TAS Rifle Club

The considerable success of our shooters at the prize shoot in Warwick last weekend is reported in this edition of TAS Talks and I echo the congratulations to the team as a whole and to Sam Cannington, Duncan Quast, Angus Mazzei and Cameron Holcombe in particular. Opportunities to compete against experienced adult shooters are especially valuable to our boys and play a key role in their preparation for the GPS Championships early next term. I wish all those in our senior teams well as they continue to prepare for that highlight of the season.

The continuing strong interest in shooting has been given a boost this week with the announcement that our application for a government grant for the refurbishment of the school range at Meadowfield has been successful. The grant, announced by Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall, will enable us to introduce a security system, install target gallery lighting, replace the stop butt and purchase a shipping container for secure storage. I congratulate all those involved in the application and thank Adam Marshall for his support.

Members’ Meeting

Last weekend saw the annual general meeting of The Armidale School Company as our members met to receive the financial accounts of the School and to hear reports of planning for the coming year. For those unfamiliar with our governance structure, the company members are 24 representatives from the Old Boys, P&F, Diocese and Foundation who sit above the School Board in a Governor General like role. They meet twice a year and carry responsibility for the approval of School Board appointments and overseeing the School Constitution. The meeting on Saturday was the sixth AGM for the TAS Company and I am very pleased to see it continuing to operate as a very stable and highly supportive structure for our school. With new school governance requirements coming into operation this year, we are very well placed and this is encouraging. I offer thanks again to our volunteer members for their work in support of the School.

Exams

This fortnight all students from Years 6 to 10 will be engaged in mid-course exams and I offer best wishes to them as they make efforts to present the fruits of their study in the best possible light. Whilst students, parents and teachers alike will be interested in the results, I think it important to remember that these exams are not an end in themselves, but rather an important link in the learning process. Presenting a set of formal exams in the middle and at the end of each year provides encouragement to develop strong study skills and it is the process of studying a full semester of subject matter that is important. What the exams tell us is how effective that study was and what capacity each student has to improve on that in future. Focusing on the potential for continued improvement and academic growth is our priority and I encourage parents especially to help reinforce this message.

Sporting Challenge

The coming few days will see major fixtures for many of our sportsmen. The equestrian team will head to Coonabarabran for the North West Equestrian expo that is the highlight of the year, kayakers will compete in the NSW Championships at Nymboida and the School will take on Farrer in basketball, chess, clay target shooting, football, tennis and rugby in the annual clash for the Dick Hodgson Shield. I wish the many involved in these sporting opportunities well for a happy weekend.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS, TERM 2

Week 6
19 May-14 June  Armidale Eisteddfod
25-29 May    Years 6, 8 and 10 Half Yearly Exams
27 - 28 May  da Vinci Decathlon at Knox, Sydney
27-29 May    Sydney Careers Expo Year 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       Queen's Birthday Holiday (boarding houses closed)

Week 8
Monday 8 June  Boarders' charter coaches return pm
6.30pm 'Kokoda' Information Night
(Big School) Open to Years 9-11
9 - 11 June    Inter-House Debating - Years 6-12
               (Hoskins Centre)
10-13 June    'Treasure Island' performances
Thursday 11 June Year 7, 11 and 12 Vaccinations
Friday 12 June  NSW Boarding Schools Expo
               (Newcastle)
12/13 June    TAS vs Sydney High School at TAS
               (various sports)
Sunday 14 June Eisteddfod Gala Concert

Week 9
Wednesday 17 June  Activities Day No. 4
                     NAIDOC Dinner
Thursday 18 June    Confirmation Service
                     NAIDOC Assembly
                     Classes conclude for holidays
Friday 19 June  Staff PD Day
19-22 June  NSW All Schools Mountain Bike Championships (Years 7 - 12)

June/July Holiday Activities
27 Jun - 5 July    Forensic Science Camp (TAS)
30 Jun - 9 July    New Zealand Rugby
                   Development Tour
5-13 July    GPS Shooting Camp (Sydney)

LOST PROPERTY

Nav Higgins (Year 7) has misplaced his tie and Akubra hat. If found can you please drop them to TAS Reception.
ABSENTEES

Student Absence

Attendance is recorded each period of every school day. As a parent or caregiver you are responsible for ensuring your child attends school every day, including sport and activities days unless your child:

• has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably these should be made after school or during holidays)

• is required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)

• is sick, or has an infectious illness.

Daily Absence

If your child is to be absent from school for any reason, including arriving late or leaving early, please advise the appropriate Administration Assistant, explaining the reason for absence by phone, email, or written note before 10.00 am that day. In addition a written note confirming the circumstances of the absence is required within 7 days.

Sickness in excess of 4 school days requires a doctor’s certificate detailing the nature of sickness and duration of sickness.

Late Arrival and Early Leave

If your child arrives late or is to leave early they must report to the appropriate Administration Assistant and register their arrival or departure. A late slip will be issued to the student to take to their teacher.

Parents/caregivers who know in advance if their child is to be absent during term time need to apply for leave by completing either an:

1. Application for Exemption from Attendance at School (other leave)

OR

2. Application for Extended Leave – Travel/Holiday (travel leave greater than 5 days)

If the leave is granted, an appropriate Certificate of Exemption will be issued.

Contacts for Absentees

Junior School  Mrs Alison Evans
E: junior@as.edu.au
or 6776 5817

Middle School  Mrs Susi Redhead
E: middle@as.edu.au
or 6776 5819

Senior School  Mrs Veronica Lucas
E: absentees@as.edu.au
or 6776 5800

PLEASE NOTE: Parents/Carers are NOT to send notice of absences to teaching staff or Advisors – this advice must go to one of the contacts above.
End of Term 2 and start of Term 3 coach and rail

I am keen to receive indications as to whether charter bus services or rail are required.

Thanks to parents/carers who have already confirmed their requirements for the winter vacation.

With exciting excursions and sporting commitments happening during the vacation there is bound to be some variation to the ‘norm’.

Your cooperation with early notification is much appreciated. Email is best for me please, travel@as.edu.au

Mrs Meg Sadler

KOKODA INFORMATION EVENING

Aidan Grimes from Our Spirit will be at TAS on Monday 8 June. He will be giving a presentation about the proposed walk in September.

We have timed the presentation to coincide with families bringing boarders back from the Long Weekend.

This is a great opportunity to ask questions and get a feel for what the trek will involve. If you are at all interested, I would encourage you to attend.

Where: Big School - 7.00pm

Mr Mark Taylor

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sunday May 31 is the Salvation Army Red Shield Door Knock Appeal. Volunteering students will depart with volunteer drivers from Big School at 9 and be available for pick up from the Westpac Bank around noon once they have counted and deposited all the donations they have collected. If any parents are available to act as volunteer drivers, the Salvation Army would be very glad to have you help. Please contact Assina from the Salvation Army to fill in your paperwork including a ‘working with children check’ tel: 0466 153 055. This is a 3-4 hour Community Service. If you would like to volunteer for this event please email Ms Boydell on cboydell@as.edu.au

Thank you to Nick Barnier, Nick Corderoy, Cassidy Williams and Joseph Anderson who volunteered to assist at the Narwan Community Gardens Grand Opening last Saturday. Their contribution was greatly appreciated by all.

Joshua McCormick should also be congratulated for opening the day with his didgeridoo playing, which set the tone for all the activities that followed - wonderful.

Ms Catherine Boydell
Year 6-10 Exams

Year 6, 8 and 10 exams for Semester 1 are happening this week and will be followed by Year 7 and 9 exams next week. We separated these exams to allow students in Year 7 and 9 to have a few weeks rest between NAPLAN and their school exams.

If students are going to miss an exam then they need to negotiate an alternative time with their teacher. Students in Years 9 and 10 should complete an Assessment Appeals form which is available from Reception. These forms require them to fill out why they are missing the exam, speak with their teacher to organise an alternative time and for me to then approve this change.

These exams are held so that students can learn the skills of revision and exam technique. In the following weeks students will receive their results and feedback from their teachers. Whilst some will be happy with their results there will be others that receive results which are disappointing. It is important to discuss this with your child and put it into perspective. This is a learning opportunity and realising that your study may not have been as effective as you would have liked or learning about how you cope in an exam room is important in the early years of Middle School and Senior School before the pressure of the HSC is added into the mix. If you have any particular concerns regarding results then please contact your child’s advisor or classroom teacher. Reports will be written in the coming weeks and will be sent home in the holiday mail-out.

Stage 5 Electives

Many parents of current Year 8 or 9 students may well have been told about a meeting I had with their son regarding changes to our elective model in Years 9 and 10 for 2016 and beyond. This is an exciting program which will see many more options available to all students. When designing our new elective offering there were many things I was trying to achieve which included: reducing subject clashes, giving students a chance to follow their passion(s), exposing them to new opportunities, preparing them for Year 11/12 and increasing their skills in a variety of subjects so that the transition into their senior years is as smooth as possible.

As part of our initial planning I wanted to gauge student reaction and get their initial thoughts on what we are designing. Subject Coordinators are now finalising the offering for 2016 in conjunction with myself and their staff.

An information session for students and parents of both Year 8 and 9 will occur at 6:30pm on Thursday 23 July and repeated the next day at 11:30am for those who could not make it the night before. These sessions are scheduled around Year 8 Parent-Teacher Interviews so that those travelling are able to attend both events. At that point, a handbook will be available for you to take home and discuss options with your child and the process for subject selection will be outlined. I strongly encourage everyone to attend one of these sessions so that you understand what is available and so that your son does not miss out on the opportunities available in 2016.
**Sydney Careers Expo - Year 12s**

Due to the changes announced last week, we will only be taking those Year 12s and a handful of Year 11s who expressed an interest in attending the expo. Below is an approximate itinerary for the trip.

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**Wednesday 27 May**

3.45pm  
Meet outside the front entrance to the school. Roll call, load bus and depart ASAP. Neat casual attire

7.30pm  
Dinner Muswellbrook

10.30pm  
Arrive Sydney High School Rowing Shed.

**Thursday 28 May**

6.45 am  
Wake and breakfast.

7.45 am  
Clean and leave Sydney High School Rowing Shed. Students in formal uniform.

8.45 am  
Arrive Moore Park.

9.00 am  
Expo begins

2.00 pm  
Meet at bus for return to TAS

7.00 pm  
Dinner Tamworth (if not Scone at 6.00pm)

9.30 pm  
Return to TAS.

Students will be given a complete program for the day along with questions and topics to discover.

**Approximate cost $100-$120.**

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**Parents: Talking Career Choices**

This is a publication put out by the Australian Government giving some clever advice and tips for parents about assisting their children with the difficult career choice decisions. I would thoroughly recommended all parents from Year 10-12 read the document and open some dialogue with their children, especially in light of the upcoming subject selections for preliminary year 2016, to be made by our Year 10 students early next term. More information about this process to come.

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**University Open Days**

I have posted on the website a copy of the University Open Days for most of the NSW, Queensland & ACT tertiary institutions. If at all possible, I would encourage you to pay a visit to the institution of your choice, as this will be the best method to gauge what the University can offer for your son.

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**Making informed career choices**

I have included a link to a document from the Australian Government used as a presentation to parents and students about prospective career choices. Whilst the entire document might not be for everyone there are some interesting statistics about employment growth in the various industries. I found this particularly interesting and I will be presenting this information to the Year 10s in class and hopefully Year 11 & 12 later in the term. To view the document [CLICK HERE](#) or visit the Careers website.

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**Kings College UQ**

Jamie Smith from Kings College will be at TAS on Monday 1 June to talk to Year 11 and 12 students about his residential college as well as the broader picture of tertiary education in the Queensland system. This will be along similar lines as last week’s talk from St Andrew’s College, Sydney University. This is a great opportunity for the students to listen and ask questions about residential life from the experts in the field. Venue yet to be finalised.

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**Mr Mark Taylor**  
**Careers Advisor**
TEAM

Can the Whole be greater than the Sum of its Parts? Can the force generated by a scrum be greater than the sum of the forces of the eight individuals? The laws of physics would suggest not. In fact, placing individuals in a group can actually trigger a reduction in effort. (Mike Cron uses the All Black scrum to explain the theory of social loafing http://youtu.be/Dt9MuKZGQiA)

Yet sometimes a whole can achieve outcomes that would seem impossible, given the parts. On these occasions, they have not defied the laws of physics. They have simply been inspired; they have found something within themselves and each other that they never knew existed. They have become a team.

A team is built on belief, encouragement and self-sacrifice. Individuals working in such an environment will work harder, be confident, take risks and know that their teammates will always have their back. A team celebrates effort and forgives mistakes; it recognises all parts yet only measures the whole. A true team inspires every individual to move closer to their best.

North West Equestrian Expo

This Friday, 10 TAS boys will head to Coonabarabran to compete in the North West Equestrian Expo that runs until Tuesday 2 June. Events from Polocrosse to the Warrumbungle Way will draw competitors and spectators from across the country.

A full program is available HERE.

Kayaking State Championships

This weekend five TAS boys will compete at the Kayaking State Championships in Nymboida. There are over 60 paddlers from around the state competing in slalom kayaking as well as canoeing events – using the two new C1’s donated by the P & F.

Representative Honours

Congratulations also to Will Brissett who was selected as goalkeepeer in the NSWCIS Hockey team, who will play against CCC and CHS on 15 June.

The NSWCIS Football Trials were held in Sydney on Monday and Tuesday. Seven TAS boys were selected to trial. Despite trialling strongly the competition proved too intense for any to be selected in the CIS team. All boys valued the experience and will take great confidence into the fixture against Farrer.

Mr Will Caldwell

Farrer Fixtures

TAS will travel to Farrer this Friday 29 May to play fixtures in: Basketball, Chess, Clay Target Shooting, Football, Rugby and Tennis. Unfortunately there are no Farrer teams available for Hockey or B teams in 13, 14 & 15 Rugby. Buses are for players only and will depart TAS at 1:30pm sharp. Year 9 and below are permitted to wear TAS tracksuits to school on Friday. Year 10-12 will travel in Formals. Detailed information is available HERE.

Farrer P & F is running a barbecue with steaks, sausages and coffee on the night for purchase by parents. Dinner will be provided for students and staff.

Ms Catherine Boydell

Chess

Last Thursday the TAS first IV chess team played Holy Trinity School from Inverell in the second round of the Junior Chess League. Congratulations to Ali Ahsan, Charlie Wyatt, Harry Pollard and Joshua Stevenson who were all victorious on the day. We look forward to hosting Farrer in the third round of the league sometime next month.
CIS and U18 NSW Success!

Over the past few weeks, Year 11 student Will Brissett has finally seen dividends for years of hard work, training and development, being selected as goal keeper in both the NSW Under 18s and CIS Opens Hockey squads.

Initially, Will was selected for NSW following the U18s State Championships, where he kept solidly, helping Hockey New England to a fine tournament against many of the state’s best young players.

Following this, Will, accompanied by fellow TAS Firsts player Ben Moffatt, aided his team ‘The Barbarians’ to an undefeated run during the CIS Hockey Trials in Sydney last Wednesday. His efforts and skills were rewarded with selection, despite some fierce competition.

TAS Hockey wish Will all the best for the future as he represents his school, city and state at this elite level.

Mr Alex Portell
MIC Hockey

Prize Shoot at Warwick (23-24 May)

Sixteen boys and three staff attended the Southern Downs Prize Shoot at Warwick over the weekend with 84 target shooters from across QLD and NSW present for the district rifle association match. The match was shot over two days with two 600 yard ranges and one 500 yard range on Saturday – 10 shots to count at each range. On Sunday competitors shot two 500 yard ranges and one 600 yard range.

For many of the TAS boys it was their first or second time competing at a prize shoot. All competed at a high level with many achieving personal best scores and demonstrating the skills and experiences gained shooting smallbore at the TAS rifle range over the past six months.

Highlights for the TAS team were Sam Cannington winning the aggregate on Saturday with a score of 138-8 (possible 150) followed by Duncan Quast with a score of 134-4. On Sunday Sam Cannington ranked second in the daily aggregate with 144-11 followed by Cameron Holcombe with a 140-9. For the two day grand aggregate Sam Cannington placed second with a score of 282-19 (beaten by one point). Best of the other TAS shooters were Duncan Quast 273-14, Angus Mazzei 270-9 and Cameron Holcombe 269-16.

The prize shoot provided our shooters with valuable experiences leading up to GPS shooting camp in early July.

Mr Trevor Thatcher
MIC Shooting

Football

Please see either the ‘Schedules’ in TeamApp or the ‘Fixtures’ section of the TAS Football website for this and future week’s draws.

Please ensure you are checking regularly each week.

Mr Luke Polson
MIC Football
Great Achievements for Singers at the Eisteddfod

The Eisteddfod got off to a hotly contested start last week with Choir Day and the wonderful Choir Night at Lazenby Hall, UNE. TAS Junior Vocal Ensemble performed beautifully last Tuesday, as did the TAS K-2 and 3-5 Choirs. TAS Singers and TAS Chapel Choir performed in the evening session. Thank you to parents who came out to Lazenby Hall to watch the ensembles - it was great to have your support.

Notable results for our groups were as follows:

- TAS Junior Vocal Ensemble - achieved a notable 2nd Place to NECOM Cantilena Chorale in the Vocal Ensemble Years K-6 section
- TAS K-2 Choir - this was a non-competitive section but the children sang beautifully and received lovely comments from the Adjudicator
- TAS 3-5 Choir - 2nd Place in their division of the Choir Unison Years K-6 section
- TAS Singers - 2nd Place in the Choir 19 years & under section
- TAS Chapel Choir - again performed with distinction in the non-competitive Open Choirs section
- TAS Singers - received an equal 1st Place for their performance of Harley Mead’s ‘Thoroughly Modern Men’ to take out the New England Choral Championship (Open) section alongside the very talented NECOM New England Singers. Congratulations chaps!

Well done to all students who participated in the choirs and ensembles. You made us all very proud. A big thank you to the Junior School teachers for your efforts on the day. Congratulations to Mrs Butcher (TAS Jnr Vocal) and Mr Oxley (TAS Chapel Choir) for your high standard of work directing your ensembles. Finally, a very special thank you to our talented accompanist Mrs Robyn Bradley, who received high praise from the Adjudicator for her highly accomplished piano accompaniment for our choirs.

TAS Guitar Band, TAS Camerata and TAS Senior Saxophone Ensemble will compete at the Eisteddfod next week!

Moving right along with the Eisteddfod, this week brass students are competing and we wish them all well.

The String and Chamber Ensemble days are this coming up next week and the arrangements are listed below.

A reminder that students are required to wear formal uniform. Parents - these sessions will be at the Old Teachers’ College in Mossman Street if you want to come along to watch. It is always nice to have an appreciative audience!

Click HERE for upcoming events.

Individual Achievements at the Eisteddfod

Jonathan Harris received the following results on his 10th birthday. What a lovely birthday present!

- Piano Solo (9 yrs & under) 1st Place
- Piano Solo Restricted (9-10 yrs) Highly Commended
- Piano Solo AMEB Gr 2 1st Place
- Piano Solo Restricted (9-10 yrs) 2nd Place
- Piano Solo (12 yrs & under) 2nd Place
- Piano Solo AMEB Gr 3 Highly Commended
- Piano Solo (10 yrs & under) Highly Commended
- Piano Solo AMEB Gr 1
- Piano Solo (12 yrs & under) 1st Place
- Vocal Solo (12 yrs & under) 1st Place
- Vocal Solo Mus.Theatre (12 yrs & under) 1st Place
- Vocal Solo Musical Theatre (12 & under) 1st Place
- Vocal Solo Popular song (12 yrs & under) 2nd Place
- New England Vocal Age Championship (16-18 yrs) 1st Place
- Vocal Solo Musical Theatre (18 yrs & under) 1st Place
- Vocal Solo Popular song (16 yrs & under) 2nd Place

Congratulations students!

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher, Mr Finco and Mrs Broadbent
Treasure Island is the focus this week as we hit a two-week countdown to opening night. The moment the widely-acclaimed ADMS performance of Legally Blonde bumps off the stage we will walk straight on to build our ship and get working in the space. To this end we are calling for volunteers to assist with the construction of the set, a process we hope to get through at lightning speed. If you have some skill in cutting steel and welding we will be working this Sunday 31 May from 2pm in the Hoskins Centre and the more hands the better. We should also be working the next day, Monday 1 June, from 4pm and would again appreciate any helpers.

As we finalise costumes and props we would also love some assistance with this as well. If you have the following items that we could borrow for the show it would be a huge help:

Old-looking canvass/waxed canvas bags (such as old fishing bags or sailor duffels) that we could use as props

Aged nautical/fishing equipment such as crab pots, floats, fishing nets or wooden oars for set dressing

Thick hessian or hemp rope

Wooden block and tackle pulleys

Lengths of bamboo.

If you are ever cleaning out your cupboards and come across old clothes or interesting items that could make for great costumes or props we love donations. Drop them down to the Hoskins Centre and we will add it to the store so they can have a second life for future productions.

A big congratulations to the success of our performers in the Eisteddfod speech and drama. This year we have had many students working with Mr Alex Robson compete in the program, as well as teams from TAS performing in the Space Jump and Mime sections under the direction of Mrs Leasa Cleaver. It has been excellent to see so many students involved in both Music and Drama and this will continue over the next two weeks.

Lastly, another plug for the many shows coming up. Tickets for Treasure Island are now on sale through the Hoskins website and a limited run of one week means that you might want to get in early. The professional touring production of Australia Day is on Monday 15 June and that wonderfully witty play will make for a great satiric start to the week. And of course the internationally-acclaimed Gregorian Brothers are in the venue on Thursday 18 June to complete a week of great entertainment.
Treasure Island
a new musical

The world amateur premier performance

June 10, 11, 12 7:30pm, 13 2:00pm, 7:30pm

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

Book by Brett Smock & Carla Vitale | Music & Lyrics by Corinne Aquilina
www.TreasureIslandTheMusical.com
Grigoryan Brothers
This Time
National Tour 2015

“...guitar playing of uncommon originality and authority. Musicality, expressivity and daring...”
- The New York Times

“This Time celebrates the Grigoryan Brothers heroic qualities in harmonious proportion, as they deliver powerful performances of sensuous beauty and soaring vitality.”

Carolyn McDowell
- The Culture Concept

7:30pm Thurs June 18
The Armidale School Hoskins Centre

Bookings:
Online - http://www.trybooking.com/GPKU
Phone - 6776 5878 or in person at the school
The Australia Day committee is gearing up to put on their country town’s biggest bash – but everyone wants a piece of the partypie. Will the day be fair dinkum after all? Or are there too many roos loose in the community hall? A thoroughly modern ripper of a comedy, by acclaimed satirist Jonathan Biggins

TAS Hoskins Centre
June 15 7:30pm
Tickets $25, $20
Hoskins.as.edu.au
6776 5878
Introductions

From Mrs Susi Redhead’s Desk

I just wanted to say a quick hello really and introduce myself. I have taken over Mrs Alison Evans job for the next twelve months whilst she is doing a relief at Junior School.

Wow what a hectic start to the term it has been. I never realised school could be so busy. I am really enjoying being part of the school and love the fact that no two days are ever the same. It has been lovely to become part of the TAS family. I have been so warmly welcomed by both your boys and staff alike and it does very much feel like a family. For the first time I can see how tirelessly Mr Harrison and the Middle School teachers work to ensure that your boys are well looked after at school. It’s been lovely to see how much they actually care for the boys and want the very best for them.

Middle School certainly was an initial shock to the system. I don’t think I have ever been around such a large number of energetic and enthusiastic boys before. I am gradually getting to know them all by name and for the most part they are showing beautiful manners (let’s not forget they boys after all).

Colds, coughs and other bugs are rampant at the moment. It doesn’t take much for it all to spread, so if you feel your child isn’t 100% then a day or two in bed might make all the difference.

Feel free to email me at middle@as.edu.au if you have any queries or questions. I will do my best to answer them and if it’s something I don’t know I will make sure I will re-direct it to the right person.

Please remember to contact Middle School if your child is absent for the day. Any absenteeism is recorded on a daily report that I receive.

I know how easy it is to forget to contact the school and poor Mr Sadler was constantly having to call me to check where my son was, but I really do need to be contacted either on middle@as.edu.au or on 6776 5819 if your son is absent from school. It is a requirement of the Board of Education but also for our own peace of mind that we ensure that your son is safe and accounted for.

I think that is about it for now. I hope you have a great day and thanks again for making me feel so welcome.

Mrs Susi Redhead
Middle School Administrative Assistant
Eisteddfod successes

In this week’s edition of TAS Talks we begin to acknowledge the various groups and individuals who have achieved some very worthy results in this year’s Eisteddfod. Personally, I feel the benefits of performance in such events is as important as the results and I am sure that those who were able to be in the audience to see groups (and individuals) overcome their nerves and perform would agree. Of our choir pieces, the adjudicator stated: “clear tone and intonation, memory work excellent, clear and dynamic, great work getting back in sync at bar 60 – Good choice of music for both choirs!” This last comment goes a long way to acknowledge the wonderful work of our Music and Creative Arts staff and I take my hat off to them. The Eisteddfod season is short but intense and they have done a brilliant job.

Biggest Morning Tea

On behalf of our School, I would like to thank all our parents for supporting this excellent cause. Last Friday, we saw a very healthy crowd of supporters join with our Middle & Senior School staff to raise awareness of and funds for the Cancer Council. It was a memorable occasion, especially for our children who were able to sample an enormous array of goodies, kindly donated by you all. Many thanks – a total of $354.95 was raised.

AIS Travelling Art Show

While on the topic of Friday morning, while in the Hoskins Centre, many would have noticed the AIS Travelling Art Show, showcasing over 60 pieces from a selection of AIS schools across the state. Our aim is to include artworks in this exhibition next year, but in the meantime I commend this to you and encourage you to drop in to have a look. It is well worth it as some of the artistic pieces are of a very high standard.

Netball

Last Saturday, I was really pleased to see how well various organisations have come together to support the sport of Netball in Armidale and in particular provide the opportunity for our girls to participate in such a great game. I have not watched a lot of netball (let alone understand the intricacies of the rules) but seeing the enthusiastic attitudes of all involved was a treat. Of particular note, is the combined team of Sandon, TAS and Minimbah who have woven their players into a really cohesive and successful team. Well done to all involved and I look forward to further visits up at Lynches Rd on a sunny winter’s morning.
And finally.....

We wish our two teams all success as they travel to Sydney to compete in the Annual Knox Grammar School da Vinci Decathlon. This is a great time for the students and staff alike, and a wonderful opportunity for our students to rub shoulders and work with other like-minded students. The team is Marcus Hempel, Will Jubb, Cameron Le Surf, Frank Perrotet, Harrison Price, Hugo Catterall & Harrison Ditchfield - Bon chance!

Looking Ahead

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Wednesday 27 May</td>
<td>Year 3/4 Assembly</td>
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<td>Da Vinci team travel to Sydney</td>
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<td>Thursday 28 May</td>
<td>da Vinci at Knox Grammar School</td>
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<td>Wednesday 3 June</td>
<td>Year 1 Assembly</td>
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<td>Maths Olympiad (Yr 5)</td>
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<td>ICAS Science Assessment</td>
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<td>Wednesday 10 June</td>
<td>Year 5 Assembly</td>
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Happy Birthday Wishes

We wish a very happy birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthdays this week: Oliver Smart & Isabel Newton

Armidale Eisteddfod

Congratulations to the following students who have performed very well at the Armidale Eisteddfod.

Chris Bower (Year 2)

1st in U7’s piano
1st in U8’s piano

Harry Pennington (Year 3)

Restricted 9 and 10 year olds in piano, 2nd place

Jonathan Harris (Year 4)

KB03 Piano Solo (9 years and under) 1st (93)
KB06 Piano Solo Restricted (9-10 years) Highly commended (82)
KB21 Piano Solo 20th/21st C AMEB grade 2 standard, 1st (90)

Alex Webber (Year 4)

Vocal Solo Restricted 12 Years and under - 1st
Vocal Duet 12 Years and under - 1st

Jasper O’Neil (Year 4)

Vocal Solo Musical Theatre 12 Years and under - 1st
Vocal Duet 12 Years and under - 1st

Dimity Chalmers (Year 4)

9 Years piano solo – highly commended
10 Years piano solo – highly commended
20/21st C piano solo, Grade 1 – second place.

Scholastic Book Club

Book Club due Thursday, 4 June, 2015

Junior School students will be bringing home brochures for our two book clubs, Lamont and Scholastic. If you wish to purchase from either of the book clubs, please select the books you would like and follow the instructions for ordering and payment that are found on the back page of each brochure. In order for books to be delivered to you in time for the holidays, the orders will need to close on Thursday 4 June, 2015.

Scholastic orders can be submitted in two ways: 1) By using the Scholastic ‘LOOP’ online webpage, where you will order and pay by creditcard, 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 (no cheques). PLEASE NOTE THAT CASH CANNOT BE ACCEPTED BY EITHER CLUB.

Happy reading!
Mrs Natalie Ramazani
Book Club Coordinator (nramazan@as.edu.au)
PYP - Transition Term 2

This term Transition has been busy learning about how we use our senses. The Central Idea for our unit of inquiry is: We interpret our environment through our senses. We began our unit of inquiry by discovering what our five senses were and which parts of our body we use for each sense.

We have been discovering how we use our sense of sight and touch and how these are closely related. There has been a sight and touch station set up in the classroom for the children to freely explore and learn more about each sense. Transition inquired how it would feel to lose our sense of sight, they realised we strongly rely then on our other senses, particularly the sense of touch. We have also looked at the importance of our skin and the many roles it has when experiencing texture, pressure and temperature. Transition have described many textures and created sensory boards in class. The children have also been learning about their senses in French with Mrs Hine this term.

In the coming weeks we will be moving on to our other senses and relating our learning back to how they are linked to our emotions and the way we feel about our surroundings.

Mrs Veronica Waters
PYP Coordinator
Under 11s Hockey

Last Friday saw the Under 11’s hockey team working very consistently as a team. We even had a couple of short corners! We again did not win the game, however, all players played well and tried to hold their positions. At training one of the things we are still focusing on is our positional play and our game on Friday saw the team really making the effort to be aware of their positions on the field and playing in these positions as well as working together as a team. A focus for this week’s training will be on passing the ball to the player as this is where we now need to advance our skills. We are also going to focus on our attack more and have some extra practice at trying to draw the player as well as keeping the ball on our stick so as we have greater control. Well-done to all members of the team! Your overall enthusiasm, teamwork and motivation are impressive.

Ms Tabitha Dowse

TAS Football - Tigers VS North’s United Hawks

It is a pleasure to comment on how this team is shaping up for the season. Although a few members of the mighty Tigers were not well, they turned up and gave their all. We saw long, strong backfield kicks from Tom Rowe, great defence work from Lachlan Schumacher, terrific mid fieldwork from Mitchell Evans and fancy quick footwork from Felix Winslett. Euan Billingsley was our mid fielder who supported our wings. We saw a number of spectacular saves, improved positioning and defence work. Although the final score was 2 nil, we had a great game that challenged us and gave us areas to work on for our next training. I am impressed with our players and look forward to our season ahead!

Mrs Lana Hawksford

U10s

TAS U10s came up against a determined Souths Sealions team on the weekend. Although our players tried to work as a team, the Sealions did not allow this to happen. We had some great work from Lachie Hunt on the wing, who was often in the right position but the ball didn’t get to him and some lovely goals scored by Toby Inglis and Oliver Smart. Thanks go to the two boys, Lachie Costello and Joshua Pongrass, who did an admirable job in goals.

A reminder to bring a water bottle and tracksuit top to each game as there will be periods of time the players are off the field due to our numbers in the team.

Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon

TAS Terriers

On Saturday TAS Terriers played Demon Knights Kings. We had a great win. The first half saw some amazing passing between Caleb, Alistair and Henry resulting in several quick goals. After eating delicious jellies snakes and chocolate, which Mrs Gilpin supplied for half time, the team were back on the attack. Lochlan Gerdes was responsible for another attack on the Kings, resulting in another goal.

We congratulated each other at the end of the game by cheering the opposition. It was a magnificent game.

Compiled by reports from Caleb Baumgartner and William Gilpin

Terriers, Blair Eichorn in action on Saturday morning.

Alistair Newton

Lochlan Gerdes

Above images courtesy of Mrs Kirsty White
Netball - 23/5/15

Our girls enjoyed a very successful day of netball on Saturday. Firstly in the NET activities, Peyton Slade participated very enthusiastically, practising her catching, movement and pivoting skills. This was followed by the SET and Primary 1 teams both playing at the same time. For Sandon Stars, Scarlett Buntine played a great game against Uralla Kitty Cats, always positioning herself well to receive and pass. The Stars moved around the court well, finishing the game as winners with the end result being 7-4. The Stars have a bye next Saturday. The Super Sparkles were completely dominant over the Ben Venue Randoms. The game was fast moving and entertaining to watch. Sparkles are playing so well as a team, with excellent passing and strong attack and defence. Isabel Newton, Casey Smith and Emily Buntine were all focused and dependable on the court. Sparkles won convincingly 27-4. Next Saturday, Sparkles meet PLC Green at 2:40pm.

Mrs Trenerry
### TAS SPORTS CENTRE

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<th>Fitness Boxing</th>
<th>Circuit Classes</th>
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<td>Monday - 6.15pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday - 5.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduced Mobility Circuit</td>
<td>Thursday - 5.15pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday 10.15am</td>
<td>Saturday - 4.15pm</td>
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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](http://www.taswebsite.com).
CONCERT FOR Anya

THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2015
5.15PM TO 7PM
ASTRA ARTS CENTRE • PLC ARMIDALE

Entry by donation
Supper will be served following the concert

Proceeds in support of PLC Armidale
Year 8 student, Anya Zuber and Ronald McDonald House, Westmead

Babysitting available for non-school age children in the Senior Library

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR CATERING PURPOSES

To book:
www.trybooking.com/HUGM

Educating successful women of tomorrow in a Christian environment

Flyer design by:
Year 8 student Holly Butler & graphic designer Bronwyn Grills.
Printing by: Ascent Group
NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC
presents

2015 JUNIOR ORCHESTRA WORKSHOP
WED 24 & THURS 25 JUNE 2015

The New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM) annual Junior Orchestra Workshop gives young musicians an inspiring two days of invaluable performance experience playing in a large orchestra under the leadership of specialist conductor Anne Phelan and NECOM tutors.

The Workshop is open to students in Years 3-8 who can read music and have at least 12 months experience playing one of the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, double bass | flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone | trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba | Orchestral percussion (pianists may apply)

Dates: Wed 24 & Thurs 25 June 2015
Times: Wed 24 June 8.45am-3.30pm
         Thurs 25 June 9am-3.00pm
Free concert: Thurs 25 June, 2.30pm
Venue: NECOM, Armidale
Dress: Casual (no uniforms)
Lunch: Bring lunch both days
        Morning tea provided
Fee: $95 OR $85 Early Bird Discount*
     *Discount paid by 4pm Fri 12 June
        Bursaries available on application

For information & enrolment forms:
New England Conservatorium
Web: http://necom.une.edu.au
Tel: 02 6773 6419
Fax: 02 6772 7511
Email: admin@necom.org.au
CB Newling Building (Old Teachers College)
Cnr Mossman and Faulkner Streets, Armidale
PO Box 1313, Armidale NSW 2350