with their music tutor about which piece would be best. This is a great opportunity for students to perform their Eisteddfod repertoire. Please contact the Music Office for more information on 6776 5890 or email sbroadbei@as.edu.au

Armidale Eisteddfod

The 2015 Eisteddfod is nearly upon us and commences on Tuesday 19th May. Our Conductors and ensemble students are already working hard on their repertoire for the events. It is always lovely to have the support of parents and friends at some of the events and you will see the entry costs and event times below.

Audience Entry Fees

Adult: $3.00 single session; $6.00 day ticket; $20 season pass
Concession: $1.50 single; $3.00 day ticket
Family ticket (2 adults and up to 4 children): $45 season pass

Eisteddfod Dates and Times for TAS Ensembles

As the Eisteddfod is only two weeks away here is some initial information about ensemble dates and times. More detailed information regarding transport and other arrangements will be available soon.

EISTEDDFOD CHOIRS

Tuesday 19 May - 9.45am MORNING session - Lazenby Hall, UNE

CH05: Vocal Ensemble K-6
1. TAS Jnr Vocal Ensemble
2. St John’s Vocal Ensemble
3. PLC Jnr Vocal Ensemble
4. NECOM Cantilena Chorale

Tuesday 19 May - 12.45pm AFTERNOON session
Lazenby Hall, UNE

CH03: Choir Unison K-6
1. Drummond Memorial Public School
2. TAS 3-5 Choir
3. St Mary’s 3-4 Choir
4. St John’s Primary Choir

Tuesday 19 May - 6:30pm EVENING session
Lazenby Hall, UNE

CH07: Choir (19 Years & Under)
1. TAS Singers
2. NECOM New England Singers
3. PLC Senior Choir

CH10: Choir, non-competitive (Open)
1. Duval High Choir
2. TAS Chapel Choir

CH08 - 5 Competitors but not TAS

CH09: NE Choral Championship (Open)
1. NEGS Senior Choir
2. PLC Senior Choir
3. NECOM New England Singers
4. O’Connor Choir
5. TAS Singers
**EISTEDDFOD STRINGS**

**Tuesday 2 June - 1.30pm AFTERNOON session**

Old Teachers College, Auditorium

4th Section

ST66: Guitar Duet or Group K-6
1. C. Dugdale & E. Boland
2. G. Boys
3. TAS Jnr Guitar Ensemble
4. St Mary’s Pluckers

**Tuesday 9 June - 6.00pm BAND NIGHT**

Old Teachers College, Auditorium

2nd Section

EN22: Band, concert, stage or brass 24 Yrs & Under
1. TAS Big Band
2. Bellingen High School Jazz Band

**Yours in music,**

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher, Mr Dunham and Mrs Broadbent
HOSKINS CENTRE

Treasure Island
a new musical
10 - 13 June
The world amateur premier performance

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

Australia Day

By Johnathon Biggins

Nothing is sacred as the national identity is put through the ringer in this thoroughly modern ripper of a comedy!

TAS Hoskins Centre
15 June 7:30pm

Tickets $25, $20 | hoskins.as.edu.au
And now we’re back

As indicated last week, I’ve been able to visit all the groups doing various activities during Excursion Week. And, to be honest, I had a really good time. Monday and Tuesday involved ‘travelling’ around the Year 7 activities at Buccarumbi (near Grafton). On Wednesday we ‘parted ways’: they stayed out bush; I travelled to Sydney on Wednesday morning and was able to catch up with the Year 6 for the day and on Thursday, I met up with the Year 8 students and staff.

In tandem with Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon, Mr Luke Polson and Mr Jamie Moore, I met the Year 6 students at Parliament House on Wednesday morning. In turn, we were met by our State MP, Adam Marshall who, giving us more time than he could probably afford I suspect, conducted us on a tour of both the Upper and Lower Houses, fielded questions from boys (and staff) about the general and specific operations of Parliament and then we ‘explored’ both Chambers. I was especially impressed by the questions boys asked; they were thoughtful, intelligent and it’s obvious students were genuinely interested in this activity. This year’s highlight was a role-play, where boys conducted debate on a proposed Bill, being the extension of school hours on Saturday morning.

Soon thereafter we walked to Hyde Park Barracks and were guided around each floor of this magnificently preserved example of colonial architecture. Boys seemed genuinely interested in this aspect of the day as well. And, if some, for whatever reason, weren’t interested, there was nothing about their behavior that suggested disinterest. The day didn’t finish there, however. We proceeded to Hyde Park, had lunch, were mesmerized by passing traffic, including pedestrians eating lunch ‘on the go’, talked too much and then went to the Australian Museum, looking at dinosaur skeletons, bird and reptile displays, a mummy, and the most amazing geological display. Again, the boys were really good. They were so even as the jockeyed for positions, with their Sydney Grammar counterparts, in bus lines as we finished around 3:30pm.

Look, to be honest, there are times when your boys can be naughty. This, thankfully, is very normal, especially when we consider the age group of Middle School people. However, when they’re in public they generally ‘put their best foot forward’ and this is as much as we can ask for.

Likewise, my day with the Year 8s was just as enjoyable. Most impressive was their behavior and their activities were equally as entertaining. I caught up with them on Thursday as we made our way to the New South Wales Art Gallery and, later, the Museum of Contemporary Art after negotiating some pretty persistent rain in the Botanic Gardens. The Gallery and Museum visits are, for quite a number of our students, ‘one off’ experiences and as such are invaluable. After a hamburger at the YHA In short, this was a powerful message for tomorrow’s adults. The week was full for all involved and, again, I must acknowledge the efforts of all staff who attended in their organizational and supervisory capacities. Our students are very lucky to be involved with staff and the efforts of all concerned are really appreciated. I do believe, strongly, that you parents got ‘value for money’ during Excursion Week for our Middle School boys.

Until next time, then…”

Mr Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School
Excursions

As I wrote in last week’s TAS Talks, travelling around to see students outside Armidale (and their classrooms) brings a new perspective to this process we call education. This was highlighted by one of our prac student’s comments, who admitted, after some apprehension about their first experience of a school excursion, that it had been a wonderful opportunity to get to know children better. Spending time with students beyond their normal environment allows us to observe and come into contact with their strengths and weaknesses and often their feelings that would not normally come to the surface. I know that for our students, many faced and overcame challenges, achieved personal goals and successes and developed a better understanding of those around them. I hope that they all enjoyed the opportunity to travel outside their comfort zones and thanks all the staff that made this possible.

Leadership at TAS

Yesterday, in a new step in promoting our leadership program, our Year 5 House leaders attended a conference, which focussed on some of the elements of good leadership. Making the most of Leadership Opportunities, Being Generous with Leadership, Looking for Opportunities to Lead, and Developing your Leadership Plan were all topics covered on the day and I look forward to carrying our students’ ideas into the future as we continue to focus on this important part of life as a student at TAS.

NAPLAN

Next week will see our Year 3 & 5 students undertake the NAPLAN National Assessments. The diagnostic value of such assessments allows us to gain some meaningful insight, which assists with our academic planning for the future. We have familiarised our students with the nature of these assessments in preparation for the tests, but believe that their continued classroom learning, placing emphasis on the individual’s needs and abilities, is the primary focus of our attention throughout the year. We wish them all well.

Class Assemblies

I extend an invitation to you all to come along and have a look at our Junior School assemblies each Wednesday afternoon at 2.45pm, usually in the Hoskins Centre. These assemblies provide the host class with a great opportunity to showcase work they have done, often artistic or musical in nature, and gives all students an opportunity to use the microphone and present their work and thoughts to their peers and families. They are often amusing, generally interesting and usually very entertaining! They are also an opportunity for the acknowledgement of special achievements and the awarding of our School Spirit Awards, recognising outstanding contributions to our school. Assemblies have become an integral part of the TAS offering for our students and an important moment in the term for each and every one of them. I look forward to seeing you there.
EXCURSION WEEK

Year 1 and 2 Excursions
Thursday UNE

On Thursday, Year 1 went with Year 2 to the University of New England. Mr Kwan, Evan’s dad and Mr Billingsley, Euan’s dad, met us there. We went to the Lewis Lecture Theatre, which was brightly decorated in yellow and black, and we sat in chairs like desks. Mr Billingsley talked about computers and a program he had designed. We were given a controller that we could use to decide where the Angry Birds might move. We could try and guess how low or high the characters might go. It was great fun! We also went to the Dixson Library. We saw some very old books, computers, relaxing areas and even some photos from World War 1, including Jack Simpson and the donkey. After that, we had lunch on the grass at Booloominbah and it was like a little picnic. It was a fantastic excursion and we learnt a lot about the university.

Compiled by all of Year 1

Year 1
Our Excursion to the Waste Transfer Station

On Wednesday 29 April we went with Year 2 to the Waste Transfer Station and the Recycling Centre on an excursion on the bus. I met Megan and Mick. I went upstairs and we sorted rubbish. I saw the milk cartons shooting out of the big silver tubes. I loved it!!! I am going to recycle a bit more now. Why, you ask? Why, because it saves the environment.

By Peyton Slade Year 1

Blake Whitehill, Charlie Ryan, Tom Rowe and Peyton Slade are standing in front of a huge amount of cans to be recycled at the Waste Transfer Station

Year 2

With all of the older Junior School students out and about on overnight excursions, Year 2 thought it would be a great opportunity to get out and about in Armidale for Excursion Week. Buddying up with Year 1 on the Wednesday and Thursday, we visited the Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Centre plus various parts of the UNE, whilst on Friday Year 2 went and visited the historic National Trust Saumarez Homestead for a journey back into the past.

With guide Megan Cone, Year 1 and 2 began by being taken on a highly informative trip around the tip to see just how well Armidale reuses and recycles its waste. Students actively learned to correctly sort recyclable waste and got an insight into just what happens to our plastics, metals, paper, cardboard and compostable green wastes that are collected at the kerbside. At one point the students were able to see first hand where unsorted waste ends up, as they were driven around the top of a 20 metre deep pile of compacted rubbish, otherwise known as lazy landfill.
On Thursday, students were treated to a tour of the UNE, beginning with a Computer Programming lecture in the Lewis Lecture Theatre from parents Paul Kwan and William Billingsley. The students loved being able to manipulate the Angry Birds characters by changing a number of variables in a program, which at one point almost sent one of the birds into orbit! Following this, and some mathematical investigations into computer code, Year 1 and 2 had a tour of Dixon Library from Ms Leonie Sherwin, before heading out to the grounds of Booloominbah for some lunch.

On their own this time, Year 2 heading out on Friday to the historic Saumarez Homestead to investigate how the past has helped to shape the present in Armidale. Our guide Mrs Oppenheimer was very helpful in giving us an abridged history of the Dumaresq, Thomas and White families as they owned the property throughout the 19th and 20th Centuries. For Year 2 this was an excellent start to their Past in the Present History unit as they observed and discussed many of the objects and practices of the past and compared them to modern day equivalents.
Year 4 to Lake Keepit

On a frosty sunny Tuesday morning Year 4 boarded the bus for a trip. After a relaxing ride we changed buses at Tamworth and boarded another bound for Lake Keepit. Upon arrival we had orientation and settled in to our Lodges. The first activity we participated in was Heroes and Villains. The aim was to find as many Heroes and Villains as possible located around the camp area. After lunch we faced our fears and ALL attempted the ‘Giant Swing’. Yes even Mr Newton, Miss Collier and Ms Dowse had a go.

The next day started with The Bottle Rocket Challenge. For this activity in groups we designed a rocket with the assistance of a camp member we attached an air compressor and 5,4,3,2,1,0 blast off…… they made their way towards the heavens well, nearly. This was followed after lunch by Kayaking (yes we all got wet). We paddled to ‘Pelican Island’ where we completed a relay challenge in knee deep water. Survival Skills was the order for the afternoon where in groups we had to build a shelter some complete with rooms, sky lights and a water catching system. During survival skills we made our own camp fires by collecting sticks and creating a fire. When the fires were reduced to coals our camp leader gave us all a ball of dough and we placed this on the end of a stick that was at lest as long as our arm and as thick as our thumb and as straight as can be. Finally we were aloud to mold our dough onto the end of our sticks. This cooking process took some time and the trick can be. Finally we were aloud to mold our dough onto the end of a stick. Cooking damper was a great way to finish our Damper and the cooking process was a steep learning curve.

On our last day the heavens opened up and we enjoyed some tastings damper we have ever had.

On the third day after and early morning bush walk we settled in for some bacon, eggs, hash browns, spaghetti, and toast. Of course there was cereal, fruit and yoghurt. We then joined with all campers to break up into three teams and rotate through a series of Road Block Challenges. The rock climbing wall was calling Year 4 and we were all experts in this field. With all students making their way to the top. After lunch we headed to the pool for a raft building challenge. During this activity we had to break up into three teams and use our problem solving skills to build a raft and safely get all our team members from one side of the pool to the other. Not all groups were successful but problem solving required. We then moved off to the Archery course where the boys enjoyed learning a new skill. Much improvement was made during the two hour session and some excited boys as the arrows started hitting the targets! Cooking damper during the afternoon was a great way to finish our adventures for the day. The making of the fire, the preparation of the damper and the cooking process was a steep learning curve. The collecting of the kindling and the small wood enhanced our bush survival skills. The whole experience was enjoyed by all and the damper delicious. On our return to camp base we quickly showered and ensured the boys had a good wash, removing the smoky smell and the stickiness of the treacle.

A scrumptious roast dinner was devoured before the next round of evening challenges whereby the children were divided into teams for individual and team competition.

After a well-earned sleep our final day commenced with a little retail therapy. The day was quickly reassessed and we moved indoors as the weather came in on us.

Overall the camp experience was a tremendous one, with all children enjoying the experience. Our thanks to Mrs Pollard, Mr Newton and Mr Ford for their help during our camp.

Mrs Christine Wright and Ms Tabitha Dowse

Year 3 to Lake Keepit

Year 3 joined Year 4 on Wednesday morning after travelling across by bus to Lake Keepit. We were all a little disappointed that the train had been cancelled due to the flooding along the line.

After arriving we were quickly thrown into our first activity of the week, NRL Rogaining. We were to locate as many different NRL player cards around the campsite by following directions on a map. Similar to orienteering, the boys quickly found several cards by working as a team and becoming familiar with the surroundings.

After a delicious lunch we took to the Lake to try our hand at canoeing. Teams of five and six were challenged to a series of on the water tasks, enabling the boys to work as a team and work on their newly acquired canoeing skills.

Canoeing was followed by a brief swim in the chilly pool before showering and having some free time around camp.

After a well deserved dinner we headed to the Homestead for our Nightshow. Some great games with Quirindi Public School allowed all the students to enjoy some time together.

Some very excited boys found it difficult to get to sleep on our first night, chatting about the day and generally enjoying the excitement of their first school camp.

Day 2 saw the boys being challenged with an early morning bush walk before breakfast. Another hardy breakfast was had before the Roadblock initiative games were played. Teamwork was essential for this activity with lots of communication and problem solving required. We then moved off to the Archery course where the boys enjoyed learning a new skill. Much improvement was made during the two hour session and some excited boys as the arrows started hitting the targets! Cooking damper during the afternoon was a great way to finish our adventures for the day. The making of the fire, the preparation of the damper and the cooking process was a steep learning curve. The collecting of the kindling and the small wood enhanced our bush survival skills. The whole experience was enjoyed by all and the damper delicious. On our return to camp base we quickly showered and ensured the boys had a good wash, removing the smoky smell and the stickiness of the treacle.

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Mrs Christine Wright and Ms Tabitha Dowse
Year 5 Journal Reflections Myuna Bay

Time was set aside each evening to reflect upon the day’s activities at Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre on Lake Macquarie. Here are a few journal entries that will give you insight into our fantastic week at Myuna Bay.

Day One
(Acrostic Poem by Harrison Price)

Myuna Bay is awesome with cool activities to do
Yeah! Myuna Bay is the best lake ever
Under trees on the bike ride, dodging puddles and fallen branches
Night-time activities with 100 other kids
Audrey accompanied us on our journey and Mr Lloyd arrived to join the fun

BMX bikes we rode on today.
Awesome friends in my cabin, ready for inspection
Yucky water in the lake, thanks to the recent cyclone

Day Two
Dear Myuna Bay Journal,

Today my class and I started off the day by having scrambled eggs and hashbrowns. At 9:00 am we went canoeing and surprisingly my group only capsized once! My shoes got muddy, but I had a lot of fun. Lunch was burgers with cordial. We then had some free time playing soccer with friends. Our second activity was rock climbing. I had lots of fun. Many of my friends made it all the way to the top to ring the bell. For dinner, we had curry with jelly for dessert. After that we went to the night show and played tabloid sports.

By, Marcus Hempel

Day Three

This morning we met Kylie at the hall and went off for a bushwalk. Since there had been a dramatic cyclone the week before, the walk became a gigantic obstacle course. We encountered flooded rivers, fallen trees, hollow trees, make-shift bridges and more. Eventually we reached the camp-site. Kylie taught us how to set up a camp-fire. We all got to work in groups building up our fire. We cooked damper and it was great!

After lunch, we went on the Giant Swing. It was 17 metres tall and very scary. I went half way up and it was awesome. Audrey, Madame Hine and Mrs Waters also went on. We played mini-golf during our spare time.

By, Harrison Ditchfield
Day Four

Today we had kayaking in the morning and my clothes are soaking. After kayaking my arms really hurt. When we came to shore, we played a game called net dipping or something. We put a net in the water and put it back in the white bucket. We all found some prawns, hermit crabs, pipe fish and one weedy sea-dragon.

In the afternoon, we did the flying fox. It looks lower than it is. At first I was a bit scared, but I managed. As soon as I started, I let go of the rope. The second go, I pretended to be in a running race. Izzy pretended to be in a swimming race and Casey ate an apple. Today was fun.

From Ruby's memories

Day Five

We got up nice and early to pack up our bags to put on the veranda nice and early. We had bacon and eggs and toast for breakfast. Then we went to archery, where we got put into three groups. We all shot at the targets and I got a bull’s eye. Most people got better with practice and began to hit the targets well. Audrey got three bull’s eyes and Mme Hine and Mrs Waters tried their best. Even though it was pouring rain, we had a lot of fun at the archery range. We then grabbed our suitcases, hopped on the bus and said goodbye to our amazing instructor Kylie, who gave us the biggest compliment. She said that we were the best group that she had ever had!

Madame Hine and Mrs Waters were extremely proud of all the students from Year 5 who challenged themselves to the max, supported each other daily and showed resilience day in and day out.

Junior School Parents! Learn French and/ or Japanese at TAS

Bonjour! Konnichwa!

The Languages Department has been successful in securing the Parental Polyglots Grant again in 2015, administered through the Association of Independent Schools, NSW. These classes will begin next week, Term 2, Week 4.

We are looking for an expression of interest from parents and/ or friends of TAS Junior School children who would like to learn French and/ or Japanese. This supports the introduction of the PYP program in Junior School, with greater emphasis being placed on second language learning. Classroom teachers are supporting the French and Japanese programs being delivered and it would be wonderful if parents were also part of this learning journey with their child.

There is no cost involved so please come along!

Japanese: Tuesday evenings 6.00pm – 7.00pm
French: Tuesday evenings 7.00pm – 8.00pm

If you would like to attend either of these, please register your interest by emailing us at ktamming@as.edu.au (French) or amoore@as.edu.au (Japanese) as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact the Languages Department for further information.

Merci! Arigatou!

Mesdames Anne Hine et Kathryn Tamminga/ Mademoiselle Audrey Panon

Allan Moore Sensei

Junior School Book Club

The latest set of brochures from Lamont & Scholastic Book Clubs have now been sent home. If you wish to purchase from either of these companies, please select the books you would like and follow the instructions for ordering and payment which are found on the back page of each brochure.

All orders for these current brochures should be made by Friday 8 May.

Scholastic orders can be submitted in two ways: 1) By using the Scholastic ‘LOOP’ online webpage, where you will order and pay by credit card, or 2) by filling in the order form, and placing that order form and a cheque in the RED LETTER BOX in the Junior School office. Orders from Lamont can only be made online through their website, but payment can be made by credit card and Paypal. Please note that cash CANNOT be accepted as payment by either book club.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact Mrs Natalie Ramazani in the TAS Library, or by email to nramazan@as.edu.au.
PYP Junior School Units of Inquiry Term 2

This term all classes have initiated new units of inquiry (UOI).

Many classes who were not away from campus last week took the opportunity to head out into the community and had experiences, which enhanced their understanding of new central ideas being studied.

All classes have initiated their UOI with ‘Tuning In’ tasks where students have been stimulated to explore new concepts and gain new skills. ‘Tuning In’ tasks allow the teachers to assess prior knowledge in a non-threatening situation and they aim to ignite interest from students and engage them in asking higher order questions about the concepts introduced.

Mrs Veronica Waters
PYP Coordinator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Transdisciplinary Theme</th>
<th>Central Idea</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transition</td>
<td>How we Express Ourselves</td>
<td>We interpret our environment through our senses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>How we Organise Ourselves</td>
<td>A community is impacted by the involvement of its members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Who We Are</td>
<td>Communities are enriched by their members and the different perspectives they bring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Where We Are in Place and Time</td>
<td>Many people make up a community and influenced how the community has developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Sharing The Planet</td>
<td>Water is essential to life, and is a limited resource for many people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>How The World Works</td>
<td>Understanding of scientific knowledge is constantly evolving and has impact on people’s lives.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
PSSA Cross Country – Friday, 8 May

Our Cross Country team will compete this Friday in the Armidale PSSA Cross Country Event. We will leave TAS at 9:40am returning at 2:30pm.

Zone team:

8/9 year boys: Toby Inglis, Tom Ball, Alistair Newton, Lennox Neilson, Iles Baker, Banjo Lawrence

8/9 year girls: Millie Coupland

10 year boys: Jonathan Harris, Jasper Russ, Hugh Taylor, Daniel Morgan

10 year girls: Emily Buntine, Dimity Chalmers

11 year boys: Hudson Eichorn, Marcus Hempel, Frank Perrottet, Isaac Gerdes

11 year girls: Isabel Newton

12 year boy: Stewart Williams, Joseph Anderson

Please note the following times for age divisions.

10:30am – Walk the Course
11:00am – 8/9 years girls (2000m)
11:20am – 8/9 years boys (2000m)
11:40am – 10 years girls (2000m)
12:00pm – 10 years boys (2000m)
12:20pm – 11 years girls (3000m)
12:40pm – 11 years boys (3000m)
1:00pm - 12/13 years girls (3000m)
1:20pm – 12/13 years boys (3000m)

If you are planning to attend the event to watch your child and would like to take your child back to school after their event please inform Mrs Wright either before the day, or at the event.

Mrs Christine Wright
Junior School Sports Co-ordinator

TAS U9s Hockey

Saturday saw the start of the TAS U9s Hockey and despite the rain, our team of champions began the season with guns blazing! The team which consists of Lily Peart, Madeleine Buntine, Archie Douglas-Menzies, Scarlett Buntine, Millie Coupland, Christopher Bower and Charlotte Portell played Guyra who had some fresh faces from their skilful 2014 side. The game was well matched and both teams played some fine hockey, however I was so impressed with the way every TAS player put into practise all of their skills from training and the pre-match warm up. In the end, TAS came away with a close 3-2 win and some very eager players for next week’s game.

Mr Alex Portell
COMMUNITY NOTICES

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.
Armidale Symphony Orchestra

The Last Night of the PROMS in Armidale

Conductor David Gee

Handel: Zadok the Priest
Dvorak: Symphony No. 9 (From the New World)
Brahms: Academic Festival Overture
Elgar: Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1
Plus other Proms favourites

3 pm Sunday
10 May 2015
Lazenby Hall
UNE

Tickets: Adult $25, Fulltime tertiary student $20, School student $5, Family max $60
Bookings essential: Carrs Newsagency or http://www.trybooking.com/HGPL
Operatic Recitals
Young virtuosos of classical song
www.vocistupende.com

ARMIDALE
16th May 2015
4.00pm
St Peters Cathedral
www.trybooking.com/130167

WALCHA
17th May 2015
2.30pm
Walcha Presbyterian Church
8 Hill Street East, Walcha
NSW 2354
www.trybooking.com/130765
Ticket Prices:
Adults- $35.00
Full Time students- $25.00
Family(2 adults, 3 children)- $100
Children 17 or under -$15.00
Under 14 –Free

CONTACT:
JANE FRASER
0267781233